

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
June 26, 2014

President Dale M. Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District office, 1000 Pennington Avenue South, Thief River Falls, MN.

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

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made Coe, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Ose, seconded by Coe, to dispense reading of the June 12, 2014 Board meeting minutes and approve them as printed. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated June 25, 2014. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Coe, to approve the Financial Report dated June 25, 2014. Motion carried.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc. discussed recent construction activities on Ditch 15, Project No. 175. The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 1 in the amount of \$259,483.13. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to approve Pay Estimate No. 1 in the amount of \$259,483.13 to Davidson Construction, Inc. for construction of RLWD Ditch 15, Project No. 175. Motion carried.

Landowner Dennis Schultz appeared before the Board to discuss the inlet of the Euclid East Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60C. Mr. Schultz would like the ditch inlet widened and a berm built to alleviate overland flooding into the area he currently farms within the impoundment. Staff member Loren Sanderson presented photos of the inlet and culvert modifications that had previously been made.

At 9:30 a.m., President Nelson stated that the bid opening for the construction of the Grand Marais Creek Channel Restoration-Diversion Structure-Phase 2, RLWD Project No. 60F would be conducted. Nelson turned the meeting over to the Grand Marais Creek Joint Powers Board. Members of the Joint Powers Board present were Gene Tiedemann, Dale M. Nelson, John Nelson and Marvin Hedlund. The Joint Powers Board called their adjourned meeting to order. The Joint Powers Board noted the time and that all bid proposals have been accepted by the 9:30 a.m. bid closing. Bids were opened and bid amounts were publicly announced and are on file at the office District office. Motion was made and accepted by the Grand Marais Creek Joint Powers Board to accept the apparent low bid from The Spruce Valley Corporation in the amount of \$393,208.30 for construction of the Grand Marais Creek Channel Restoration-Diversion Structure-Phase 2, RLWD Project No. 60F, contingent upon the audit and review of the bids and approval by Legal Counsel Sparby, District staff, and Project Engineer Jeff Langan, Houston Engineering, Inc. The Joint Powers Board meeting was adjourned.

Sam Umlauf, Houston Engineering, Inc. discussed recent construction activities on the Grand Marais Creek Channel Restoration Project, RLWD Project No. 60F. Umlauf stated that the repair work on County Road No. 64 is complete and the road closed signs have been removed. The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 5 in the amount of \$42,694.89. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to approve Pay Estimate No. 5 in the amount of \$42,694.89 to Davidson Construction, Inc. for construction of the Grand Marais Creek Channel Restoration Project, RLWD Project No. 60F. Motion carried. Administrator Jesme stated that due to the late start in completing construction on this project, the District may have to consider applying for an extension for the FDR Grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The Board reviewed a letter from the City of Gonvick regarding a landowner that plugged a natural waterway. Two years ago the City of Gonvick requested that the landowner remove that he must remove the plug in the waterway as he was impeding the natural flow of water, therefore flooding out the local recreational vehicle park. The landowner did not remove the plug, so the City is requesting assistance from the District. Motion by Ose, seconded by Mandt, to authorize Administrator Jesme to submit a letter to the landowner stating that the plug is in violation of the Districts Rules and Regulations and shall be removed.

Staff member Gary Lane discussed Judicial Ditch 1, RLWD Project No. 100. Lane stated that the District acquired ditches from Clearwater County in 1991, and that this ditch system was abandoned around 1977, and no longer exists. Lane asked the Board what should be done with records from an abandoned/non-existent ditch. Administrator Jesme stated that he had spoken to Legal Counsel Sparby, who indicated that staff should contact the MN Historical Society to inquire if there would be any historic value to the information. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Coe, to authorize staff to contact the MN Historical Society and to proceed with the removal of the abandoned/non-existent ditch files. Motion carried.

Staff member Gary Lane stated that the District has a benefitted area for Clearwater County Ditch 1, RLWD Project No. 103, but he is unable to locate the physical ditch system and Clearwater County Engineering staff was unable to find information leading to the location of the legal drainage system. Administrator Jesme stated that Legal Counsel Sparby recommended proceeding with the hearing process to abandon the system, therefore notifying all landowners in the benefitted area. Motion by Mandt, seconded by Ose, to authorize staff to proceed with the necessary steps to abandon Clearwater County Ditch 1, RLWD Project No. 103. Motion carried.

