

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
March 11, 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, Gene Tiedemann and Jim Votava. Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette; and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby.

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

Tammy Audette read the minutes of February 28, 2008. A motion was made by Coe, seconded by Johnson, and passed unanimously that the Board approve the minutes with minor corrections.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report as of March 10, 2008. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Votava, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated March 10, 2008.

Administrator Jesme stated that a CD had been purchased at First National Bank Bemidji. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Coe, with motion carried to add First National Bank Bemidji as a financial institution for depositories.

Paul Wannarka, MnDNR Red River Basin Coordinator, introduced himself to the Board, stating that he replaced Don Buckhout. Mr. Wannarka will be working with the projects team within the RRWMB. He currently is focusing on meeting with agencies and nine watershed districts.

Administrator Jesme stated that a motion is required to appoint Houston Engineering, Inc. as the Engineer for the Petition to a Lateral of Pennington County Ditch No. 75, RLWD Ditch No. 13, Project No. 170. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Stanley, and passed by unanimous vote to appoint Houston Engineering, Inc. as the Engineer for RLWD Ditch No. 13, Project No. 170, retroactive to January 24, 2008.

Discussion was held on a hearing date for the petition from Winsor Township for inclusion of township roads into the Winsor/Hangaard Project, RLWD Project No. 113. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Votava, with motion carried to set the hearing date for April 7, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. at the RLWD Office.

Administrator Jesme discussed the continuation of construction on the Brandt Channel Restoration, RLWD Project No. 60E. Jesme stated he had met with the landowner Roger Hagen who is willing to sell to the District the land required for the same price that he had purchased it at \$1250 per acre. Jesme indicated that approximately 60 acres would need to be acquired, with 40 acres currently enrolled in CRP. The current CRP contracts expire in 2014, 2017 and 2019. The District would rent the CRP acreage back to the landowner, who would be responsible for

required maintenance and compliance requirements. Approximately 40 acres of CRP is presently enrolled in the construction area with some acres to be taken out of the program for establishment of the channel and berm. Jesme indicated that there may be some additional lands being enrolled into CRP upon completion of the project. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Knott, with motion carried to proceed with the drafting of the options to accept the offer from the landowner to purchase the land for \$1250 per acre and to enter into a rental agreement for the CRP, contingent upon securing funding of the project.

Enbridge Energy requested an extension on RLWD Permit No. 07119. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Coe, to accept the request of a one year extension for RLWD Permit No. 07119, Enbridge Energy. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permit for approval. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Votava, with motion carried to approve Permit No. 08008, Garden Valley Telephone Company, Red Lake, Pennington and Polk Counties.

Manager Stanley inquired on a permit received from Dean Phillips, RLWD Permit No. 08009. Administrator Jesme indicated that once weather conditions allow, RLWD staff will survey the area and report back to the Board.

Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering presented the Detailed Survey Report for the Improvement and Lateral to Polk County Ditch 53, RLWD Ditch No. 12, Project No. 169 and 169A, as contained in the earlier submitted Preliminary Engineers Report. Mr. Dalager stated that under state statute requirements the Detailed Survey Report should be filed with the District and submitted to the viewers, prior to the viewer's meeting. Administrator Jesme stated that he had contacted the petitioners, asking them to increase the bond from \$40,000 to \$100,000. Dalager will be submitting culvert plans to Polk County Highway Department, who will then submit plans to the State of Minnesota for state aid monies for three downstream culverts. Discussion was held on the possibility of an EAW being required because of the channelization of a protected water. Dalager stated that in his opinion it is already a ditch and has been channelized. If an EAW is required, it could set the project back 3-6 months. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Coe, to accept and file the Detailed Survey Report for the Improvement and Lateral to Polk County Ditch No. 53, RLWD Ditch No. 12, Project No. 169 and 169A. Motion carried.

#### Administrators Update:

- Information on the MAWD Legislative Breakfast is included in the Board packet, which includes both the House and Senate 2008 bonding requests.
- The draft 2007 Annual Audit is included in today's packet. Kim Durbin from Drees, Risky & Vallager LTD will present the audit at the March 27 board meeting.
- Included in today's packet is a Demographic Study completed by BWSR concerning SWCD's, Watershed Districts and Water Management Organizations.
- The next RRWMB meeting will be held on March 19 from 9:30-12:00 at Selvig Hall, UMC followed by the Annual River Watch Forum. The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual RRWMB/Red River Basin FDR Joint Conference will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Northland Inn, Crookston.
- Included in today's packet is a water quality monthly report.

Manager Nelson asked if staff members had inspected the complaint by landowner Merle Kolstad. Administrator Jesme stated that staff member Loren Sanderson viewed the area and suggested some clearing of trees and minor clearing and snagging.

Discussion was held on the inspection report on the Moose River Impoundment prepared by JOR Engineering. It was the consensus of the board to have staff breakdown the recommendations and complete a history of detailed spending and present information at a future board meeting. Manager Nelson further requested survey information as to where work is required on the dike.

Legal Counsel Sparby discussed the Minnesota Historical Society and the remaining payment owed to Ron Salentine and John Weiland.

Discussion was held on maintenance on State Ditch No. 83, RLWD Project No. 14. Staff viewed the area and determined that there were minimal trees in the channel. With landowner's cooperation, repairs will continue this summer at several locations with concentration on sediment removal.

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

  
Vernon Johnson, Secretary