

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
February 28, 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, Arnold Stanley, Vernon Johnson, Lee Coe, Orville Knott and Jim Votava. Absent: Gene Tiedemann. Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby.

The Board reviewed the agenda. Legal Counsel Sparby stated that the appointment of viewers for RLWD Ditch No. 12, RLWD Project No. 169 should also include RLWD Project No. 169A. A motion was made by Coe, seconded by Stanley, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the agenda with the addition of Appointment of Viewers for RLWD Project No. 169A.

Tammy Audette read the minutes of February 14, 2008. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Votava, and passed unanimously that the Board approve the minutes with minor corrections.

The Minutes of the February 12, 2008, RLWD Project No. 169 and No. 169A hearing were reviewed. A motion was made by Coe, seconded by Johnson, with motion carried to dispense reading of the minutes and approve them as printed.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report as of February 27, 2008. Administrator Jesme stated that included in today's packet is a list of quotes received for the renewal of a matured CD. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Stanley, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report and the quote received from First National Bank, Bemidji for the purchase of a CD.

Discussion was held on a request from the Pennington SWCD for financial support of the Area 1 Envirothon. Motion by Knott, seconded by Stanley, to donate \$300.00 to the Pennington SWCD Area 1 Envirothon. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the membership renewal for the Minnesota Viewers Association. A motion was made by Coe, seconded by Votava, with motion carried to approve payment of the Minnesota Viewers Association membership.

Administrator Jesme stated that in March 2007, then Manager Carlson, brought to the board's attention a drainage issue on the Poplar River on behalf of the landowner Merle Kolstad. Jesme stated that a letter regarding culverts on the Poplar River had been sent to Polk County Engineer Rich Sanders. Mr. Kolstad who was in attendance stated that in his opinion downstream culverts at the county line are not adequate for the drainage area and are nearly filled with sediment. Discussion was held on the possibility of having the Sentence to Service program complete some clearing and snagging. It was the consensus of the board to have staff members look at the area and report back to the board at a later date.

Administrator Jesme stated that a meeting for the Clearbrook Flood Damage Reduction Project will be held on March 12, and he is unable to attend due to the MAWD Legislative Breakfast. It was the consensus of the Board to authorize Jeff Langan, Houston Engineering, Inc. to attend the meeting and report back to Jesme.

Jeff Langan, Houston Engineering, Inc. presented the Preliminary Engineers Report for the Grand Marais Creek Outlet Restoration, RLWD Project No. 60F. Langan stated that the purpose of the report is to aide and advise the board. When preparing the report they looked at several alternatives, the combination of diverting flows, restoration of the original Grand Marais Channel that improves the natural resource aspect of the channel, stabilization of the channel bank, maintaining water levels upstream of the structure and minimizing floodwaters downstream. Langan discussed his concerns with the possibility of landowners within the Middle/Snake/Tamarac Rivers Watershed District (MSTRWD) opposing this project. Administrator Jesme and Danny Omdahl, MSTRWD stated that at previous informational meetings held, landowners did not have opposition, but felt the position of the MSTRWD Board of Managers is dependent on the position of landowners within their District. Legal Counsel Sparby stated that in his opinion a Joint Powers Agreement would need to be established with the MSTRWD prior to proceeding with this project. Langan stated he has determined four alternatives. After fielding questions from the Board, Langan stated he is recommending Alternative No. 4 which would include the restoration of the original Grand Marais Channel downstream of the cutoff ditch with stabilization of the cutoff ditch. Flows up to a 2 year flood event would flow through original Grand Marais channel, and flows exceeding the 2 year flood event will split between the stabilized cutoff ditch and the restored original Grand Marais channel. Langan further stated that this project will require an Environmental Assessment Worksheet. Discussion was held on potential funding sources and if a hearing or information meeting would be held. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Stanley, with motion carried to schedule an Informational Meeting for the Grand Marais Creek Outlet Restoration on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Alvarado Community Center.

Charlie Anderson, JOR Engineering presented a Moose River Impoundment and Schirrick Dam Inspection Reports. Anderson started his presentation with the Inspection Report for Schirrick Dam. He stated due to the high velocity of flows that was generated during the last flood event, the downstream channel of the Schirrick Dam had experienced some erosion. Maintenance on the downstream channel was completed and funded by FEMA disaster funds. Anderson then added that there was some minor erosion to the outlet structure and that this should be monitored on a yearly basis. Although there were some other very minor issues with the Dam, Anderson felt that overall this project has held up well over the last 23 years.

Anderson then gave his Inspection Report for the Moose River Impoundment. He indicated that based on the survey that was completed by RLWD staff, there has been settlement along approximately 7200 feet of the embankment averaging about .25 feet below grade. Anderson recommended that these areas be brought up to design grade with the approximate volume of fill at 2118 cubic yards. The north and south pool concrete outlet structures have fractures in the concrete occurring at the junction of the weir wall and the head wall. The exact cause of the fractures has not been determined, however, the two likely possibilities are differential settlement or frost action. Mr. Anderson is recommending removal of the existing soil material from

behind the headwall and backfilled with granular material. The loose fractured concrete should be removed from the end of the weir wall. The removed material should be replaced with patching material and must be suitable for wet conditions and applied to a vertical surface. Rock riprap is loose at the three emergency spillway locations. It is recommended that additional smaller rock be added to fill the voids for additional stabilization. Estimated construction cost is \$40,000, plus contingencies, planning, surveying and inspection. Copies of the reports for both the Schirrick Dam and Moose River Impoundment will be forwarded to the MnDNR for their records.

Administrator Jesme stated that he had contacted Jerry Bennett, Roger Beiswenger and Roger Langaas regarding the appointment of Viewers on RLWD Ditch 12, RLWD Project No. 169 and 169A. A motion was made by Stanley, seconded by Knott, with motion carried to appoint Jerry Bennett, Roger Beiswenger and Roger Langaas as viewers for RLWD Ditch No. 12, RLWD Project No. 169 and 169A.

Discussion was held on the MAWD Legislative Breakfast conflicting with the regularly scheduled Board meeting on March 13, 2008. A motion was made by Votava, seconded by Johnson, with motion carried to change the meeting date to March 11, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

Administrators Update:

- Loren Sanderson and Administrator Jesme attended the yearly meeting with the Parnell Advisory Committee, which is made up of selected landowners from Judicial Ditch #60 and Polk County Ditch #126 legal drainage systems. Also in attendance were Polk County Commissioners Bill Montague and Warren Strandell. There was good discussion concerning issues along these systems, which will be addressed through discussion and inspection between the RLWD and Polk County Ditch Inspector.
- Jesme has spoken to Pat Lynch, MnDNR Grant Specialist, about the possibility of using funds left over from the Brandt Impoundment for the continuation of the Brandt Channel Restoration, RLWD Project 60E. Mr. Lynch indicated that funds left over from the present Brandt Impoundment cost share agreement, would be able to be used as the two projects are tied together. Determination of remaining funding will be available after the wetland mitigation portion of the Brandt Impoundment is completed.
- Jesme has scheduled a meeting for February 28, with Houston Engineering to discuss the development of the Preliminary Survey Report for the construction of a Lateral on Pennington County Ditch 75.
- Jesme and Managers Tiedemann and Knott attended the RRWMB and Legislative meetings held in St. Paul on February 19-20th. Meetings were held with local legislators, with a chance to discuss first hand issues that watershed districts are facing.

Senator Langseth passed a bonding bill out of his committee to include \$30 million in Flood Hazard Mitigation Grants to help Red River Basin projects. The bill also included \$600,000 for Digital Elevation Modeling.

The House is still finalizing its bonding bill to get the Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant amount raised from \$3 million to \$5 million before the bill is finalized in Rep. Hausman's bonding committee next Monday. Rep Eken is introducing a bill to raise the

borrowing authority of the watershed districts from \$200,000 to somewhere between \$600,000 - \$1 million to help with the land acquisition capability.

A financial report is forthcoming, rumored to say that the state has an \$800 million to \$1.2 Billion deficit for the biennium. This will put lots of pressure on the general fund projects including the Digital Elevation Modeling and ring dikes.

Representative Olin has introduced a bill to increase the drainage repair cap from \$40,000 to \$100,000. The bill will be heard in Rep Wagenius committee next week. Al Kean, MnBWSR, sent an e-mail to the drainage work group members to see if there is a consensus to support the change.

- Jesme indicated that he will be leaving for St. Paul on March 11 for the MAWD Legislative Day as the administrators meeting is held the following morning.

Administrator Jesme stated that a Judicial Ditch No. 72 Board meeting was held regarding the petition of removal of township roads from the Branch 11, JD No. 72 system. A hearing date for the said petition will be held on April 7, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. at the RLWD office.

Manager Knott stated that the access gate on the outlet road on RLWD Ditch No. 10, Project No. 166 has been damaged by a snowmobile. Staff will inspect the gate.

Manager Stanley discussed the Tile Drainage Conference he attended.

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


Vernon Johnson, Secretary