

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
April 27, 2017

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

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

Motion by Coe, seconded by Sorenson, to dispense reading of the April 13, 2017 Board meeting minutes and approve them as corrected. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated April 26, 2017. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Coe, to approve the Financial Report dated April 26, 2017. Motion carried.

Craig Mowry and Jordan Young, USFWS, Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, presented information on a MnDNR Conservation Partners Legacy Grant for habitat restoration enhancement on public lands. Young stated that the Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge pool shoreline has moved in over the years due to sedimentation. Cattail invasion is now a problem due to the accumulation of sediment. The objective is to improve management abilities through the reduction of cattail density and infrastructural repairs. Project components would consist of aerial spray application and major water control structure repair work at an anticipated cost of \$239,500. Work is anticipated to be completed in 2018-2020. Mowry requested that the District partner with Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge to apply for a Minnesota DNR Conservation Partners Legacy Grant. The District would receive a 5% Administrative fee for administering the grant. Motion by Ose, seconded by Torgerson, to approve the partnership with the Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, to apply for a Minnesota DNR Conservation Partners Legacy Grant for the habitat restoration at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge. Motion carried.

The District received the executed Joint Powers Agreement with the MnDNR for the Little Pine WMA Water Control Structure, RLWD Project No. 26. HDR Engineering, Inc., is continuing to work with the MnDNR on the structure design.

The District was notified that BWSR Board approved the Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149, at their regularly scheduled meeting on April 26, 2017.

The Board reviewed a Notice of Contract Opportunity for Wetland Replacement Credits from BWSR. BWSR is seeking to purchase wetland replacement credits from established wetland banks to offset wetland impacts resulting from qualifying public road improvement/rehabilitation projects in Minnesota.

The Board attempted to review the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176, drone fly over for the Step 1 funding submittal to the RRWMB. Due to technical difficulties, the drone flight recording will be shown at a future meeting.

FEMA will be presenting draft floodplain maps in Pennington County at a Flood Risk Review meeting on May 18, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at the DNR Office, Thief River Falls. Administrator Jesme stated that he planned to attend the meeting.

The Board reviewed a letter from landowner Carol J. Olson, who owns property along State Ditch 83, RLWD Project No. 14.

Administrator Jesme reviewed a quote to repair a water quality sonde in the amount of \$1,575.81. Jesme stated that the sonde is owned by the MPCA, with the MPCA planning to dispose of the equipment. The equipment was purchased in 2014, therefore District staff recommend repairing the equipment, if the MPCA is willing to dispose of the equipment and turn it over to the District. Motion by Page, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve repairing the water quality sonde at a cost of \$1,575.81, if the MPCA is willing to turn the equipment over to the District. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme reviewed a quote for replacing the District's server from Minkota Technologies, Inc. The Board directed Administrator Jesme to contact Marco to inquire if the quote from Marco, dated February 28, 2017, would still be honored. The consensus was to bring this information back to the Board at the May 11, 2017 meeting.

The 2017 MAWD Summer Tour will be held in the Leech Lake area on June 21-23, 2017.

The Board reviewed Permit No. 16186, Thomas Barth, Garnes Township, Red Lake County that was previously tabled to allow for staff to observe flow patterns. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Torgerson, to approve RLWD Permit No. 16186, Thomas Barth, with conditions stated on the permit. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 17016, Shane Wilkens, Silverton Township, Pennington County; No. 17017, Polk County Highway Department, Roome Township, Polk County; No. 17018, Polk County Highway Department, Gully Township, Polk County; No. 17019, Polk County Highway Department, Keystone Township, Polk County; No. 17020, Polk County Highway Department, Gentilly Township, Polk County; No. 17021, Polk County Highway Department, Knute Township, Polk County; No. 17022, Roger Piche, Lake Pleasant Township, Red Lake County; No. 17023, Kevin Wilde, Mayfield Township, Pennington County; No. 17024, American Crystal Sugar, Andover Township, Polk County; No. 17025, Jaime DeRosier, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; No. 17026, Brent Strand, Lambert Township, Red Lake County; No. 17027, Lowell Township, Polk County; No. 17028, Jay Giroto, Cloverleaf Township, Pennington County; No. 17029 and 17030, Douglas Peterson, Grand Forks Township, Polk County; and No. 17031, Minnesota Northern Railroad, Andover Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

President Nelson welcomed Administrator, Naomi Goral, Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) to the meeting. Goral stated that she has been attending Watershed District meetings for those District's that are part of the RRWMB. Goral discussed the various activities of the RRWMB. Manager Ose discussed the advantages of belonging to the RRWMB. Discussion was held on the Technical Advisory Committee's role for funding purposes. President Nelson inquired of the possible reduction of the District levy amount. After discussion by the Board, it was the consensus that the RLWD Board of Managers feel Watershed District Administrators should not be allowed to serve as a Board Member on the RRWMB.

Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Manager Ose attended the RRWMB meeting on April 13, 2017. The Step 1 submittal for the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176, was submitted to the RRWMB.
- The Thief River 1W1P Policy Committee kick-off meeting was held at the District office on April 17, 2017. Consultant Request for Qualifications (RFQ) were submitted to the 1W1P Planning Group with three firms submitting proposals. The Planning Group will meet to review the RFQ's and set a date and time for interviews.
- District staff set high water marks at various locations for the Pine Lake and Four Legged Lake Projects. Landowner meetings will be held on April 28, 2017 at various sites.
- Marissa Newton will be assisting District staff this summer to help with water quality monitoring. One additional summer staff will be hired to assist with surveying.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., discussed a meeting he attended with staff from Digi-Key and the City of Thief River Falls regarding the long term drainage issues on the west side of the City of Thief River Falls. Discussion was held on regional ponding and the need for planning ahead for multi-use of ponding with the potential of development in the industrial park.

John Jaschke and Jennifer Brickman, BWSR, were in attendance at the Board meeting as they were in northern Minnesota to attend a buffer strip policy meeting with county staff members. Jaschke discussed policy changes and clarification as it pertains to buffer strip legislation.

Manager Sorenson asked about the Pine Lake and Four Legged Lake landowner meetings taking place on April 28, 2017.

Manager Page discussed the bus tour he participated in for the Red Lake River Corridor Joint Powers Board.

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



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LeRoy Ose, Secretary