

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
March 13, 2015

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

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

Motion by Knott, seconded by Ose, to dispense reading of the February 26, 2015 Board meeting minutes and approve them as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated March 12, 2015. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Knott, to approve the Financial Report dated March 12, 2015. Motion carried.

Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc. discussed the meeting he and Administrator Jesme attended on March 6, 2015, with staff from the MnDNR regarding the Four Legged Lake Project. Dalager stated that the MnDNR recently completed a survey of the Four Legged Lake Area to assess a waterfowl habitat rating. We have been informed that the Four Legged Lake came back in the top 5% of waterfowl lakes in the State. Dalager stated that MnDNR staff indicated that if possible, they would like to see us hold off on proceeding with the project for three years, remove a beaver dam and monitor the area. Jesme indicated that he did mention to MnDNR staff that the District's concerns for this legal drainage system is to address the illegal raising of the outlet culvert along with the possibility of incorporation of a FDR project. MnDNR staff did say however that they do not want to see the lake level as high as it was in 2014. Jesme and Legal Counsel Sparby are working on a Petition for Abandonment to present to the landowners. The landowners will then circulate the petition for signature and then we can proceed with the ditch abandonment proceedings. It was the consensus of the Board to authorize District Staff to work with Dalager on obtaining, at a minimum, a survey of the location and elevation of all pipes on the chain of lakes, as well as any additional baseline survey information that may be required that would allow us to move forward.

Brad Westerberg and Brad Kennedy, Joint Powers Board Conservation engineering staff appeared before the Board to discuss the Clean Water Fund Grant for a project located within the Judicial Ditch 72, Project No. 41 system. Plans and Specifications for installation of buffer strips, bank stabilization, culvert replacement and installation of riprap were presented to the Board. Westerberg stated that the Engineers probable cost for the project is \$119,300. The Clearwater SWCD received a Clean Water Grant in the amount of \$56,250, however with an additional \$10,000 funding available in the grant for buffer and side water inlet culvert, the total grant that may be available for this project could total \$66,250. Jesme indicated that there is a 25% match required in the grant that could be paid out of the District's Capital Project fund upon Board approval. Discussion was held in regards to the District funding the remaining balance

using our Capital Project funding, specifically Project 164, Erosion Control Project. Manager Tiedemann questioned the size of the culvert to be replaced on the field crossing and if it is consistent to that of other culverts within the legal drainage system. Jesme indicated that this is an old system and we would check old ditch plans, if available and report back to the Board. Motion by Knott, seconded by Tiedemann, that upon verifying the field crossing culvert size, to pay the remaining grant match balance of approximately \$54,000 using funding set aside in our Capital Project fund Project #164. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that the Open House/Kick-Off meeting for the Red Lake River One Watershed One Plan will be held at the District office on March 18th with an Open House from 3:00-5:00 and a second one from 6:00-8:00. Jesme indicated that it would be nice to serve a light lunch between the sessions. It was the consensus of the Board, to provide a working dinner for individuals participating in the Kick-Off meeting open house.

The Board reviewed the agenda for the 17th Annual Joint Conference RRWMB/Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction that will be held on March 25-26, 2015 in Moorhead.

Pennington SWCD submitted a request for a financial donation for the Area I Envirothon. The Area I Envirothon will be held on April 22, 2015, at Lake Bronson State Park. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to donate \$300 to the Area I Envirothon. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a Contract for Services with the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians for assistance with water quality monitoring and stage measurements for Grand Marais Creek WRAP, Project No. 157D. Motion by Knott, seconded by Tiedemann, to authorize Administrator Jesme to sign the RLWD Contract for Services with the Red Lake Bank of Chippewa Indians for the Grand Marais Creek WRAP, Project No. 157D. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a Grant Agreement with the Board of Water and Soil Resources for the RLWD Drainage Inventory and Inspection Database in the amount of \$38,700. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to authorize Administrator Jesme to sign the RLWD Drainage Inventory and Inspection Database Grant with the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed correspondence from Attorney John Kolb, Rinke Noonan, regarding the State Buffer Initiative on Minnesota waterways and ditches.

Administrator Jesme stated that HDR Engineering, Inc. will be holding First Aid Training and invited District Board and Staff to participate. It was the consensus of the Board, that District staff should be invited to participate with the HDR Engineering, Inc. staff.

The Board reviewed a letter of request to extend Permit No. 14008, Pennington County Highway Department, Rocksbury and River Falls Township, Pennington County. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to extend Permit No. 14008, until May 1, 2016. Motion carried.

Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Manager Knott will attend the RRWMB meeting on March 17 at the University of Minnesota-Crookston. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the Red River Basin River Watch Forum.
- The Red Lake River 1W1P Kick-Off meeting will be held on March 18th at the District office. Notices and public survey information have been sent out along with newspaper advertisements.
- Jesme and Staff Members Hanson and Hitt attended the Grand Marais WRAP technical meeting on March 9, 2015 in East Grand Forks. The public meeting was intended to introduce the Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan for the Grand Marais and to give an introduction to the 1W1P Pilot Project.
- The District's Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 16th at 9:30 a.m. at the District office.
- Staff members Hanson and Hitt attended a Water Quality training session on March 5th at University of Minnesota-Crookston.
- RESPEC is holding the Snake River/Grand Marais HSPF Stakeholders meeting at the District Board room on March 23 and 24. These meetings will take most of two days and is intended to give an over view of the model.
- Tim Renneke, USCOE called and informed the District that due to the USGS staff gage at Highlanding spiking 8', the Corps closed the dam on Lower Red Lake by 50%, with approximately 300 cfs currently being released.
- Jesme will be unable to attend the 17th Annual Joint Conference as planned, due to having knee surgery on March 19th.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated he is working with Gerry Seim, Sjobergs Cable TV and the City of Thief River Falls, on a joint easement for installation of utilities within the right of way for RLWD Ditch 14, Project No. 171.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that he is working the Administrator Jesme on the comments received on the District's Rules and Regulations from the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Manager Ose discussed the MAWD Legislative Breakfast he attended in St. Paul and the Governors Buffer Initiative.

Motion by Ose, seconded by Knott, to adjourn the meeting to March 16, 2015 to allow the Board to attend the District's Advisory Meeting to be held at 9:30 a.m. at the District office. Motion carried.



LeRoy Ose, Secretary