At 10:00 a.m., President Nelson stated that the bid opening for the construction of the Burnham Creek Project, Phase 1-4, RLWD Project No. 43B, C, and D would be conducted. President Nelson noted the time and that all bid proposals have been accepted by the 10:00 a.m. bid closing. Bids were opened and bid amounts were publicly announced and are on file at the office District office. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Mandt, and passed by unanimous vote to accept the apparent low bid from Wright Construction of TRF, Inc. in the amount of \$374,900.50, for construction of the Burnham Creek Project, Phase 1-4, RLWD Project No. 43B, C and D, contingent upon the audit and review of the bids and approval by Legal Counsel Sparby, District staff, and Project Engineer Jim Hest, Red River Valley Conservation Service.

Franchesca Wojciechowski, Northern State Agency presented an insurance quote to cover all of the District's insurance coverage from the League of Minnesota Cities. Staff member Arlene Novak and Administrator Jesme met with Legal Counsel Sparby to review the insurance coverage. Sparby indicated that he would like to see an additional umbrella policy for uninsured under insured motorist. The League of Minnesota Cities coverage is for \$200,000 per occurrence, where the District is currently insured for \$1 million. Wojciechowski indicated that an additional umbrella policy is not available. The League of Minnesota Cities also looked at our dams and dikes policy, which they have now removed the exclusion in the policy therefore covering all the Districts dams/impoundments. Directors and Officers Liability Insurance would not be covered under this policy, and the District would need to sign a clause for the Joint Powers Board stating that we have not had any previous claims. This is a member based insurance company that is non-profit. The District currently pays \$26,078 annually for insurance coverage. Under the League of Minnesota Cities the annual cost would be \$19,451, which includes a \$1,611 league dues fee. The District would see an annual savings of \$6,627, plus the possibility of receiving annual dividends. Wojciechowski also indicated that the League of Minnesota Cities offers assistance with legal services, human resources, etc. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Coe, to approve the transfer of the District's insurance coverage to the League of Minnesota Cities. Motion carried.

Manager Tiedemann and Administrator Jesme stated that the District was awarded the One Watershed One Plan pilot project for the Red Lake River Watershed. The pilot project application for the Thief River Watershed was not funded.

The Board reviewed correspondence from the Northwest Service Cooperative inviting the District's Board members to a health insurance meeting to be held on July 17, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in Erskine.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Mandt, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permits: No. 14065, Pennington County Highway Department, Rocksbury Township; No. 14066, Kim M. Johnson, Rocksbury Township, Pennington County; No. 14067, Curt Beyer, Wylie Township, Red Lake County; No. 14068, Curt Beyer, Louisville Township, Red Lake County; No. 14069, Red Lake County Cooperative, Poplar River Township, Red Lake County; No. 14072, 14073 and 14074, Galen Johnson, River Township, Red Lake County; No. 14075, Merlyn Lindemoen, North Township, Pennington County; and No. 14076, Daniel Bratvold, Crookston Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

#### Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Manager Knott attended the RRWMB meeting held in the District office on June 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Euclid East, Brandt, Parnell, Moose River and Good Lake Impoundments are all in drawdown mode. Included in the packet was a listing of impoundment levels
- Jesme and Manager's Mandt, Ose, Tiedemann, Coe and Torgerson attended the MAWD Summer Tour in Stillwater. Included in the packet were handouts from the presentations.

- Jesme received three CRP renewal contracts for the Zammert Brothers property located within the Euclid East Impoundment, but has not received word if they have been accepted. A new rental agreement will be drafted once approval is received.
- Jesme attended a DNR/WD watercourse excavation workgroup meeting and tour at the Two Rivers Watershed District office in Hallock on June 25<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was intended to fine tune the Attachment A worksheet that is required for cleaning out a public watercourse.
- Jesme will be on vacation the week of July 7, 2014.
- Jesme will attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Red River Valley Ag Water Issues Forum on July 17<sup>th</sup> in Gary, MN.

Discussion was held on gathering information for the 2015 Budget and Salary Committee meeting. Administrator Jesme stated that he will have some information together by July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Staff member Loren Sanderson reviewed the current impoundment levels.

Manager Tiedemann discussed the BWSR meeting he attended.

The Board reviewed a letter received from the landowner that had their drainage blocked within the City of Gonvick. Administrator Jesme will submit a letter to the landowner that plugged the natural drainage way.

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



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LeRoy Ose, Secretary