

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
March 22, 2012

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

Landowner Merle Kolstad requested to appear before the Board.

Motion by Coe, seconded by Knott, to dispense reading of the March 5, 2012 Board meeting minutes and approve them as printed. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated March 21, 2012. Motion by Knott, seconded by Mandt, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated March 21, 2012. Administrator Jesme stated that there will be two CD's maturing prior to the next Board meeting and he recommended that we invest both CD's into the Districts Investors Savings account for future construction expenses. It was the consensus of the Board to deposit the two maturing CD's into the District Investors Savings account.

Landowner Merle Kolstad discussed his concern with water backing up from the Poplar River flooding his property located in Section 10, Badger Township, Polk County. Mr. Kolstad stated that culverts installed on Red Lake County Road 49 are filled with sediment and undersized compared to larger culverts upstream. Mr. Kolstad stated that the Poplar River channel is plugged with sediment and trees, therefore backing water up onto his property. Mr. Kolstad discussed a site visit with MnDNR Area Hydrologist Gary Bennett. The Board listened to a taped recording from the site visit with Mr. Bennett. Mr. Kolstad distributed photographs and a map showing culvert sizes on the system. Manager Knott discussed other options available to Kolstad. Legal Counsel Sparby discussed the road authorities could possibly consider eminent domain proceedings which could compensate Mr. Kolstad for damages to his property. Manager Mandt stated that landowner Larry Hanson has a similar problem in the same area.

Administrator Jesme stated that Roger Hagen paid his land rent, in full, through April 1, 2019 at which time the Land Rental Agreement expires for the Brandt Channel, RLWD Project No. 60E.

Administrator Jesme requested to the Board that it officially name the Improvement to Pennington County Ditch No. 1 as RLWD Ditch 14. Jesme stated that the hearing notices identified the project as Red Lake Watershed District Ditch 14, but the Detailed Findings and Order did not identify the project as such. Motion by Mandt, seconded by Knott, to name the Improvement to Pennington County Ditch 1 as RWLD Ditch 14, RLWD Project No. 171. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed an Agreement between the District and the Northwest Sentencing to Serve for tree and brush removal at the outlet of RLWD Ditch 14 (Pennington County Ditch 1), RLWD Project No. 171. Jesme stated that the Sentencing to Serve will charge \$7.00 per man hour not to exceed \$5,000 to complete tree and brush removal. Motion by Coe, seconded by Mandt, to approve

the Agreement between the District and the Northwest Sentencing to Serve for tree and brush removal at the outlet of RLWD Ditch 14 (Pennington County Ditch 1), RLWD Project No. 171. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that a pre-construction meeting will be held on March 23, 2012 with Spruce Valley Corporation, Inc. for the construction of RLWD Ditch 14/Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 171/171A. Jesme will be meeting with Red Lake Electric (REA) later today to discuss the power lines. One option would be to bury the power lines but REA indicated they would not be able to bury the lines until June as they would have to order cable and it would not be available until that time frame. Discussion was held on the possibility of leaving the power line poles in-place during construction, to avoid additional cost.

Manager Nelson stated that he had been contacted by an individual from the Thief River Forward Committee in regard to the possibility of a bike path in the right of way of RLWD Ditch 14. Discussion was held on the pros and cons of allowing a bike path and guidelines that would need to be met. Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc. discussed with the Board the sequence of construction for both projects. Discussion was held on landowners that have not returned their W-9 forms or returned a signed easement.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Coe, seconded by Knott, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 12012, Pennington County Highway Department, Norden and North Township. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that Engineer Jeff Langan, Houston Engineering, Inc. is working on completing the final design of the channel for the Grand Marais Creek Restoration Project, RLWD Project No. 60F. Langan will be meeting in the near future with DNR and BWSR staff in regard to the design of the ditch.

Administrator Jesme stated that easements will be needed for landowners that did not apply for RIM along the Grand Marais Creek Cut Channel, RLWD Project No. 60FF. Discussion was held on current land values compared to what landowners that signed up for RIM easements were paid. Jesme stated that Polk County is unable to find damages awarded along the legal drainage system therefore he felt we may have to purchase an easement for construction of this project. Legal Counsel Sparby indicated that we may be able to purchase the property at a reduced rate since it is in the ditch template.

Discussion was had concerning the bid opening date for the Grand Marais Creek Cut Channel, RLWD Project 60FF. Motion by Coe, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote to set the bid opening for the Grand Marais Creek Cut Channel, Project No. 60FF for April 26, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

The RLWD Advisory Committee meeting will be held at the District office on March 28, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.

Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Managers Coe, Tiedemann and Knott attended the Legislative Breakfast/Briefing on March 6th and 7th in St. Paul. They were able to touch base with almost all of the legislators from our area.
- Jesme and Managers Knott and Mandt attended the 14th Annual Joint RRWMB and RRB FDRWG Conference held March 13th and 14th in Moorhead. Watershed districts presented current and future projects.
- Jesme and Manager Knott attended the RRWMB meeting on March 20th in Ada. Included in the packet are the RRWMB meeting minutes from January 17, 2012.
- A draft ditch petition has been received for a new ditch downstream of the Brandt Impoundment. The petitioners are asking Legal Counsel Kurt Deter to review the draft petition and expect to have the final details within a month.
- The 2012 River Watch Forum was held at the UMC Campus on March 13th. Nearly 200 people were in attendance representing 21 schools making this one of the largest Forums in the in the 17 year history of the program. The “Watershed Awareness Award” went to Bagley High School River Watch team coached by Jill Bakken. The students sent articles to their local paper, gave presentations to their school board and the watershed district board, and presented a demonstration of water quality monitoring techniques to a 5th grade class in Bemidji.
- Included in the packet is the International Water Institute update that was presented at the RRWMB meeting held on March 20th.
- Included in the packet is an email from Alisha Mosloff, a senior at Lincoln High School. Alisha recently took top honors at the Regional Science Fair and a won a trip to the Intel International Engineering and Science Fair in Pittsburg Pennsylvania on May 13-18th. Alisha will present her Science Fair Project to the Board in the near future.
- Included in the packet was the March 2012 Water Quality Report.

Administrator Jesme stated that the cooling system has not been working properly in the District office. It was the consensus of the Board to have Administrator Jesme contact Brodin Sheet Metal to resolve the issue.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that he answered some questions that Jim Fox with Fox Lawson had in regard to the District’s pay grade study. A report will be submitted to the Board in the near future.

Manager Knott stated that the RRWMB is still requesting that the District explore new projects to obtain the 20% flood retention.

Motion by Coe, seconded by Mandt, to adjourn to the RLWD Advisory Committee meeting on March 28, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at the District office. Motion carried.



Orville Knott, Secretary