

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
May 9, 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 Ose, seconded by Mandt, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda. Motion carried.

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

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated May 8, 2013. Motion by Knott, seconded by Mandt, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated May 8, 2013. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that with past legal drainage system projects, the District has issued payment of damages to landowners prior to the start of construction. After reviewing Minnesota State Statutes with Legal Counsel Sparby and Attorney Kurt Deter, it has been determined that the District will not pay damages, but any damages awarded should be deducted from any project cost assessment against the property. In the event the damages to be paid exceeds the project cost assessment, the owners should be paid the difference directly.

Administrator Jesme stated that following District projects have requests for haying from local landowners: Euclid East Impoundment, Project No. 60C; Brandt Impoundment, Project No. 60D and RLWD Ditch 10, Project No. 161. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Mandt, to approve haying upon receipt of the signed waiver agreement by each individual landowner. Motion carried.

Shane Bowe, Aquatic Biologist for the Red Lake DNR presented information to the Board to help improve fish passage and long term water quality on the Black Duck River. Bowe stated that the Red Lake DNR has stocked approximately 20,000 sturgeon in the Upper and Lower Red Lake and that fish passage is poor to allow fish to swim upstream to spawn. Culverts will need to be assessed to determine where fish passage is allowable. The Beltrami SWCD and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are contributing to funding the project. The Red Lake DNR would also like to study the Upper and Lower Black Duck River. Motion by Coe, seconded by Tiedemann, to contribute \$5,000 towards the study of fish passage and long term water quality on the Black Duck River. Motion carried.

President Nelson stated that the Budget and Salary Committee recommended the hiring of Nick Olson as a full time permanent employee effective May 13, 2013 at an hourly rate of \$15.10 per hour plus benefits. Motion by Coe, seconded by Tiedemann, to hire Nick Olson as Ditch Inspector/Technician II at an hourly salary of \$15.10 per hour plus benefits as a full time permanent employee. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated the Board of Water and Soil Resources restructured their staffing for Clean Water Specialist positions. Brian Dwight was hired as a BWSR Clean Water Specialist for Northwestern Minnesota. This position will enable BWSR to improve service to local governments in northern Minnesota, increase and improve interagency cooperation in the Red River Basin, and link the goals of the Clean Water Fund with regional goals in the Red River Basin.

The Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Summer Tour will be held in the New Ulm area on June 20 and 21, 2013.

Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Mandt, to approve previously tabled Permit No. 13003, Bryan James Boll, Gentilly Township, Polk County, with conditions stated on the permit. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Knott, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 13016, Sanders Township, Pennington County; No. 13017, Pennington County Highway Department, Hickory Township; No. 13018, Matthew Battes, Rocksbury Township, Pennington County; No. 13020, Henry Weiland, Euclid Township, Polk County; No. 13021, Pennington County, Smiley Township; and No. 13022, Pennington County Highway Department, Norden Township, Pennington County. Motion carried.

Manager Tiedemann discussed the Polk County Commissioners meeting he attended along with staff member Loren Sanderson in regard to Darral Altepeters drainage concern. Mr. Altepeter is requesting the removal of the installation of a culvert that the District permitted in 1987 as part of the road authority's request.

Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Manager Knott will attend the RRWMB meeting in Fertile on May 21, 2013.
- Jesme will participate in a conference call on May 9, 2013 concerning both Polk County and Red Lake/Pennington County DFIRM contracts. On April 30th, Jesme attended a FEMA Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning meeting at the City of Crookston council chambers. The meeting was part of a public input process allowing local entities to view the flood plain information which may allow protection or prevention of flood prone areas along the Red Lake River.
- Jesme and Managers Knott and Tiedemann along with NRCS staff toured the Parnell, Euclid East and Brandt Impoundments to share with federal authorities how impoundments work and how they can be incorporated into the various farm programs such as Wetland Restoration Programs.
- Included in the packet was the March 2013 Water Quality Report.

The Board discussed the Community Expo that the District participated in at the Ralph Engelstad Arena. Administrator Jesme stated the event went extremely well. Manager Torgerson suggested sending a thank you letter to City Administrator, Larry Kruse.

Manager Nelson discussed the news article in the Thief River Falls Times in regard to the operation of the Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 171A. Administrator Jesme stated that there is one scour area that will need to be repaired after the spring runoff occurred.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that the issue with the landowner on a private crossing for construction of the Grand Marais Creek Channel Restoration Project, Project No. 60F appears to be settled. Sparby is currently working on an agreement for the landowner to sign.

Manager Tiedemann and Administrator Jesme discussed calls received in regard to the Brandt Channel, RLWD Ditch 15, Project No. 175. Most of the calls at this time appear to be landowners within the County Ditch 2 benefitted area and downstream of the proposed new ditch.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary