

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
January 27, 2011

Present were: Managers Dale M. Nelson, Lee Coe, LeRoy Ose, Gene Tiedemann, Orville Knott, Albert Mandt and Kelly Nordlund. 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 Mandt, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda.

Tammy Audette read the minutes of January 13, 2011. A motion was made by Mandt, seconded by Nordlund, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the minutes with corrections.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated January 26, 2011. Motion by Knott, seconded by Tiedemann, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated January 26, 2011.

Administrator Jesme presented the Pay Equity Report. The District is mandated by the State of Minnesota to submit a Pay Equity Report every 3 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. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Coe, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the Pay Equity Report as presented and to post the report on the Administrative Bulletin Board for public review.

The Board reviewed the Conflict of Interest Policy. Administrator Jesme stated that the Auditors require a yearly review of the Conflict of Interest Policy. Motion by Coe, seconded by Knott, to approve the Conflict of Interest Policy.

MAWD dues for 2011 were presented to the Board. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Mandt, and passed unanimously to approve paying \$3,500 for the 2011 MAWD dues.

The Board discussed the petition for the amendment of the District's 10 Year Overall Plan which would allow the District to form a Water Management District for the Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 171A. Administrator Jesme discussed the process the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) must follow for the creation of a Water Management District. Due to the timing of BWSR meetings, we are limited for hearing dates to occur in a timely manner. BWSR is not required to have a hearing for the creation of a Water Management District, and may approve the plan without hearing. Legal Counsel Sparby suggested the District decide to hold a hearing for public input/comment for the amendment of the District's 10 Year Overall Plan to include creation of a Water Management District, as described above. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, and passed by unanimous vote that the District hold a public hearing on March 10, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the District office in regard to the proposed amendment to the RLWD 10 Year Overall Plan which could allow the District to create a Water Management District, as set forth above, if approved through a proper hearing process.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Knott, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permits: No. 10203, 10204 and 10206, Pennington County Highway Department, Star Township; No. 10205, Pennington County Highway Department, Highland Township. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Permit No. 10201, Lawrence Vettleson, Gully Township, Polk County. Motion by Coe, seconded by Knott, to table Permit No. 10201, Lawrence Vettleson. Motion carried.

The MAWD Legislative Breakfast will be held March 23-24, 2011, which conflicts with the District's March 24, 2011 Board meeting. Motion by Ose, seconded by Mandt, to move the March 23, 2011 Board meeting to March 29, 2011. Motion carried.

Staff member Loren Sanderson discussed the proposed boundary changes between the District and the Sand Hill River Watershed District (SHRWD). Sanderson will meet with representatives from the SHRWD on January 28, 2011 to review the proposed changes.

Sanderson stated that he has had discussions with landowner Gilbert Weber in regard to his property located within the benefitted area of the Scott Baatz Petition, RLWD Project No. 123. Mr. Weber does not feel his property is within the benefitted area and wishes to have it removed. Legal Counsel Delray Sparby indicated that property from the drainage system can be removed if the drainage authority determines that removing the property from the drainage system will not prejudice the property owners and property remaining in the system. It was the consensus of the Board to have staff members review the videotape of the hearing prior to further discussion.

Staff member Gary Lane discussed a Clean Water Grant that the Red Lake SWCD received for the installation of side water inlet pipes with traps on RLWD Ditch 3, Project No. 7 and RLWD Ditch 7, Project No. 20. Lane estimated that with the amount of money received they could potentially install up to 40 culverts. The Red Lake SWCD will cost share 75%, with the remaining 25% paid for by the system. Motion by Ose, seconded by Mandt, to accept the cost share for installation of side water inlet pipes with traps on RLWD Ditch 3, Project No. 7 and RLWD Ditch 7, Project No. 20. Motion carried.

#### Administrators Update:

- Manager Knott and Jesme attended the RRWMB on January 18, 2011 in conjunction with the 28th Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference in Fargo. Included in your packet is the approved RRWMB minutes for November 16, 2010.
- Engineer Nate Dalager and Jesme will appear before the Thief River Falls City Council at on February 1, 2011 at 5:00 pm. to update the council on the Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction Project as well as the Improvement to Pennington County Ditch No. 1. Manager Nelson, Jesme and Dalager will also meet with the Pennington County Commissioners on February 8, 2011.

- Jesme has been in contact with a landowner interested in petitioning for a ditch downstream of the Brandt Impoundment. The District cleaned the channel late last summer to allow better drainage of the impoundment. At that time Jesme met with various landowners to discuss the possibility of petitioning the District for a new ditch downstream of the impoundment which would allow more flexibility for the Engineer when designing the system.
- Jesme attended a meeting in Red Lake Falls on January 12th with BWSR and local SWCD's within our District to get an overview of their needs on technical assistance that may be shared by all the SWCD's. At this time it appears that there is no need to move ahead with this discussion unless an individual SWCD would like to address the Board.

Administrator Jesme stated that a meeting will be held on February 18, 2011 with the Red Lake DNR and a few tribal members in regard to the Good Lake Impoundment.

Manager Ose discussed potential funding from the Lessard Sam Heritage Council for the Grand Marais Creek Restoration Project. Ose spoke with a Board member of the Lessard Sam Heritage Council who felt it would be beneficial to the project to include various wildlife conservation organizations.

Manager Nordlund stated that two landowners questioned him on the cost of a bond for the JD #5, RLWD Project No. 102 (Four Legged Lake). Previously the Board has requested a \$40,000 bond. Statutorily, the minimum bond is \$10,000. Legal Counsel Sparby suggested that once the landowners petition the District, the Board could make a motion for the amount of bond they would require.

Manager Tiedemann discussed the River Watch presentation he attended at the 28th Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference in Fargo. Tiedemann stated that Jill Bakken, River Watch teacher from the Bagley school district did an excellent job of presenting the project and gave credit to the District for sponsoring the program. Tiedemann suggested asking Ms. Bakken to give the same presentation at the MAWD Summer tour.

Manager Tiedemann discussed the Grand Marais Creek Restoration Project, RLWD Project No. 60F. Tiedemann recommended attending a Polk County Commissioners meeting to discuss the project with their Board.

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



---

Orville Knott, Secretary