

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
March 13, 2014

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

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

Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Mandt, to dispense reading of the February 27, 2014 Board meeting minutes and approve them as printed. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report and Investment Summary date March 11, 2014. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Mandt, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report and Investment Summary dated March 11, 2014. Motion carried.

Brian Ophsahl from Brady Martz and Associates, presented the 2013 Annual Audit Report. After various questions by the Board, a motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the 2013 Annual Audit Report as presented.

Phil Gerla, Associate Professor of Geology and Geological Engineering at the University of North Dakota (UND) thanked the Board for their long term support for the Glacial Ridge Project, RLWD Project No. 152A. Mr. Gerla presented information on what prairie restoration means to water quality in the area. This project was a collaborative project with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Service, UND and The Nature Conservancy. Gerla reviewed the examples of the potential benefits of conserving habitat and biodiversity. Part of the study was to continue post restoration water quality monitoring along Judicial Ditch 66. High resolution aerial imagery was completed to track the restoration of ground water dependent wetlands. The study also evaluated nutrients and phosphorus from the abandoned Crookston Cattle Company feedlot. The goal of the project was to minimize the amount of nitrate and total phosphorus getting into the groundwater.

The Board reviewed a draft Tile Drainage Permit checklist that was drafted by the Tile Drainage Committee. Administrator Jesme stated that the Tile Drainage Committee has had two tile drainage business owners attend separate committee meetings to get a better understanding of tile drainage parameters. It was the consensus of the Board to discuss this matter at the March 27, 2014 Board meeting.

At 10:00 a.m., President Nelson stated that the bid opening for the construction of RLWD Ditch No. 15, Project No. 175 would be conducted. Legal Counsel Sparby 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 Ose, seconded by Tiedemann and passed by unanimous vote to accept the apparent low bid from Davidson Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$1,017,680.20 for construction of RLWD Ditch 15, Project No. 175, contingent upon the audit and review of the bids and approval by Legal Counsel Sparby, District staff, and Project Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc.

The Board reviewed a request to amend the Viewers Report for the construction of RLWD Ditch 15, Project No. 175. Administrator Jesme stated that an additional 40 feet of temporary right of way is required on the extreme western part of the project to allow for the leveling of spoil adjacent to the ditch system. Jesme stated that the additional right of way will add approximately \$1,700 to the total damages of the project. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Coe, to approve the amendment of the Viewers Report dated August 8, 2013, to include the additional 40 feet of temporary right of way. Motion carried.

Several landowners were in attendance to discuss the Tile Drainage Permitting agenda item. President Nelson indicated to the landowners in attendance, that this item was for information only to the Board, as Board members did not have a chance to review the item prior to today's meeting and no decision was going to be made today on this matter. Nelson stated that Tile Drainage Permitting will be added to the March 27, 2014 agenda.

The Board reviewed the agenda for the Tile Drainage & Rules and Regulations workshop, along with the 16th Joint Annual Conference with the RRWMB and the Red River Basin FDR Work Group to be held March 25-26, 2014. Managers Coe and Ose, Administrator Jesme and Legal Counsel Sparby plan to attend the workshop.

Staff member Loren Sanderson stated that he had been contacted by a landowner in regard to a drainage issue located in Lake Pleasant Township, Red Lake County. Sanderson stated that the District issued a permit to the landowner to increase the size of a field entrance culvert in a township road, but Lake Pleasant Township denied the landowners permit request. The landowner asked if there was anything more that the District could do to assist him with the townships denial. Legal Counsel Sparby recommended that the landowner appeal the township decision as to why they denied the permit.

Administrator Jesme discussed the One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) with the Board. Jesme stated that the State of Minnesota requested that the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) develop a plan to help stream line water plans of Watersheds, SWCD's, and Comprehensive Water Planners by each subwatershed. BWSR is looking for subwatershed's to do a pilot project of the area. Jesme stated he attended a meeting with various local water planners located in the Thief River sub-watershed to discuss the possibility of developing a pilot project for the 1W1P. This sub-watershed seemed to be logical given the Watershed Restoration and Protection (WRAP) study is nearing completion. Jesme further indicated that he had been contacted by the Red Lake SWCD and West Polk SWCD offices to do discuss the possibility of completing the pilot project on the Red Lake River subwatershed. A memorandum of understanding would have to be drafted, with every local agency represented on the planning committee to complete the One Watershed One Plan. Motion by Coe, seconded by Tiedemann, to proceed with conversation of local water planning partners in completing a "Request For Information" to BWSR for the for the One Watershed One Plan for the Thief River subwatershed and Red Lake River subwatershed. Motion carried with Manager Ose opposed.

Pennington SWCD submitted a request for a financial donation for the Area I Envirothon. The Area I Envirothon will be held on April 23, 2014, at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Coe, to donate \$300 to Area I Envirothon. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the BWSR FY2014 Clean Water Fund Targeted Watershed Demonstration Programs that were awarded grants to local governmental unit projects. East Polk SWCD submitted an application, but did not receive funding.

The Board reviewed the MAWD Legislative Update dated March 4, 2014.

The Board reviewed the River Rendezvous newsletter that is published by the International Water Institute.

A State of Water Conference (Minnesotan's Protecting Our Lakes & Rivers) will be held May 1-2, 2014 at Craguns Resort, Brainerd, MN.

Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Manager Ose will attend the RRWMB meeting held on March 18 at UMC-Crookston. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the River Water Forum. Included in the packet was the February 18, 2014 RRWMB minutes.
- Staff member Corey Hanson will attend the Red River FDR Work Group Project monitoring committee meeting held March 13, 2014.
- Information on the 16th Annual Joint Conference to be held March 25-26, 2014 in Detroit Lakes was included in the packet.
- A Project 60 Grand Marais Creek Work Team and Joint Powers Board will meet on April 3, 2014 at the District office. The meeting is intended to update both groups on construction details as well as the development/design of the diversion structure that will be bid in the next month. We will also give an update on Water Quality Projects that are on-going in this subwatershed.
- Included in the packet was the snow survey sheet dated March 8, 2014.
- Jesme will leave for the MAWD Legislative Breakfast after the River Watch Forum in Crookston on March 18th. Jesme will attend the District Administrator's meeting Wednesday morning.
- Included in the packet was the February 2014 Water Quality Report. Items of interest are the Thief River, Red Lake River, Clearwater River and Grand Marais Creek WRAP studies that are being completed.

Legal Counsel Sparby discussed letters that will be sent to the various landowners on RLWD Ditch 15, Project No. 175 regarding the change in the temporary ROW. Administrator Jesme will do follow-up contact with the landowners.

Motion by Coe, seconded by Ose, to adjourn the meeting to the RLWD Overall Advisory Committee meeting to be held at the District office on Monday, March 17, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. Motion carried.



LeRoy Ose, Secretary