

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
March 11, 2013

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

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

Motion by Knott, seconded by Coe, to dispense reading of the February 28, 2013, Board meeting minutes and approve them as printed. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated March 8, 2013. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Mandt, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated March 8, 2013. Motion carried. Administrator Jesme stated reimbursement from Pennington County bond sale was received in the amount of \$1,461,230.61. The bond sale was for construction of the Improvement to Pennington County Ditch 1 (RLWD Ditch 14)/Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction, RLWD Project No. 171/171A.

The Board reviewed proposed Control Points for the Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction Project/RLWD Ditch 14 Diversion Structure dated March 2013. The Engineer recommended that gate control operations will be determined by three control points for non-flood and flood operation mode. Motion by Coe, seconded by Ose, to approve the Engineers recommended three control points for non-flood and flood operation mode for the Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction Project/RLWD Ditch 14 Diversion Structure dated March 2013. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the printed document titled "Twentieth century agricultural drainage creates more erosive rivers" and press release dated March 1, 2013, stating that the study concludes agricultural drainage, not excess rain, has increased river flows, stream-bank erosion; a leading cause of excess sediment in lakes and rivers. It was the consensus of the Board to distribute the document to the Overall Advisory Committee.

The Board reviewed the MnDNR Commissioner's Final Advisory Report for the Detailed Survey Report for the Brandt Channel, RLWD Ditch 15, Project No. 175.

Staff member Loren Sanderson and Administrator Jesme discussed weed management within the Parnell Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 81. Sanderson showed photos of the burn completed by Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge in May 2012 and additional photos showing weed growth in August 2012. Discussion was held on weed management thru the use of spraying or tilling/disking. Jesme asked the Board if they would consider increasing the farming operation with the current renter that exists within the east pool of the Parnell Impoundment. Discussion was held on interior drainage within the impoundment and that almost the entire area within the impoundment was agricultural in 1998, prior to construction. It was mentioned that any wetlands within the impoundment were mitigated at the time the project was completed. It was

the consensus of the Board to have Jesme contact the current renter to discuss the possible increase in agricultural acres of the current farming operation and report back to the Board.

Kim Durbin from Drees Risky Vallager, Ltd. presented the 2012 Annual Audit Report. After various questions by the Board, a motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Coe, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the 2012 Annual Audit Report as presented.

The Board reviewed the agenda for the RRWMB/Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group Conference to be held March 26-27, 2013 at the Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead, MN.

Administrator Jesme stated that the staff was recently informed by Northwestern Mutual that the process in which Disability Insurance staff has had withheld from their pay, has not been completed in compliance with State law. In the past, disability insurance premiums were deducted from staff payroll checks with the District issuing one check to the insurance company. Staff was informed that in order to comply with State group insurance laws, there are two options available which include either the District can pay for 50% of the premium with the staff paying the remaining 50% or the District would pay 100% of the premium. Jesme stated that if the staff were to keep the existing insurance policy, without District participation, they would have to open up individual policies which would double the cost and in some cases four times the current costs. After considerable discussion, motion by Ose, for the District to pay 50% of the staff disability insurance for a total yearly cost to the District in the amount of \$2,184.24, the motion failed for the lack of a second.

Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Knott, to table Permit No. 13007, Luke Millette, Esther Township, Polk County to allow District staff to review the permit request during the 2013 spring runoff. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Knott, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the following permit with conditions stated on the permit: No. 13008, Glenn R. Schafer, Louisville Township, Red Lake County. Motion carried.

Administrators Update:

- Manager Knott and Jesme will be attending the RRWMB meeting and River Watch Forum on March 20, 2013 in Crookston.
- Jesme attended a meeting at the request of the Sandhill River Watershed District (SRWD) with two members from the SRWD Board, SRWD Administrator Dan Wilkens, Polk County Commissioner Craig Bunes and Jody Horntvedt, University of Minnesota Extension. The meeting was intended to give the committee a better understanding of various duties in water management along with time management. This meeting is one part of the SRWD long range plan to replace Wilkens as he nears retirement.
- Manager Ose, staff member Loren Sanderson, and Jesme attended the yearly inter agency impoundment meeting at Agassiz National Wildlife headquarters. Present were various staff members from USFWS and MnDNR along with Marshall County Commissioner

Gary Kiesow. The meeting was intended to discuss operation/maintenance within Thief Lake and Agassiz Refuge as well as Farnes/Elm Lake Pool, Lost River Pool and Moose River Impoundments.

- Jesme will attend the MAWD Legislative Reception and Day at the Capitol on March 12th. Included in the packet was a handout from Ron Harnack listing some of the funding requests and explanation of projects.
- Included in the packet was the District's snow survey dated March 8, 2013. Moisture throughout the District ranges from 2.33" to 3.56".

Legal Counsel Sparby suggested discussing with local legislators at the MAWD Legislative Reception and Day at the Capitol the MnDNR's position on using two stage ditching or meandering ditches.

Legal Counsel Sparby discussed the Water Management District for the Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 171A fees for deferred assessments.

Manager Tiedemann discussed a letter he received from a landowner in reference to the existing petition to construct a new legal drainage system presently referred to as Brandt Channel Ditch Establishment, RLWD Project No. 175.

Manager Mandt requested that staff members Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette leave the meeting as the Board discussed the disability insurance issue.

Motion by Ose, seconded by Mandt, to adjourn the meeting to the RLWD Overall Advisory Committee meeting to be held on March 21, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at the District office. Motion carried.



LeRoy Ose, Secretary