

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
February 14, 2008

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, Vernon Johnson, Lee Coe, Orville Knott and Jim Votava. Absent: Arnold Stanley. Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette.

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

Tammy Audette read the minutes of January 24, 2008. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Tiedemann, and passed unanimously that the Board approve the minutes with minor corrections.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report and Investment Summary as of February 13, 2008. Administrator Jesme stated that we will be soliciting quotes for the maturity of a CD. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Tiedemann, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report and Investment Summary dated February 13, 2008.

Administrator Jesme stated that the bond was received for the Pennington County No. 75 Lateral Petition, RLWD Project No. 170. Action on the Petition was taken at the January 24, 2008 meeting as per the receipt of the bond.

Discussion was held on the petitions from Winsor Township for the removal of township roads from the Branch 11 benefited area of the JD No. 72 system and the inclusion of the same township roads into the Winsor/Hangaard, RLWD Project No. 113 benefited area. Administrator Jesme stated that the JD 72 Board will meet on February 26, 2008 to accept the petition and discuss hearing procedures. Hearings for both petitions will be held in conjunction. Legal Counsel Sparby will review the hearing process.

The Board discussed the Preliminary Hearing held on February 12, 2008 for the Improvement and Lateral to Polk County Ditch No. 53, Red Lake Watershed District Ditch No. 12, RLWD Project No. 169 and 169A. Legal Counsel Sparby then presented his Findings of Fact and Order to the Board which is to be filed with the Polk County Auditors Office. Legal Counsel Sparby touched on a few of the facts which included the Boards decision to proceed with Option No. 8 which meets the statutory requirements and authorizes HDR Engineering to proceed with the detailed survey with plans and specifications.

Discussion was held on the Basin Board Legislation House of Representatives file authored by Representative Lanning. Administrator Jesme stated that the proposed legislation would create local watershed entity to address various watershed issues within a specific watershed. This organization would have taxing authority similar to what we have with the Red River Watershed

Management Board. Where there are no watershed districts, this legislation would create a Joint Powers Board agreement between county and soil and water conservation districts located wholly or partially within each major watershed unit shall jointly appoint one member that resides in a major watershed unit. This legislation would provide funding to better handle water quality projects and to assure that the States water resource needs are addressed. It was the consensus of the board that landowners in our district would not be taxed anymore than they currently are and that it could be beneficial to lands not currently in a watershed district.

Administrator Jesme discussed the Working Lands Initiative grant for \$50,000 for continuation of construction of the Brandt Channel Outlet, RLWD Project No. 60E. Cost for the next phase of construction is approximately \$172,500. Dave Friedl, DNR Fisheries has reapplied for a \$20,000 grant from his 2009 fiscal budget with the hopes that it would be accepted. Jesme also indicated that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are applying for a \$25,000 grant to assist with this project. Jesme stated that he has spoken with the existing landowner about this project and the landowner has indicated that he may be willing to sell the property and that part of the property is currently in CRP. Jesme further discussed acreage needed for construction, continuation of the contract that the District presently has with the current contractor and project partners. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Knott, with motion carried to accept the \$50,000 Working Lands Initiative Grant and to instruct Administrator Jesme to continue to secure other funding sources which may assist in the total cost of the project.

The Minnesota Association of Watershed District (MAWD) Dues for 2008 was presented for approval. A motion was made by Coe, seconded by Johnson, with motion carried to approve the payment of \$2,000 for the MAWD annual dues.

Administrator Jesme presented a proposal from Tony Dorn, Inc. to update the print board on the Canon Copier. A motion was made by Coe, seconded by Votava, with motion carried to approve the proposal for \$1,000 from Tony Dorn, Inc. to update the Canon copier.

Discussion was held on the MAWD Legislative Breakfast and Day at the Capitol to be held on March 12-13, 2008.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the following permit with conditions stated on the permit: No. 08002, Garnes Township, Red Lake County. Motion carried.

#### Administrators Update:

- Staff member Loren Sanderson attended a Crookston Wellhead Protection meeting for the City of Crookston to assist in the development of their Overall plan.
- The final report for the Tile Drainage Study was completed by staff member Corey Hanson and will be presented at the ND-MN Subsurface Drainage Forum.
- The Parnell Impoundment Advisory Committee meetings will be held on February 27. County Ditch #126 advisory committee will meet at 9:00 a.m., with the JD 60 meeting at 10:30 a.m. The 2007 operation of the impoundment will be reviewed as well as rainfall events and waters levels
- Enclosed in today's packet is a general statistics summary hit list on the RLWD website.

- The RLWD has received a copy of Red Lake County's Priority Scoping Document. Corey Hanson and Administrator Jesme will review the document and submit any necessary comments.
- A Joint JD 72 Board meeting will be held on February 26 at 1:30 p.m., at the Polk County Courthouse.
- Enclosed in today's packet are various water quality reports.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated he has not heard from the MN Historical Society regarding transferring of the deed of the old RLWD building.

Manager Knott discussed the upcoming RRWMB meeting to be held in St. Paul in conjunction with a Legislation briefing.

Manager Coe discussed the meeting he was asked to attend with Mike Carroll and John Williams, MnDNR and Dan Wilkens, Sandhill River Watershed District regarding payment of taxes for State owned ConCon lands. Coe indicated that he was asked to participate in this meeting as a citizen of Beltrami County and not as a District Board member. After a lengthy discussion on this matter, a motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Johnson, and passed by unanimous vote that due to the fact this subject concerns the Red Lake Watershed District interests, Coe should be compensated for the previous meeting he attended and that any further meeting that he attend would be as a Manager on behalf of the Red Lake Watershed District.

Manager Johnson met with the Clearwater SWCD in regard to the Clearbrook Storm Water Retention Pond. Johnson stated that several sites have been agreed upon and are pursuing one more site. Discussion was held on the possibility of a u-shaped ring dike around several homes on the east side of town and the issue with the culvert through County Road 5 will have to be addressed.

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

  
Vernon Johnson, Secretary