

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
November 25, 2014

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

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

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

Motion by Knott, seconded by Tiedemann, to dispense reading of the November 13, 2014 Board meeting minutes and approve them as presented. Motion carried.

The Board welcomed the District's new employee Ashley Hitt. Hitt will replace Staff member Jim Blix after his retirement as of December 31, 2014.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated November 24, 2014. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Coe, to approve the Financial Report dated November 24, 2014. Motion carried.

Sam Umlauf, Houston Engineering, Inc. discussed construction progress for the Grand Marais Creek Channel Restoration Project, RLWD Project No. 60F. Umlauf stated that approximately 95% of the channel excavation is completed, with most of the channel being opened by the end of this week. The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 8 in the amount of \$229,213.71 for construction of the Grand Marais Creek Channel Restoration Project, RLWD Project No. 60F. Motion by Knott, seconded by Mandt, to approve Pay Estimate No. 8 in the amount of \$229,213.71 to Davidson Construction, Inc. for construction of the Grand Marais Creek Channel Restoration Project, RLWD Project No. 60F. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc. will begin stock piling materials next week for the Grand Marais Creek Channel Restoration Project-Diversion Channel, RLWD Project No. 60F. Jesme stated that the District will work with the landowner to determine if he will allow us to stock pile material on his field and agree to a rental rate for stock piled material as well as a temporary haul road.

Administrator Jesme updated the Board on the One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) Policy Committee meeting. The Committee agreed to hire Chuck Fritz with the International Water Institute to facilitate the 1W1P process. The Committee approved hiring of the Engineering Consultant after review of the Request for Proposals by staff from the Local Government Units and BWSR. Orville Knott was nominated as the Chairman for the 1W1P Policy Committee. Knott represents the Red Lake County SWCD on the committee with Manager Tiedemann representing the District.

Cattail mowing was completed at the Parnell Impoundment by Dan Svedarsky, University of Minnesota Crookston. Due to a variety of set-backs, a complete harvest biomass was not possible. It was the consensus of the Board, to invite Mr. Svedarsky to a future meeting to discuss the process and results of harvesting of cattails.

The Board discussed a drainage concern located in River Township, Red Lake County. Staff member Loren Sanderson stated that a local landowner is concerned that a neighbor has blocked his drainage. Sanderson stated that former landowners for both parcels of land had a gentleman's agreement for drainage on private property. Sanderson told that Board that he has not had a chance to review the area to determine if the ditch was blocked. It was the consensus of the Board to have Sanderson review the area and report back to the Board.

Discussion was held on a prior concern from a landowner on Maple Lake who has experienced flooding from the back of their lot down to the lake. Staff member Loren Sanderson stated that he and Manager Mandt met with the landowner upstream from the cabin owner, but have not come to an agreement on how to proceed forward. The upstream landowner agreed to allow the District to survey the area. Jim Hest, Red River Valley Conservation Service Area Engineer stated that the East Polk SWCD can request his assistance, therefore allowing Hest to determine if a localized flood basin would help alleviate flooding for the cabin owner. It was the consensus of the Board to authorize Sanderson to work with the local landowner, East Polk SWCD, and Jim Hest for a potential partnership for a flood basin.

Administrator Jesme stated that he spoke with the landowner that received a letter from the District about the placement of an unpermitted culvert located in Equality Township, Red Lake County. The landowner informed Jesme that the culvert in question, was in-place when he purchased the property. The current landowner stated that he gave Arden Lundeen permission to clean the ditch on his property and he is willing to cooperate to do what is necessary. It was the consensus to have Jesme and Staff Member Loren Sanderson work with both parties to come to an agreement.

Administrator Jesme stated that the drainage concern in Whiteford Township, Marshall County has been resolved between the two landowners, with the removal of the dike/plug.

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. 14215, Brent Strand, Gary Lee and Bill Hess, Lessor Township, Polk County and Lambert Township, Red Lake County; No. 14227, Tom Brosseau, Norden Township, Pennington County; and No. 14230, Doug Barth, Silverton Township, Pennington County. Motion carried.

At 9:30 a.m., the final payment hearing for Wright Construction, Inc. concerning the construction of the Burnham Creek Project, Phase 1-4, RLWD Project No. 43B, 43C and 43D was called to order. Present at the hearing was Jim Hest, Red River Valley Conservation Service Area Engineer. President Nelson stated that the hearing had been properly advertised. The Board reviewed Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$10,625.00. Hest stated that Change Order No. 2 was needed as a request of the NRCS and due to a change in size of rock required

downstream of the NRCS concrete structure. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Coe, to approve Change Order No. 2, in the amount of \$10,625.00 for construction of the Burnham Creek Project, Phase 1-4, RLWD Project No. 43B, 43C and 43D. Motion carried. Discussion regarding the final payment request was had and the opportunity for public comment was given. There was no one in attendance objecting to the final payment. Motion by Ose, seconded by Mandt, to approve the final payment in the amount of \$55,820.40 to Wright Construction, Inc. for the construction of the Burnham Creek Project, Phase 1-4, RLWD Project No. 43B, 43C and 43D. Motion carried. The hearing was videotaped and is on file at the RLWD office.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 5 in the amount of \$113,236.51 for construction of RLWD Ditch 15, Project No. 175. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Knott, to approve Pay Estimate No. 5 in the amount of \$113,236.51 to Davidson Construction, Inc. for construction of RLWD Ditch 15, Project No. 175. Motion carried.

It was the consensus of the Board to schedule the Pine Lake Project Area Project Work Team initial meeting on December 19, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at the District office.

Administrator Jesme discussed the Four Legged Lake Watershed Project tour held on Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. Jesme stated that the tour was well attended by members of the Project Work Team. Good in-sight was received from the local landowners on the tour as to the pre-existing conditions of the land prior to the alterations of culverts. It was the consensus of the Board to authorize Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc. to report back to the Board, with several recommendations that could be achievable through the permitting process. Dalager stated that in his opinion, he could draft up his recommendations by the December 11, 2014 Board meeting. Jesme, Dalager and Legal Counsel Sparby will schedule a meeting to consider the different courses for action for the legal drainage system.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., reviewed the Red River Basin of the North, Briefing Paper #3, Water Management Options for Surface Drainage. Dalager stated that the study was funded by the Red River Watershed Management Board for public statement. The study looked at how you design systems for surface drainage to address water management. Local consulting engineers, staff from the Department of Agriculture, USGS and various other agencies assembled to review and discuss relative scientific information for publication of the study. Dalager discussed the scope of the study, stating that climate is the major hydrology driver, especially during large scale floods events. On a smaller scale for more frequent events Dalager stated that yes, drainage could hurt your neighbor with improperly designed drainage. Discussion was held on uniform surface drainage design guidance adequate for a ten year-24 hour storm, with all landowners sharing the flooding if it's going to occur and be fair about where your water goes and not just down to the downstream landowner. Water would not be held for more than 24 hours. Discussion was held if this document should be referenced in the District's 10 Year Overall Plan. Legal Counsel Sparby suggested referencing this document as guidance.

Administrators update:

- Jesme and Manager Knott attended the RRWMB meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

- The first 1W1P Policy Committee meeting was held on November 19<sup>th</sup>. This meeting included election of the officers, hiring of Chuck Fritz as the facilitator and review and approval of the RFP's for consulting engineers after staff from BWSR and the local LGU's have reviewed them.
- Jesme will participate in a Focus Group for the purpose of updating the Minnesota Public Drainage Manual on November 26<sup>th</sup> at the UM-Crookston.
- The Clearwater River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAP) public forum will be held at the Clearbrook Community Center on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Notices have been sent to all interested parties.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that he and Administrator Jesme met and reviewed the proposed Rules and Regulations, incorporating the new tile drainage into the document. Sparby will present the information to the Board at a future Board meeting and then forward the document to BWSR for them to determine if the hearing process is required.

Manager Tiedemann stated that he was contacted by Polk County, stating that his term expires on January 10, 2015. Administrator Jesme stated that notices will be sent to Polk County and also Clearwater County as Manager Torgerson's term expires at the same time.

Administrator Jesme stated that landowner Dan Bratvold had contacted him in regard to a potential Flood Damage Reduction Project along Judicial Ditch 60. Engineer Nate Dalager reviewed the area and determined that very little storage would be attainable due to the flat area. Jesme will recommend to Bratvold potential farm programs for assistance.

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



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LeRoy Ose, Secretary