

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
January 24, 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, Arnold Stanley, Vernon Johnson, Lee Coe, Orville Knott and Jim Votava. Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette.

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

Tammy Audette read the minutes of January 14, 2008. A motion was made by Coe, seconded by Stanley, and passed unanimously that the Board approve the minutes as printed.

Manager Stanley questioned whether an agreement had been found with Beltrami County for maintenance on ditches used as an outlet on the Moose River Impoundment. Administrator Jesme indicated that staff members have contacted Beltrami County Highway Department and that they are investigating.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report as of January 23, 2008. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Johnson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated January 23, 2008.

Administrator Jesme presented the Pay Equity Report. The District is mandated by the State of Minnesota to submit a Pay Equity Report every 5 years. Pay Equity Report looks at job descriptions and matches them up to state guidelines to determine a points system for each position to determine pay equity for male employees versus female employees. Jesme indicated that state class titles are not always helpful in evaluating watershed employees so there is a certain amount of cross referencing that has to occur. Jesme also indicated that the Association of District Administrators will address this topic in March and will share the information with the Minnesota Department of Employee Relations but given the fact that the District's report is due January 31, 2008, this will not help us at this time. Administrator Jesme inquired that given the fact the Board allowed years of service from previous employment for some staff members at the time they were hired, should he also use the previous years along with service to the District in determining number of years for the Pay Equity Report. It was the consensus of the Board to use prior experience along with years of service with the RLWD. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Coe, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the Pay Equity Report.

Landowner Roger Kriel presented a petition for a Lateral to Pennington County Ditch 75. Mr. Kriel stated that the \$40,000 bond that is required is currently being processed and will be forthcoming. Kriel requested the engineering services of Jeff Langan and his staff of Houston Engineering, Inc. for this project. Question by Stanley was that will the District take over the entire Pennington County Ditch 75? Administrator Jesme stated that this petition is only for a Lateral to Pennington County Ditch 75 and that Pennington County would still have jurisdiction over Pennington County Ditch 75. Following discussion of the petitioned project, a motion was made by Knott, seconded by Stanley, and passed by unanimous vote to adopt the following resolution contingent upon receiving the required bond:

WHEREAS, the Red Lake Watershed District has received a petition for a Lateral to Pennington County Ditch 75;

WHEREAS, it has been determined that a minimum of 26% of the landowners in the petitioned area have signed the petition, and that it meets the jurisdictional requirements;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Red Lake Watershed District accept the petition and forthcoming bond for the Lateral to Pennington County Ditch 75 and assign it Red Lake Watershed District Project No. 170, Red Lake Watershed District Ditch No. 13.

LeRoy Sundquist, Winsor Township, Clearwater County, discussed the signed petition to remove 4 miles of township road from the Branch 11 benefited area of the JD No. 72 system. Winsor Township was presented with two petitions for signature. One was for the removal of township roadways from the Branch 11 benefited area of JD No. 72 system, and the other was to include these same township roads into the Winsor/Hangaard, RLWD Project No. 113 benefited area. Winsor Township was under the impression from their tax statements and in conversation with Clearwater County Auditors office that they are currently paying for roads into the Winsor/Hangaard, RLWD Project No. 113 project. Administrator Jesme indicated that Winsor Township is paying road benefits, but according to the Viewer's Report filed no benefits are being paid for roads identified in the petition under the Winsor/Hangaard Project, RLWD Project No. 113. Discussion was held concerning tabling of the petition concerning Winsor Township roadway benefits on Branch 11 of JD 72 until receipt of a signed petition for the addition of Winsor Township roads to the benefited area of the Winsor/Hangaard Ditch, RLWD Project No. 113. Mr. Sundquist then presented a signed petition from Winsor Township to be added into the Winsor/Hangaard, RLWD Project No. 113 benefited area. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Coe, to accept two petitions one for Removal of Property from the Branch 11 Benefited Area of the JD 72 system and the other petition for the Use of the Winsor/Hangaard Ditch, RLWD Project No. 113. Motion carried.

Jeff Langan, Houston Engineering, updated the Board on the preliminary engineering of the Grand Marais Outlet Restoration Project, RLWD Project 60F. Langan presented an original list of tasks, with completed tasks highlighted in blue. Langan stated they have some work to complete on the water quality analysis before finalizing the preliminary report. It was the consensus of the Board to hold a public hearing in late March or early April. Langan will present the preliminary engineers report at the February 28th meeting.

Manager Johnson questioned Langan on culvert sizes he had reviewed on Clearwater County Road 5 for the Clearbrook Flood Control Project. Manager Johnson asked if a copy of the report had been forwarded to the county engineer. Langan stated he would confirm that the county had received the report.

Included in today's packet is a bill authored by Representative Lanning regarding watershed basin approach to all areas in Minnesota that do not have an existing watershed district. Administrator Jesme suggested all board review the legislation and to have a future discussion on this item.

Administrator Jesme stated that staff members are working on the 2007 Annual Report.

Manager Knott stated that the next RRWMB meeting will be held February 19th at the Kelly Inn, St. Paul, to coincide with a meeting with legislators on February 20th.

The MAWD Legislative Breakfast will be held March 11 and 12th.

Manager Stanley indicated that he would be participating in the Tile Drainage Conference to be held in Fargo, February 14th versus attending the regularly scheduled board meeting.

Managers Votava and Johnson discussed the MN Enbridge pipeline meetings they attended.

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


Vernon Johnson, Secretary