

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
November 19, 2007

President Dale M. Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District office, 1000 Pennington Avenue South, Thief River Falls, MN.

Present were: Managers Dale M. Nelson, Gene Tiedemann, Arnold Stanley, Vernon Johnson, Lee Coe and Jim Votava. Absent: Orville Knott. Staff present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby.

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Coe, seconded by Johnson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda.

Tammy Audette read the minutes of November 8, 2007. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Votava, and passed unanimously that the Board approve the minutes with minor corrections.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report and Investment Summary as of November 18, 2007. Administrator Jesme stated that he would like to include in today's financial report a bill for Garry Gravel in the amount of \$2,313.18 for gravel on the Seeger Dam. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Votava, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report and Investment Summary dated November 18, 2007 to include the payment to Garry Gravel. Discussion was held if the township would help pay for the cost of the gravel for Seeger Dam. Administrator Jesme will contact the township.

Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc. was present to discuss the Improvement to Polk County Ditch #53, RLWD Project #169. Mr. Dalager stated that a meeting was held on November 16 with petitioners/landowners to give a progress update and to identify problem areas and determine acceptable local solutions. Mr. Dalager gave an overview of the project and stated that the Petitioners are no longer requesting a diversion, due to the expense of the structure. Administrator Jesme stated that this project was listed in the RLWD 10 Year Comprehensive Plan as a problem area. The ditch presently is approximately 7 miles long, plus the petitioners are asking for a lateral from the existing ditch to extend farther north. It is believed that upon completion of the two petitioned projects, the request from the petitioners would be to combine the two petitions to make one legal system. Mr. Dalager will present a draft preliminary engineers report at the December 13, 2007 meeting, with a hearing to be held sometime in January.

Included in today's packet is the 2008 Calculated Wetland Values rate increase. The RLWD current rate is \$3,456.00 per acre for wetlands in Clearwater County. The calculated value is based on the MN Department of Revenue county land value for the previous year (2006). To date, the RLWD has 7.18 acres left in the Wetland Bank.

Jeff Langan, Houston Engineering, Inc. presented a progress report for the Grand Marais Outlet Channel Restoration Project. Mr. Langan stated landowner meetings will be held in early December with a preliminary report to be completed in January. Administrator Jesme asked if the RLWD Model, which was created with the RLWD 10 Year Overall Plan, was used for baseline information. Mr. Langan stated that they did use the model and that Engineer Brent Johnson, Houston

Engineering, Inc., is putting together comments as to how the model worked and what adjustments to the model could be looked at for future projects.

Staff member Loren Sanderson presented photos of Seeger Dam before, during, and after construction.

Administrator Jesme discussed the lack of funding for USGS stream gaging sites as explained in the handout. Jesme indicated that this item will be discussed at the RRWMB meeting on December 20, 2007, but it appeared that no gauges presently used in the Red River Basin would be affected as they are funded by the RRWMB and the benefited Watershed District.

The Board reviewed permits for approval. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Coe, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permits: No. 07097, Doug Erdman, Andover Township, Polk County; No. 07113, Joe Stroot Jr., Euclid Township, Polk County; No. 07114, Peter Phaiah, Crookston Township, Polk County; and No. 07115, Dave Wallenberg, Cloverleaf Township, Pennington County. Motion Carried.

Administrators Update:

- The Grand Marais Outlet Restoration Project Work Group met on Thursday, November 15th. Jeff Langan, Houston Engineering, Inc. updated the Work Group on various preliminary engineering components of the project. It was the consensus of the Work Group that a landowner meeting should be held in Alvarado in early December to give an update and reacquaint the landowners with the project now that more information has been gathered. Jesme will work with Dan Omdahl, MSTRWD, to organize and notify affected landowners.
- Enbridge Energy will hold public hearings in Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, and Clearwater Counties, November 27-29, 2007. A handout is included in today's packet with official information also in local newspapers.
- BWSR and the local SWCD offices met in our office November 13 for a seminar on E-Link book keeping software that these agencies use for assisting them in keeping track of grant money. The RLWD uses an abbreviated version of E-Link to update BWSR on grants we have received such as Ditch Inventory and RLWD Project 60E.
- Additional funding is being sought for continuation of construction on the Brandt Outlet Restoration Project, RLWD Project No. 60E. A Working Lands Initiative Grant is being applied for that is supportive of agricultural and wildlife-based economics by fostering healthy communities in Minnesota's prairie pothole region through cooperative, integrates approaches that enhance coordination, target investments and inspire new thinking. Enclosed in today's packet is a handout that better defines the program.
- An agreement with a landowner in Section 8, Smiley Township, Pennington County, for a construction of a ring dike is being pursued.

Manager Tiedemann discussed the potential of a ring dike at the Kaml residence downstream of the Parnell Impoundment outlet.

Administrator Jesme stated that a Water Quality Report is included in today's packets.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated he had spoken with Gerard Neil regarding property once owned by Debbie Hawkinson located on the Brandt Impoundment location. Sparby indicated the RLWD will pursue legal action against Strander Abstract stating that they were negligent in omitting a recorded deed entry.

Discussion was held on the transfer of deed from the old RLWD building back to the City of Thief River Falls. Administrator Jesme and Legal Counsel Sparby stated that a response has not been received from the MN Historical Society. The Board directed Legal Counsel Sparby to contact the MN Historical Society.

Manager Stanley asked if the RLWD will hold a Public Open House. It was the consensus of the board that an Open House be held in January.

Motion by Coe, seconded by Votava, with motion carried to adjourn the meeting.


Vernon Johnson, Secretary