

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
June 12, 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, Lee Coe, Orville Knott, Gene Tiedemann and Jim Votava. Absent: Vernon Johnson. Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette; and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby.

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

Tammy Audette read the minutes of May 22, 2008. A motion was made by Coe, seconded by Stanley, and passed unanimously that the Board approve the minutes as printed.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report and Investment Summary as of June 11, 2008. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated June 11, 2008.

Administrator Jesme stated that a 12 month, \$160,000.00 CD had been purchased at Access Bank of Plummer. A motion was made by Coe, seconded by Knott, with motion carried to add Access Bank of Plummer as an approved financial institution for depositories.

Administrator Jesme stated that Ron Salentine had been contacted by a consulting firm about the possibility of installing wind turbines on property owned by Salentine within the Brandt Impoundment. Legal Counsel Sparby stated that the District has an easement with Salentine, wherein Salentine can use the real property subject to the watershed districts easement rights. Salentine will do some further research and report back to the board.

Jesme stated he had been contacted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in regard to project status for the Grand Marais Restoration and Ruffy Brook Projects. Jesme stated that the Corps is updating their project docket and are requesting a reaffirmation letter for both projects. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Votava, with motion carried to authorize Administrator Jesme to send a letter of support for the Grand Marais Restoration Project and the Ruffy Brook Project to reaffirm our position requesting support by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Jesme distributed several examples for vehicle identification for the RLWD vehicles. It was the consensus of the board that lettering should be completed on the vehicles in the near future.

Jesme stated that the land rental agreement with Craig Stroot on the Parnell Impoundment expires December 31, 2008. The current land rental agreement is for 96 acres at \$25.00 per acre. The renter is requesting a three year contract extension. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Stanley, to approve a three year contract extension with Craig Stroot for 96 acres at \$25.00 per acre. Motion carried.

Jesme discussed quotes received for construction of the Swanson and Black ring dikes. Jesme estimates that we are approximately \$3,000 - \$5,000 short on funding and asked if the District would absorb any applicable shortfall in regard to lack of funding availability for the State's share. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Knott, with motion carried that the District would absorb any applicable shortfall in regard to the State's share for construction of said ring dikes due to funding unavailability.

Administrator Jesme stated that construction on the Brandt and Euclid East Impoundment Wetland Replacement Plans, RLWD Project 60D and 60C respectively, have been substantially completed and recommended that a final payment hearing be scheduled for Prairie Restorations, Inc. Motion by Knott, seconded by Tiedemann, and passed by unanimous vote to set the final payment hearing for Prairie Restorations, Inc. for July 24, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the RLWD office.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. A motion was made by Stanley, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 08020, Agder Township, Marshall County; No. 08030, Scott Baatz, Russia Township, Polk County; No. 08032 Trent Stanley/Jim Hillyer, Excel Township (strip), Marshall County; No. 08033, Darrold Rodahl, Agder Township, Marshall County; 08034, Wade Joppru, North Township, Pennington County; and No. 08035, The Nature Conservancy, Tilden and Kertsonville Townships, Polk County. Motion carried.

Administrators Report:

- An option agreement was sent to landowner Roger Hagen for purchase of 60.85 acres for construction of Phase II on the Brandt Channel Restoration Project. Construction should begin by the end of June or early July.
- The increase in bond was received for Polk County Ditch #53 Improvement, RLWD Ditch #12 RLWD Project #169 which brings the amount of the bond to \$150,000. The viewers met with HDR Engineering on June 3, 2008 to review the benefited area and contributing drainage area. Jesme will be meeting with the viewers this afternoon. The Viewers hope to be completed by late June, with a hearing held in late July, early August and if the project is approved, let bids and start construction mid-to-late September.
- Jesme and Managers Knott and Nelson met with their respective County Commissioners on May 27th to present the 2007 Annual Report. Jesme and Managers Tiedemann and Votava will meet with the Polk County Commissioners on June 17th.
- Included in today's packet is the MAWD legislative update dated May 28, 2008, which outlines some of the recent legislation. The MAWD Summer tour will be held in Wheaton starting June 19 through the 21st. Jesme will be leaving the morning of June 19th and returning on the 21st.
- Jesme stated that John Carlson had been hired as a summer employee at a rate of \$8.50 per hour.

Administrator Jesme indicated that the temporary watershed sign had blown down in the recent windstorm and displayed several ideas for a new sign. It was the consensus of the board to look at various sign designs and bring back suggestions to a future board meeting.

Administrator Jesme discussed the viewing process for the Improvement and Lateral to Polk County Ditch 53, RLWD Ditch 12, Project No. 169. Jesme has contacted the Polk County Auditor/Treasurer in regard to the re-determination of benefits completed in 1987 on Polk County Ditch 53. Jesme stated that it is unclear if Polk County Ditch 108 was included into the benefited area of Polk County Ditch 53. This matter must be resolved for the viewers to proceed.

Manager Stanley inquired if any maintenance had started on State Ditch 83. Jesme indicated that river levels are currently too high for construction and that the staff has not had a chance to define areas.

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


Vernon Johnson, Secretary