

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
May 23, 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 Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Coe, seconded by Mandt, to dispense reading of the May 9, 2013 Board meeting minutes and approve them as printed. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated May 22, 2013. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Torgerson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated May 22, 2013. Motion carried.

Staff member Loren Sanderson discussed with the Board several small dams within the District that are need of maintenance. The Latundresse Dam located on a tributary to the Red Lake River in Red Lake County, which was built in 1972 is showing signs of slope movement, therefore allowing water to enter in around the drop structure. Sanderson recommended hiring an Engineering firm to look at the structure to determine what repairs would be required. The BR-6 Impoundment located in Polk County is a non gated structure that has some wave erosion to the levee due to high water levels. Sanderson stated that he felt the District staff could handle the repairs with the assistance from a local contractor. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Coe, to hire an Engineering firm to inspect the Latundresse Dam and report back to the Board with a cost estimate to repair the structure. Motion carried.

Sanderson discussed the Schirrick Dam, RLWD Project No. 25 located in Red Lake County with the Board. Sanderson stated that when the project was constructed, it was designed with trigger points for closure based on a timing issue when the City of East Grand Forks and City of Crookston had minimal flood protection. Sanderson stated that now both cities have higher levels of flood protection, the trigger points for the Schirrick Dam operation should be re-evaluated. Sanderson stated that the District worked with Widseth Smith & Nolting during the operation of the dam, and recommended hiring them to evaluate the current operating plan. Legal Counsel Sparby stated that any changes made to the Operating Plan would require a hearing. Motion by Knott, seconded by Ose, to hire Widseth Smith & Nolting to review and evaluate the current operating plan of the Schirrick Dam, RLWD Project No. 25 and submit their findings to the Board. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Red River Watershed Management Board Technical Advisory Committee Tile Drainage System Recommendations. Administrator Jesme asked the Board to review the document and have further discussion at a later Board meeting.

Administrator Jesme updated the Board on the Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 171A. Jesme stated that with the recent rains the project has some

minor touch-up areas that will need to be repaired. Work will need to be completed by the end of June, as the contract with the State of Minnesota expires at that time. Administrator Jesme stated that District staff have contacted the Minnesota Department of Transportation in regard to the Highway 59 corridor drainage.

Administrator Jesme stated that last fall the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources asked if he would be willing to work with some students in an agricultural class from the University of Minnesota and use the Grand Marais Creek Channel Restoration as their topic. Jesme presented to the Board the Final Report prepared by the class titled "Community Based Learning Project, Spring 2013, Grand Marais Creek Restoration".

The Board reviewed correspondence from the U.S. Department of Transportation in regard to an Environmental Impact Statement for the Sorlie Memorial Bridge across the Red River between East Grand Forks and Grand Forks.

The Board reviewed the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources legislative summary, including funding they received. Manager Tiedemann discussed the property tax bill and how it could affect programs like RIM and conservation easements.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Knott, seconded by Ose, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 13013, Doug Planten, Knut Township, Polk County; No. 13023, Clearwater County Highway Department, Winsor Township; No. 13026, CHS, Inc., Andover Township, Polk County; No. 13027, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Hamre Township, Beltrami County; and No. 13028, Michael Zavoral, Sullivan Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

At 9:30 a.m., President Dale M. Nelson recessed the general meeting and called the Final Hearing for the Establishment of the Brandt Channel, RLWD Ditch No. 15, Project No. 175 to order. President Nelson turned the meeting over to Legal Counsel Sparby to address the hearing and its process. Sparby indicated that the hearing is being videotaped and will be available for viewing at the RLWD office. It was also noted that the appropriate notices had been given. A copy of the MN DNR Director's Advisory Report and MN BWSR Advisory Report were given to all those in attendance and read aloud as part of the record. Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., and Engineer for the project presented the Final Survey Report for the project. Jerry Bennett, Roger Beiswenger and Rodney Langaas, viewers for the project presented their Viewers Report for the project. The Engineer and Viewers entertained questions from the Board and the audience. After all in attendance were given a chance to ask questions and/or make comments, the hearing was closed. After discussion by the Board, it was the consensus of the Board to have discussion with the Polk County Commissioners in regard to Redetermination of Benefits for Polk County Ditch 2 and to meet with the Viewers to address questions raised by several landowners and adjustments that are needed on the wetland areas. The hearing was then closed.

Motion by Coe, seconded by Tiedemann, to set a date for a subsequent final hearing for the Establishment of the Brandt Channel, RLWD Ditch No. 15, RLWD Project No. 175 on June 27, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at the RLWD Office. Motion carried.

Administrators Update:

- Manager Knott and Jesme attended the RRWMB meeting in Fertile on May 21, 2013.
- Jesme attended a third meeting with local watershed districts and MnDNR permitting staff to focus on permitting general cleanouts on or within protected waters/waters of the state. A summary will be coming out within the next month that will be shared with all watershed districts in the Red River Basin which will give them guidelines on what steps should be taken when applying for a permit to work in waters of the state.
- The Grand Marais Creek Outlet Restoration Project No. 60F pre bid meeting with contractors will be held this afternoon.
- Jesme and Legal Counsel Sparby will attend an easement seminar at the Moorhead Public Library on May 30, 2013.
- Jesme invited Brian Fisher, Houston Engineering, Inc. to present a webinar at the next Board meeting to give a presentation of an upgrade program for the District permit database.
- Nick Olson accepted the position offered to him and he started working full time for the District on May 13th.
- Jesme was informed that summer employee Alisha Mosloff has accepted a job with the International Water Institute starting May 28th.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that he will work with Administrator Jesme to send a letter of response to landowner Joann Ferring.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary