

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
February 24, 2011

Present were: Managers Dale M. Nelson, Lee Coe, LeRoy Ose, Orville Knott, Albert Mandt and Kelly Nordlund. Absent: Gene Tiedemann Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby.

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Nordlund, seconded by Mandt, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda.

Administrator Jesme stated that landowner Gilbert Weber requested to appear before the Board in regard to the benefitted area of the Scott Baatz Petition, RLWD Project No. 123.

Tammy Audette read the minutes of February 10, 2011. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Mandt, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the minutes with corrections.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report and Investment Summary dated February 23, 2011. Motion by Coe, seconded by Nordlund, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report and Investment Summary dated February 23, 2011.

Gregg Knutson and Margaret Anderson from the Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge presented water quality information from the Agassiz NWR over the past few years. Knutson discussed the management and present condition of the 26 different impoundments within Agassiz NWR. Knutson discussed the sediment entering the refuge and possible sources of where the sediment is coming from. Discussion was held on how the deposit of sediment in the refuge could be reduced. Staff member Corey Hanson discussed the installation of buffer strips in priority areas and funding sources. Administrator Jesme and Hanson discussed a town hall meeting to be held in Whiteford Township to receive landowner input.

Landowner Gilbert Weber discussed his concerns with the benefitted area of the Scott Baatz Petition, RLWD Project No. 123. Mr. Weber wishes to have a portion of his property removed from this legal drainage system, due to the fact that his water does not drain into the system. Legal Counsel Sparby stated that Mr. Weber would need to petition the District to have his property removed from the system. A hearing would have to be held, input would have to be received, and the Board would have to find that the statutory for removal had been met. It was the consensus of the Board that Mr. Weber should petition the Board and then a hearing would be held regarding the matter.

The Board reviewed the Thief River Watershed Assessment Monitoring SWAG Grant Agreement, RLWD Project No. 168A, with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Motion by Coe, seconded by Nordlund, to authorize Administrator Myron Jesme sign the grant agreement with the MPCA for the Thief River Watershed Assessment Monitoring SWAG Grant, RLWD Project No. 168A.

Administrator Jesme stated that project numbers should be assigned for the two Competitive Grants the District received from BWSR. These grants were appropriated from funds received through the Clean Water Legacy Funding. Motion by Ose, seconded by Knott, to give the following project numbers for the BWSR Competitive Grants received to Grand Marais Cut Channel, RLWD Project No. 60F, and State Ditch 83/County Ditch 20 Grade Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 14D. Motion carried.

Engineer Jeff Langan, Houston Engineering, Inc., presented information on the Grand Marais Cut Channel, RLWD Project No. 60F. Langan stated that the cut channel is the outlet of the entire watershed and is a component of the entire Project 60 area. Langan discussed designing the outlet independent of the restoration channel, stabilizing the channel to the Red River, and the installation of a drop structure. The cut channel is approximately one mile long with 15 feet of fall, and severe erosion problems. This project could be deemed as a repair/maintenance to the county ditch system, since it is a legal drainage system, and also as an erosion control project. It was the consensus of the Board to meet with the Polk County Commissioners in the near future to discuss the proposed project.

Manager Coe discussed the meeting he attended with Administrator Jesme and staff member Loren Sanderson along with members from the Red Lake Tribal Council and Red Lake DNR in regard to the Good Lake Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 67. Coe stated there was good discussion in regard to the project and the Red Lake Tribal Council will put together an agreement on a five year term.

The 13th Annual Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Conference will be held March 15-16, 2011 at the Courtyard by Marriott & Conference Center, Moorhead.

Administrators Update:

- Manager Knott and Administrator Jesme attended the RRWMB meeting held at the District office on February 15th.
- A Project 60 Team meeting was held at the District office on February 17th. The Project team was updated about funding, design update, and RIM land acquisition.
- Manager Ose, Jesme, and Sanderson attended the annual impoundment meeting with staff from Thief Lake and Agassiz NWR on February 22nd.
- A meeting will be held with landowners that may be interested in petitioning for a legal drainage system downstream of the Brandt Impoundment and upstream of Polk County Ditch #2. Kurt Deter, Rinke Noonan, has been tentatively retained by the petitioners for this project and has set a meeting date of February 25th at 10:30 a.m. at the District office.
- Jesme will attend a meeting today with MnDNR and Wenck to discuss the progress and tasks that need to be completed for the Flood Plain Mapping project along the Red Lake River. The project appears to be going very well and is on schedule.

- Included in your packet is a news release announcing the DNR Commissioners leadership team. We received notice from the Governor's office that Kent Lokkesmoe has been appointed to the Red River Retention Authority. Mike Carroll is appointed as Lokkesmoe's alternate.
- Included in your packet is an updated District snow moisture content report as well as the Red River Basin "Flood Status" update.

Administrator Jesme stated that there was not enough money in the FEMA Floodplain grant to obtain maps floodplain maps/panels for Red Lake and Pennington Counties. Jesme asked if the Board would be interested in assisting with the cost of obtaining maps/panels for areas within the cities of Red Lake Falls, St. Hilaire, and Thief River Falls. It was the consensus of the Board that Jesme should obtain a cost estimate and report back to the Board.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that he is working on a master agreement for RIM sign-ups.

Administrator Jesme stated that he has been working with John Kolb from Rinke Noonan to update him on the possible creation of a Water Management District to the RLWD Comprehensive 10 Year Overall Plan. Jesme, Sparby, and Engineer Nate Dalager are working on answering the questions submitted to the District from the City of Thief River Falls in regard to the Improvement to Pennington County Ditch 1 and Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project Nos. 171 and 171A. Jesme will have the Board review the responses prior to submitting it to the City.

Motion by Coe, seconded by Ose, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.



Orville Knott, Secretary