

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
April 10, 2014

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

Landowner Trent Stanley requested to appear before the Board in regard to the Tile Drainage line item on the agenda.

Motion by Knott, seconded by Coe, to dispense reading of the March 27, 2014 Board meeting minutes and approve them with corrections. Motion carried.

Motion by Ose, seconded by Knott, to dispense reading of the April 2, 2014 Board meeting minutes and approve them as printed. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated April 9, 2014. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated April 9, 2014. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on a landowner informational meeting for the 20% Flood Reduction policy goal of the RRWMB/Red River Retention Authority for the possibility of projects on Pine Lake and Four Legged Lake. It was the consensus of the Board to advertise the informational meeting in the local papers for both projects. Administrator Jesme stated that Four Legged Lake has a benefitted area, so notices will be sent to those individual benefitted landowners also. Discussion was held about contacting the individual landowners in the Pine Lake area, where potential site areas are being reviewed. Jesme will work with Manager Torgerson to determine a date and site for the informational meeting to be held.

Research Biologist Dan Svedarsky with the University of Minnesota Crookston presented information on cattail management for wetland wildlife and bioenergy potential. Svedarsky stated that they are looking at areas of cattails that expand over 20 acres. The 10 most Northwest Minnesota Counties have over 95,000 acres of cattails for a total of 902 units. Funding for the study is through the NW Minnesota Foundation and the University of Minnesota. Svedarsky stated that Canada has been researching this for the last 5-6 years as a resource to biomass harvest cattails to divert phosphorus from flowing into Lake Winnipeg, and create some form of phosphorus to take back to the landscape. The goal of the project would be to create a hemi-marsh which would benefit wildlife habitat. Joe Courneya, Red River Basin Commission, discussed projects he is working with the Bois De Sioux Watershed District and Two Rivers Watershed District on cattail management. Courneya stated that the projects not only have flood control benefits, but also have the added goals of water quality and natural resource enhancement. Cattails will be removed from the flood control projects after the nesting season is

done. They are also looking at ways to use cattails as a vegetative matter. Svedarsky stated that he is looking for \$9,000 in funding from the District to help cover costs for travel and misc. expenses before other funding becomes available. It was the consensus of the Board to discuss this item at a future meeting.

Landowners Brian and Dennis Schultz discussed with the Board the potential of enlarging the last ½ mile of inlet channel on the east side of the Euclid East Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60C. Brian Schultz stated that an additional culvert had been added and he would like to see the ditch enlarged to assure water stays in the inlet ditch without breaking out across the field within the eastern portion of the impoundment where Schultz's own and farm. It was mentioned to Brian and Dennis that the land which they are referring to is located within the easement area of the Impoundment. After considerable discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to have District staff review the area and bring back a recommendation to the Board.

The Board reviewed the Subsurface Tile Drainage Application drafted by the Tile Drainage Committee. Landowner and Advisory Committee member Trent Stanley discussed the RRWMB Model Watershed District Rules and Guidance Document. The Board discussed several changes in the language to the application. Motion by Mandt, seconded by Knott, to approve the amended Subsurface Tile Drainage Application. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that during our yearly meeting with local government agencies to discuss the operation and maintenance of impoundments, it was mentioned that Lost River Pool, RLWD Project No. 17, is a MnDNR Impoundment that has some erosion and scouring near the outlet as it enters into Ditch 200. MnDNR staff asked for assistance to complete a cost estimate to riprap the site, fix the scour hole and remove sediment. District staff estimated the cost to be approximately \$9,500. MnDNR has applied for a grant to fund the project, but asked if the District would be willing to cost share the repairs if full funding is not secured. It was the consensus of the Board to review this request once it is determined if a grant is awarded for the repairs.

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

The Board reviewed a letter of support for One Watershed One Plan to be submitted to BWSR. Administrator Jesme stated that the District had approved the concept, but as a partner, BWSR would like to see a letter of recommendation. It was the consensus of the Board to authorize Managers Nelson and Ose to sign the letter of support to submit to BWSR.

A letter from the City of Thief River Falls attorney's office. was reviewed in regard to the District's designated handicap parking spots. Legal Counsel Sparby stated that the TRF Police Department noticed several businesses in the community that are not compliant with the handicap parking spot requirements as designated by state statute. Sparby stated that the District

needs to install non-moveable properly designated handicap parking signs. District staff has ordered the signs and will install them once they are received.

The Board reviewed the Draft 2013 Annual Report. Administrator Jesme asked the Board to review the report and submit any suggested changes to the District office.

The Board reviewed an Evidentiary Hearing Notice for Line 67 Station Upgrade from Enbridge Energy Limited Partnership.

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. 14007, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Tilden, Grove Park and Badger Townships, Polk County; and No. 14008, Pennington County Highway Department, Rocksbury and River Falls Township, Pennington County. Motion carried.

#### Administrators Report:

- Jesme and Manager Knott will attend the RRWMB meeting in Fertile on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Discussion will be held on how to fit federal funding in the farm program to that of flood damage reduction.
- A Project 60 Grand Marais Creek Project team meeting was held on April 3, 2014. This meeting was held in conjunction with the Grand Marais Creek Joint Board to give a construction and water quality update to the Board and Project Team as well as discussion of the diversion channel. It is anticipated that there will be another project team meeting in the fall.
- Included in the packet was a letter sent by Jesme sent on behalf of Watershed District's concerning new legislation that is being proposed to give Watershed District's the same tax exempt status as Cities, Counties and Water Management organizations?
- Included in the packet was a snow survey map dated April 5, 2014.
- A Burnham Creek permit meeting will be held on April 11 at the West Polk SWCD office. Representatives from the USACOE, BWSR, MnDNR and West Polk SWSCD will be in attendance.
- Jesme participated in a two hour web conference titled "Waters of the U.S. Proposed Rule". This web conference was intended to clarify the EPA and USACOE joint release of their proposed rule to clarify protection under the Clean Water Act for streams and wetlands. The proposed rule is supposed to benefit business by increasing efficiency in determining coverage of the Clean Water Act. These rules are now up for a 90 day review for comments.
- A One Watershed One Plan meeting was held on April 3 at the Pennington SWCD office. Questions were reviewed for the RFI concerning 1WIP Pilot Project. Deadline to gather information is April 9<sup>th</sup> as the application submittal date is April 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Jesme, Arlene Novak, and Jeff Langan participated in a telephone audit with Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage council on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The conference covered funding items as well as concerns or general questions we had from an administrative perspective.

- A March 2014 Water Quality Report was included in the packet.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that he is reviewing the Davidson Construction, Inc. contracts for the construction of Ditch 15, Project No. 175. Administrator Jesme stated that Davidson Construction, Inc. has moved equipment to the site and wish to start mid-May. Jesme stated that the USACOE and WACA permits are pending.

Manager Tiedemann discussed the Government Workshop training event he attended in Warren on April 2, 2014.

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



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LeRoy Ose, Secretary