

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
April 25, 2013

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

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Coe, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Mandt, seconded by Tiedemann, to dispense reading of the April 11, 2013 Board meeting minutes and approve them as printed. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report and Investment Summary dated April 24, 2013. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Torgerson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report and Investment Summary dated April 24, 2013. Motion carried.

Engineer Jeff Langan, Houston Engineering, Inc. was present to discuss the bidding timeline for the Grand Marais Creek Channel Restoration, RLWD Project No. 60F with the Board and the Grand Marais Creek Joint Powers Board. Langan stated that the MnDNR and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are requesting signed Plans and Specifications prior to approval of permitting applications. Plans and Specifications will be prepared and signed by May 3, 2013, and submitted to both agencies. Langan discussed right of way and easements required for temporary right of way. Langan reviewed the project expenditures and revenue for construction of the project. Currently there is an anticipated funding shortfall of approximately \$400,000. Discussion was held on seeking additional funding sources. The Joint Powers Board will meet on May 3, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. to review and approve the signed plans and specifications. Bid opening is set for 10:00 a.m. on June 13, 2013 at the District office. A pre-bid meeting will be held on May 23, 2013 at the District office. The Board discussed flatbed rail car crossings for landowners to cross the Grand Marais Creek and the cost associated with each crossing. There presently is one landowner that wants a two span crossing for access to non-ag land but due to cost, the engineer is recommending one span. It was the consensus of the Board and Joint Powers Board for Myron Jesme and Legal Counsel Sparby to schedule a conference call with Attorney Kurt Deter to discuss the request.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc. was present to discuss maintenance and the Highway 59 corridor for RLWD Ditch No. 14/Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction Projects, RLWD Project No. 171/171A. Dalager stated that a \$10,000 retainer was withheld from the Contractor to complete the placement of black dirt, seeding and miscellaneous construction items. Dalager stated that at the hearings, discussion had been held regarding standing water along the Highway 59 corridor area. Dalager recommended that the District contact the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and local landowners regarding the lowering or re-laying of three culverts along with minimal excavation. Dalager estimated the cost to be under \$10,000. It was the consensus of the Board to authorize Dalager to move forward with discussions with MnDOT and local landowners to complete the options as discussed during the project hearings. Discussion was held on the responsibility of mowing the

legal drainage system as well as the Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction Project. It was the consensus of the Board that the area north of Greenwood Street should be maintained as part of Red Lake Watershed District Ditch #14 and all maintenance of culverts such as sludge removal will be paid for by the Water Management District.

The Board reviewed the renewal quote from Western National Mutual Insurance Company for Worker's Compensation and Commercial General Liability in the amount of \$11,033.00. Administrator Jesme stated that the premium amount increased due to a recent claim. Motion by Coe, seconded by Ose, to approve the Worker's Compensation and Commercial General Liability quote in the amount of \$11,033.00. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed correspondence from landowner Joan Ferring in regard to District permits issued to Kameron Harstad. It was the consensus of the Board, to have Legal Counsel Sparby meet with Administrator Jesme and staff member Loren Sanderson to prepare a written response to Mrs. Ferring.

Staff member Loren Sanderson discussed impoundment levels west of Thief River Falls. Sanderson stated that several impoundments will need to be operated due to the expected crest at Grand Forks.

The Board reviewed a letter from the Michelle Cote, Polk County Taxpayer Service Center in regard to the 2013 ditch maintenance assessment for Judicial Ditch 72, RLWD Project No. 41 in the amount of \$2,956.00. The Polk County Taxpayer Service Center recently was made aware that the ditch assessment did not post to the parcels listed in the benefitted area of Judicial Ditch 72, RLWD Project No. 41. Cote's letter stated their sincere apologies for the oversight and that it appears to be an isolated instance. Polk County will enter the 2013 ditch assessment for taxes payable year 2014.

The Board reviewed a Quarterly Performance Report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Glacial Ridge Project – Post Restoration, RLWD Project No. 152.

The Board reviewed the Draft 2012 Annual Report. Administrator Jesme asked the Board to review the report and submit any suggested changes to the District office.

The Community Expo will be held from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m., April 25, 2013 at the Ralph Engelstad Arena, Thief River Falls.

Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Manager Knott attended the RRWMB meeting in Warren on April 16, 2013. A tour of two FDR projects had been planned with the assumption being that there would be spring runoff. Due to limited runoff, the tour was cancelled.
- A FEMA Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning meeting will held on April 30th, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the City Council Chambers in Crookston. This meeting is part of the FEMA grant that the District was involved in through the MnDNR which included a

study to redefine the floodplain along the Red Lake River from East Grand Forks to Thief River Falls. The meeting is part of a public input process which allows local entities to view the information which may allow protection or prevention of flood prone areas along the Red Lake River. Included in the packet was the agenda.

- The District, MSTRWD and EOR held a Grand Marais Creek WRAP meeting at Cabela's in EGF on April 18th at 1:00 p.m. Approximately 24 landowners and agency staff were in attendance.
- Jesme attended a meeting on April 12 with local Watersheds and MnDNR permitting staff which focused on permitting general cleanouts on or within protected waters/waters of the state. The meeting went well, with the general consensus to wrap this project up at the next meeting held in May at the District office.
- Included in the packet was the snow survey for week ending April 20, 2013, showing moisture content ranging from 2.75" – 4.12". It appears with the slow melt we may have dodged what could have been substantial runoff.

Manager Nelson stated that following the April 11, 2013 Board meeting, the Budget and Salary committee met in regard to the hiring of Nick Olson as an Engineering Technician. It was the consensus of the Board to add this item to the May 9, 2013 Board agenda.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that a Continuing Education Seminar on Easements in Minnesota will be held on May 30, 2013 in Moorhead, and felt it would be beneficial for himself and Administrator Jesme to attend. It was the consensus of the Board, for both Sparby and Jesme to attend.

Manager Torgerson discussed an inquiry from Winsor Township for spraying of weeds in township ditches. It was the consensus of the Board to have staff provide information to Torgerson in regard to who the District hires to spray ditches.

Manager Ose stated that at the entrance of Agassiz Refuge downstream of Marshall County Road #7 bridge, sediment is accumulating on the east side of State Ditch 83.

Administrator Jesme discussed a grant that the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians received to complete a Fish Passage Study on various tributaries that drain into the Upper and Lower Red Lake. This grant can be used on the reservation as well as off the reservation. Shane Bowe, Red Lake DNR and Bill Patnaude, District Manager Beltrami County SWCD, will attend the May 9th Board meeting to discuss this grant with the Board.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary