

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
July 13, 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, Gene Tiedemann, Les Torgerson, Terry Sorenson, LeRoy Ose and Brian Dwight.. Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette.

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

Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Dwight, to dispense reading of the June 27, 2017 Board meeting minutes and approve them as printed. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated July 12, 2017. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Torgerson, to approve the Financial Report dated July 12, 2017. Motion carried.

Landowner Eric Larson appeared before the Board to present a Petition for Establishment of a New Drainage System located in Tabor, Northland and Esther Township, Polk County. It was the consensus of the Board to forward the petition to Legal Counsel Sparby for his review.

Staff member Arlene Novak reviewed the Investment Summary as of July 12, 2017. Novak stated that a Certificate of Deposit will renew on July 18, 2017, with First National Bank of Bemidji, and an additional Certificate of Deposit will mature on July 22, 2017, from Citizens State Bank Roseau. Novak solicited quotes, with Unity Bank-North, Red Lake Falls, offering short term investments for 3-9 months. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to invest \$600,000 in a three month Certificate of Deposit at a rate of 1.20%, with the balance of the maturing Certificate of Deposits to be deposited into the Northern State Bank checking account. Motion carried.

Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to appoint Houston Engineering, Inc., as the engineering firm for the Black River Impoundment Project, RLWD Project No. 176, authorizing Houston Engineering, Inc. to move forward with the development of the Engineer's Report. Motion carried.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., stated that his office is completing the ditch modeling of the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176, and will be working on the wetland delineation. Nordby stated that he plans to present a timeline and budget of the project at the July 27, 2017 meeting.

Administrator Jesme stated that landowners Darrel Loeke and Ronald and Sharleen Pape have turned over their Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) payment to the District for the Grand Marais Creek Channel Restoration Project, RLWD Project No. 60F. The District will be responsible for maintenance on the RIM acreage for both properties. Jesme stated that he received a phone call from the mowing contractor, stating that the Todd Mack property has excessive thistle on his

property. Jesme instructed the contractor to spot mow the thistle and we will inspect later for possible spraying.

Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., discussed the history of the Four Legged Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 102A. Dalager reviewed the following four alternatives: restore legal ditch to approximately 1421' invert; modify legal ditch and outlet through legal proceeding and maintain; abandon legal ditch; and FDR project. Dalager discussed the concerns of Clearwater County and landowners within the four basins. Dalager indicated that the Department of Natural Resources has stated that the Ordinary High Water elevation is 1430. Dalager stated that to allow for the District to receive Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) benefits, he recommends setting the two west pools at an elevation of 1425.0 and the east pools at elevation 1427, which would allow for 2.0' of bounce for FDR benefits. The project would have one operable structure, with the installation of culverts through the other basins that would control water elevations. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to authorize HDR Engineering, Inc., to move forward with presenting its recommendation to the Work Group for a design of the west pools at an elevation of 1425.0, and the east pools at an elevation of 1427 for the Four Legged Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 102A. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that until we remedy the issue with water levels on Judicial Ditch 5, RLWD Project No. 102 (Four Legged Lake area) maintenance on the legal drainage system cannot be performed. Jesme indicated that staff was unable to locate culverts within the system due to high water levels.

A landowner meeting for Judicial Ditch 72, RLWD Project No. 41, will be held on July 31, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at the McIntosh Community Center. Input will be requested from the landowners on the potential redetermination of benefits and buffer strips.

Discussion was held on the trapping of gophers within the right of way on legal drainage systems under the jurisdiction of the District. Discussion was held on matching what townships pay for the trapping of gophers. Administrator Jesme recommended setting a policy similar to the beaver trapping policy the District has, where the individual receives prior approval from the District to trap gophers which will indicate what system the individual would be trapping on. Motion by Page, seconded by Sorenson, to approve matching up to \$4 per gopher and that approval must be given by the District staff prior to trapping gophers on legal drainage systems under the jurisdiction of the District. Motion carried.

President Nelson stated that he participated, along with Administrator Jesme and Staff Member Loren Sanderson, in interviewing three individuals for the Ditch Inspector/Technician II Position. Nelson recommends the hiring of Brady Stanley at an hourly rate of \$21.00, plus benefits. Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Ose, to offer the position of Ditch Inspector/Technician II to Brady Stanley at an hourly rate of \$21.00, plus benefits. Motion carried. Further discussion was held on the hiring of additional staff. It was the recommendation of the Board, that due to the retirement of Gary Lane and the resignation of Nick Olson, the District should pursue hiring an additional Ditch Inspector/Technician II.

The Board reviewed the proposed RRWMB Executive Director and Executive Assistant job descriptions. The Board recommended changing the baccalaureate degree required under the Key Qualifications, to read Bachelor's Degree required.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 17073, Moylan Township, Marshall County; No. 17075, Todd Sorenson, Fisher Township, Polk County; No. 17076, Minnesota Department of Transportation, North Township, Pennington County; No. 17077, Marshall County Highway Department, Espelie Township; No. 17078, Kenny Lubarski, Sanders Township, Pennington County; No. 17079, Todd Brule, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; No. 17081, David Brule, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; No. 17082, Norden Township, Pennington County; No. 17083, Rhonda Martinsen, Sanders Township, Pennington County; No. 17084, Douglas Peterson, Grand Forks Township, Polk County; No. 17085, Douglas Peterson, Sullivan Township, Polk County; No. 17088, Douglas Peterson, Huntsville Township, Polk County; and No. 17089, Dale Berggren, Rocksbury Township, Pennington County. Motion carried.

Manager Page stated that he had spoken to the landowner regarding the conditions of his driveway after work that was performed under the approval of a District permit application. The landowner is satisfied with the current condition. Manager Page is concerned with erosion in the ditch, as the ditch is not straight.

The 6th Annual RRV Agriculture Water Issues Forum will be held June 18-20th at three separate locations.

Administrators Update:

- Jesme will participate in a RRWMB Finance Committee meeting on July 14, 2017 in Moorhead.
- Jesme and Tammy Audette participated in a conference call with Marco staff regarding installation and migration for the new District server. Marco will be on-site at the District office on July 19th, with additional dates set aside on July 20th and 21st if required. Ashley Hitt will work with Marco staff for the installation of the GIS files. District staff has been assured of very little disturbance or delays to daily work.
- Jesme, Manager Nelson and Engineer Dalager attended a west side drainage meeting at TRF City Hall with representatives from Pennington County and the City of Thief River Falls on July 12th.
- Project Work Team meetings will be held on July 21st, with Pine Lake starting at 9:30 a.m., followed by Four Legged Lake starting at 11:00 a.m.
- Jesme will participate in the RRWMB/Red River Joint Water Resource tour on July 19th. The tour will view projects in North Dakota, along with the Grand Marais Creek project and proposed Black River Impoundment project.
- Jesme will attend a Local Governmental Water Roundtable Work Group meeting on July 24th to review the funding appropriation this last legislative session and finalize recommendations to the Clean Water Council on the distribution of these funds.

President Nelson and Administrator Jesme discussed a meeting they attended for the west side of Thief River Falls drainage issue. Discussion was held on the potential development on the west side of Thief River Falls, along with improvements to a ditch system giving the local landowners a 10 year ditch design.

Manager Ose stated that he received a call from a Marshall County Commissioner in regard to the partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the possible restoration of wetlands. Administrator Jesme stated that this would be on a voluntary landowner basis.

Manager Torgerson discussed the resolution from Clearwater County regarding the Four Legged Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 102A. Administrator Jesme stated that the District has 180 days to address the resolution.

Discussion was held on the repairs to State Ditch 83, RLWD Project No. 14 in that, due to low water levels, should the District go over budget on needed spot repairs. Further discussion will be had at the July 27, 2017 meeting.

Manager Page stated that he attended a Red River Corridor Enhancement meeting on July 10, 2017. Page discussed the various sites that the committee would like to improve along the Red Lake River.

The Budget and Salary committee will be meet after today's meeting to work on the 2018 General Fund Budget.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary