

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
August 8, 2013

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

Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Ose, to dispense reading of the July 25, 2013 Board meeting minutes and approve them as printed. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated August 7, 2013. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated August 7, 2013. Motion carried. The Board reviewed the 2013 General Fund Budget balances as of July 31, 2013.

Administrator Jesme stated that a pre-construction meeting for the Grand Marais Creek Channel Restoration, RLWD Project No. 60F, will be held on August 12, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the District office.

The Board reviewed the Final Viewers Report and map and the Detailed Findings and Order for the Brandt Channel, RLWD Ditch 15, Project No. 175. Motion by Coe, seconded by Torgerson, to approve the Detailed Findings and Order as presented for the Brandt Channel, RLWD Ditch 15, Project No. 175. Motion carried with Manager Tiedemann abstaining.

The Board reviewed a Termination of Subgrant from the Nature Conservancy for the Glacial Ridge Project, RLWD Project No. 152. Administrator Jesme stated that the University of North Dakota (UND) will be completing the water quality study in place of the Nature Conservancy; therefore, a Termination of Subgrant is required. UND will be submitting an agreement for the District to execute to complete the water quality study. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Coe, to authorize Administrator Jesme sign the Termination of Subgrant with the Nature Conservancy for the Glacial Ridge Project, RLWD Project No. 152. Motion carried.

Staff member Loren Sanderson discussed maintenance issues on RLWD Ditch 10, Project No. 161. Sanderson stated that District staff surveyed the ditch and determined that the removal of silt from the upper end of the ditch is needed to allow for better drainage. It was the consensus of the Board to authorize staff to hire a contractor to complete the needed maintenance.

Administrator Jesme stated that the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District (MSTRWD) is working on developing an Educational Outreach Program for a bird watching tour route in Northern Minnesota. Jesme stated that the MSTRWD would like to include the RLWD Impoundments to determine what access points could be used to be included in the tour route. Discussion was had on the lease agreements the District holds on the Brandt and Euclid East Impoundments in which some of the lands within the Impoundment are privately owned and

that the District would have to get landowners involved as this project proceeds. Jesme will bring back additional information as it becomes available.

The Board reviewed a letter from Attorney Kurt Deter, Rinke Noonan, that was submitted to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in regard to ditch assessments. The MnDNR assured the public that they are required to pay all ditch taxes on land owned by the MnDNR except for consolidated conservation area lands.

The Board reviewed a letter from the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources in regard to RIM easement owner's permission to hay and graze conservation lands due to widespread winterkill of alfalfa and persistent wet conditions.

There will be a Minnesota Association of Drainage Inspectors meeting in Willmar on September 9, 2013. Administrator Jesme stated that Brian Fischer, Houston Engineering, Inc., will be giving a presentation on web-based drainage management. Jesme stated that staff member Nick Olson will be attending.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Knott, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 13069, Don Dyrdal, Sanders Township, Pennington County; No. 13071, Philip Olson, Brandt Township, Polk County; No. 13072, Dean Philipp, Agder Township, Marshall County; No. 13073, Paul Srnsky, Reiner Township, Pennington County; No. 13074, Johnson Township, Polk County; No. 13075 and 13076, Curtis Swanson, Bray Township, Pennington County; No. 13077, William Langlois, Gentilly Township, Polk County; and No. 13078, Douglas Peterson, Grand Forks Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that in the past District staff has been borrowing kayaks from MnDNR when completing water quality studies on various tributaries. It was brought our attention that with the increase of DNR staff participating in our studies, the kayaks were no longer available for District use. Jesme felt it was at the best interest of the District to purchase kayaks and that Corey Hanson has requested the purchase of two kayaks at an approximate total cost of \$1,500 to \$2,000. Motion by Coe, seconded by Mandt, to authorize staff to purchase two kayaks at an approximate total cost of \$1,500 to \$2,000. Motion carried.

President Nelson presented the Proposed 2014 General Fund Budget. Nelson stated that the Budget/Salary committee members Nelson, Coe, and Tiedemann had met previously to review the 2014 Budget and Salary recommendations. Nelson stated that the 2014 Budget is similar to 2013. Several staff have not met their peak salaries and staff member Nick Olson's salary will be reviewed again at his one year anniversary date. Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Mandt, and passed unanimously to approve 2014 staff salaries to read as follows, increase salaries of Administrator Jesme, Water Quality Coordinator Hanson, and Natural Resource Technician Blix 4%, and increase remaining staff 2% and set the 2014 General Fund Budget hearing for 9:30 a.m. Thursday, September 12, 2013 at the RLWD office.

Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Manager Knott will attend the RRWMB meeting in Ada on August 20, 2013.
- Jesme presented the 2012 Annual Report, with respective Board members, to the following counties: Clearwater, Marshall, and Beltrami. The final county board meeting will be held on August 13, with Pennington County. Jesme stated that items of interests were Tile Drainage, 20% Reduction, One Plan/One Watershed, and SWCD cost share projects.
- Jesme was asked to speak at the Fosston Lions club on August 1st. There were approximately 20 individuals in attendance. Several in attendance expressed concerns with the loss of wetlands. Jesme discussed SWCD cost share projects to restore wetland basins. Discussion was also held on flood damage reduction.
- Staff contacted Clifford Schultz in regard to haying the Euclid East and Brandt Impoundments. Mr. Schultz indicated that he had baled the area he wanted and in the future will be notified prior to anyone else baling.
- Pennington County will hold their annual EQIP meeting on August 15th.

Discussion was held regarding the One Watershed/One Plan meeting to be held at the District office on August 22, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that staff member Loren Sanderson received additional survey information in regard to Joann Ferring's flooding concern. Sparby will draft a letter to be submitted to Mrs. Ferring.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary