

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
September 8, 2016

Vice President Gene Tiedemann called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District Office, Thief River Falls, MN.

Present were: Managers Allan Page, Terry Sorenson, Lee Coe, Les Torgerson, LeRoy Ose and Gene Tiedemann. Absent: Dale M. Nelson. Staff Present: Myron Jesme, Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby.

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

Cheryl and Scott Hornbuckle requested to appear before the Board to discuss bank failure on Lake Cameron.

Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to dispense reading of the August 25, 2016 Board meeting minutes and approve them as corrected. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report and Investment Summary dated September 7, 2016. Motion by Ose, seconded by Torgerson, to approve the Financial Report dated September 7, 2016 as presented. Motion carried. Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the reinvestment of the Certificate of Deposit that will mature on September 11, 2016 with Unity Bank North. Motion carried.

The 2017 Proposed Special Revenue Project levies were presented by Staff members Nick Olson and Arlene Novak and discussed by the Board. Questions of different ditch systems were fielded. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve the following Special Revenue Assessments for 2017: Clearwater River, RLWD Project No. 3, \$40,000; RLWD Ditch No. 1, RLWD Project No. 5, \$1,000; State Ditch No. 83, RLWD Project No. 14, \$50,000; RLWD Ditch No. 7, RLWD Project No. 20, \$5,000; Pine Lake Maintenance, RLWD Project No. 35, \$3,000; J.D. No. 72, RLWD Project No. 41, \$6,000; Burnham Creek, RLWD Project No. 43B, \$30,000; Wild Rice Allocation, RLWD Project No. 45, \$9,000; J.D. 2, Branch A & B, RLWD Project No. 48, \$1,000; J.D. 2B & C, RLWD Project No. 49, \$2,500; J.D. 4, RLWD Project No. 101, \$500.00; Arveson Petition, RLWD Project No. 109, \$2,000; Winsor-Hangaard, RLWD Project No. 113, \$6,500; Equality/RLWD Ditch 1, RLWD Project No. 115, \$1,000; Polk County Ditch Improvement, RLWD Project No. 119, \$7,000; Polk County Ditch 33, RLWD Project No. 135, \$2,500; RLWD Ditch No. 10, RLWD Project No. 161, \$5,000; RLWD Ditch No. 12, RLWD Project No. 169, \$15,000; and RLWD Ditch No. 14, RLWD Project No. 171, \$4,000. Motion carried.

Cheryl Hornbuckle appeared before the Board to discuss erosion on the bank of Lake Cameron that is endangering her son, Scott Hornbuckle's, home. Mrs. Hornbuckle stated that on August 4, 2016, the Erskine area received a 4" rain event that severely eroded the bank behind Scott's home, with the bank slumping and eroding, exposing part of the deck and foundation of the home. Staff member Loren Sanderson, Lisa Newton, East Polk SWCD and Stephani Klamm, MNDNR, have inspected the site. The landowners have been in contact with officials from Polk County and will be attending the City of Erskine Council Meeting to seek assistance. Mrs. Hornbuckle stated that they are looking for recommendations and assistance on how to handle the matter. The property in question is within the city limits of Erskine, therefore the county would have no jurisdiction. The Board expressed their concern for the Hornbuckle's situation, recommending that they would work with the City of Erskine for assistance. Discussion was had that the slumping had not entered the lake and therefore it did not appear the District would have jurisdiction or statutory authority to address the issue.

Jake Huwe, HDR Engineering, Inc., presented plans for the City of Erskine Memorial Park stabilization project located on Cameron Lake. Huwe stated that they designed the repair with a 3:1 slope, with a key trench that will act as a barrier to hold the shoreline in place, along with the installation of fractured granite rock. The estimated construction cost is \$85,370. Huwe stated MnDNR and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permits will be required. Motion by Page, seconded by Sorenson, to authorize HDR Engineering, Inc., to proceed with completion of the Plans and Specifications and submittal of the appropriate permits applications for the City of Erskine Memorial Park, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion carried.

Lisa Newton, East Polk SWCD, appeared before the Board to request \$7,500 from the East Polk SWCD allotted funds from the District's Erosion Control Project, RLWD Project No. 164 to be put towards the City of Erskine Memorial Park Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 164. The City of Erskine has committed \$25,000 for the project and the Erskine American Legion Club will donate \$5,000. Motion by Coe, seconded by Ose, to approve the request of the East Polk SWCD for \$7,500 from the District's Erosion Control Fund, RLWD Project No. 164 for construction of the City of Erskine Memorial Park Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion carried.

Staff member Loren Sanderson and Lisa Newton, East Polk SWCD discussed a flooding issue on property owned by Connie Hannesson at Maple Lake. Sanderson and Newton both stated that they have had discussions with the upstream landowner in regards to the installation of a sediment basin or retention site to slow down the water coming off the fields. Newton stated that she will contact the NRCS to inquire if they could assist with EQIP funds. Newton further stated that Joint Powers Board Engineer, Jim Hest, would be available to work with District staff to determine design options. Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Sorenson, to authorize District staff to survey the area of concern and work with Joint Powers Engineer Jim Hest to determine design options. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Red Lake River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P), RLWD Project No. 149 Executive Summary. Administrator Jesme stated that the draft plan is in the review stage with the comment period ending October 28, 2016.

Administrator Jesme stated that Marshall County had initiated the submittal of a 1W1P grant application for the Thief River watershed. Jesme indicated that he worked with other potential partners to develop a grant application to BWSR and was recently notified that the proposal was selected. Jesme has been in discussion with the various partners including Roseau and Beltrami County who have stated they will be relatively silent as they don't have a very large portion of their county in the Thief River watershed. A meeting with BWSR staff and the partners will be held October 19th at the District office.

The Board reviewed correspondence from the Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge providing feedback on the Thief River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) draft report. Administrator Jesme stated that staff member Corey Hanson and staff from the MPCA will follow-up with this correspondence.

The Board reviewed a publication, summarizing cattail management in the Northern Great Plains written by Dan Svedarsky, University of Minnesota-Crookston. The District participated in funding the cattail management research.

Administrator Jesme discussed a meeting he attended with the MnDNR regarding the existence of Starry Stonewort, an invasive species found in harbors located on Upper Red Lake as well as Turtle Lake near Bemidji. Starry Stonewort are grass-like algae that are not native to North America and looks similar to native grass-like algae such as other stonewort's and musk-grass. This particular plant does not like wave action but will thrive in marinas/harbors thus choking out native vegetation. MnDNR staff treated the invasive species with copper sulfate. Manager Coe stated that he attended a recent AIS meeting in Beltrami County and that the MnDNR stated that they cannot afford to treat all the sites infested with starry stonewort.

Staff member Loren Sanderson discussed RLWD Permit No. 15106, Robert and Alisha Anderson, Badger Township Polk, located northwest of Erskine. Sanderson stated that the landowner received a permit application to clean a ditch and lower a culvert. When the ditch was cleaned, the applicant dug the ditch deeper than allowed with straight side slopes, with concerns of lateral affects to adjacent wetlands. The applicant was notified of the required repairs that were needed. Sanderson stated that the repairs made to the slope of the ditch meet the District's requirement, but seeding and mulch should be completed in the near future. Motion by Sorenson, seconded Ose, to authorize Legal Counsel Sparby to submit a letter the Robert and Alisha Anderson, stating that the ditch slope meets the District's requirements, but seeding and mulch needs to be completed by September 30, 2016. Motion carried.

Motion by Page, seconded by Sorenson, to approve a one year permit extension for Permit No. 14137, Randy Weiss, Lake Pleasant Township, Red Lake County. Motion carried. The new expiration date will be September 10, 2017.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Ose, seconded by Torgerson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 16075, Charlie J. Johnson, Equality Township, Red Lake County; No. 16076, Jeff Stenberg, Equality Township, Red Lake County; No. 16077, Jeremiah Johnson, Equality Township, Red Lake County; No. 16078, Donna Black, Equality Township, Red Lake County; No. 16079, GDW, Inc./Greg Whalen, Equality Township, Red Lake County; No. 16085, Clearwater County Highway Department, Nora Township, Clearwater County; No. 16086, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Goodridge and Moylan Townships, Pennington and Marshall County's; No. 16087, Matthew Schow, King Township, Polk County; No. 16088, Earl Roed, Lessor Township, Polk County; No. 16089, Jeffrey A Olson, Norden Township, Pennington County; No. 16090, Keith Driscoll, Huntsville Township, Polk County; No. 16091, Scott Baatz, Fairfax Township, Polk County; No. 16092, Quest Corporation, d/b/a CenturyLink QC, Esther, Northland, Tabor, Grand Forks, Sullivan, Keystone, Rhinehart, Huntsville, Nesbit Township's, Polk County; No. 16093, Douglas Peterson, Grand Forks Township, Polk County; No. 16094 and 16095, Douglas Peterson, Sullivan Township, Polk County; No. 16097, Dean Austad, Garnes Township, Red Lake County; No. 16098, Larry L Seurer, Black River Township, Pennington County; No. 16099, Driscoll and O'Leary Farms, Sullivan Township, Polk County; No. 16102, 16103, and 16104 Mike Tiedemann, Euclid Township, Polk County; No. 16105 and 16106, Mike Tiedemann, Parnell Township, Polk County; No. 16107, Mike Tiedemann, Belguim Township, Polk County; No. 16108, Eric Engelstad, Onstad Township, Polk County; No. 16109, Matt Schafer, Gervais Township, Red Lake County; and No. 16110, Loren Johnson, Sullivan Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme discussed recent phone calls he received in regard to a landowner running a tile pump on a stubble field when the legal ditch system is full to capacity. Staff member Loren Sanderson will meet with landowner to try to rectify the situation.

Staff member Loren Sanderson stated that due to the recent rain events, the gates on the Brandt Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60D and Moose River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 13, were closed until downstream conditions allow.

Administrators update:

- Jesme and Manager Ose will attend the RRWMB meeting in Moorhead on September 20th following by an afternoon meeting with the NRCS to discuss existing RCPP contracts.
- There will not be a project work team meeting this month for the Pine Lake Project and Four Legged Lake Project to allow HDR Engineering, Inc., time to complete the review of datum and information as we proceed through the NRCS 11 step process.
- Included the packet was a letter from John Jaschke, Executive Director of BWSR thanking District staff for their role in the BWSR summer tour.
- Jesme will be meeting with staff from the Northwest Minnesota Foundation on September 9th to discuss development of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation 6 Year Strategic Plan.

- Jesme will participate in a meeting on September 21st, with officials from Marshall County to discussion procedural options as the State moves forward with the buffer strip legislation.
- Jesme and Manager Ose presented the 2015 Annual Report to Marshall County on September 6th. Discussion was held with the county board on buffer strip legislation and the Thief River 1W1P.

Discussion was held amongst the Board on buffer strip legislation and possible enforcement authority. This item will be discussed as additional information becomes available.

Legal Counsel Sparby discussed the letter received from Agassiz NWR regarding the Thief River WRAP report.

Manager Coe asked about the status of the Blackduck Lake Structure, RLWD Project No. 50E. Administrator Jesme stated that the grant application was submitted to the State of Minnesota by the September 9th deadline.

Manager Torgerson asked the status of a Press Release for a change in operation with the MnDNR for the Little Pine Lake WMA, which would allow for an additional 270 ac.ft. of flood storage. Administrator Jesme stated that staff is working with HDR Engineering, Inc. on generating a press release.

Administrator Jesme discussed a call he received from a landowner on the Four Legged Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 102A. The landowner indicated that he does not want to see the lake lowered, but would rather it be higher than what it currently is.

Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Sorenson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.



LeRoy Ose, Secretary