

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
May 25, 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, LeRoy Ose, Les Torgerson, and Brian Dwight. Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby.

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

Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to dispense reading of the May 24, 2017 Board meeting minutes and approve them as printed. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report and Investment Summary dated May 24, 2017. Staff member Arlene Novak indicated that two Certificates of Deposit are set to mature on June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion was held on depositing the maturing Certificates of Deposit due to the possible land acquisition for a proposed project. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Torgerson, to approve the Financial Report and Investment Summary dated May 24, 2017, and to redeem the maturing Certificates of Deposit into the District's checking account. Motion carried.

Staff member Arlene Novak presented information in regard to the renewal of the District's League of Minnesota Cities Liability insurance, Workers Compensation insurance, and Excess Liability Coverage. Novak noted that the Board of Managers are covered under Worker's Compensation as an inclusion of the coverage. Discussion was held on replacing the comprehensive coverage for the District's vehicles with a replacement cost coverage at an estimated additional premium of \$250.00 per year. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the renewal with the League of Minnesota Cities with the purchase of Replacement Cost for vehicles coverage, waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability and purchase excess liability coverage in the amount of \$2 million. Motion carried.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., stated that they are in the process of modeling the inlet ditches for the Black River Impoundment Project, RLWD Project No. 176. Preliminary numbers will be ready early next week, with survey staff scheduled to break down section corner numbers. Discussion was held on exercising the Option Agreements with the landowners prior to the June 30, 2017 deadline date. Nordby stated that they will not know the exact amount of acreage required for the dike until the final design is complete. Legal Counsel Sparby recommended using an estimated amount of acreage until the final numbers are available. Sparby stated that the District could move forward with the drafting of a Purchase Agreement, updating of the Abstract and Title Opinion. Discussion was held on using funds from the District's Project Development, RLWD Project No. 92A for the land acquisition. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to proceed with exercising the Option to Purchase Agreement with landowners Craig & Lisa Swanson and Tom & Lucille Scholin and the Temporary Easement and

Option to Purchase a Permanent Easement with Robert and Dorinda Sorvig, for the construction of the proposed Black River Impoundment, with funds to be used from the District's Project Development, RLWD Project No. 92A. Motion carried. Nordby will provide an estimated amount of acreage for the Sorvig property. Once the results of the survey and inlet ditches is determined, meetings with the Project Work Team and landowners will be scheduled. Nordby will reach out to the various agencies in regarding to permitting questions. Administrator Jesme stated that an application for a Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant was submitted. Discussion will continue with the Corps, BWSR and SWCD offices, on the exploration of wetland banking credits.

Brad Johnson, Houston Engineering, Inc., stated that plans for the Blackduck Lake Structure, RLWD Project No. 50E are complete, with the MnDNR permit application being submitted this week. Johnson stated that the steel control structure on the upstream side of the bridge will be replaced, and placement of a rock fish passage on the outlet side of the bridge. Boulder archers will be placed with rock in between for fish passage. Johnson stated that the installation of a berm along the river bank may be required to contain the water, due to the low elevation of the adjoining resort property. The landowner requested construction to be completed in September. Advertisement for bids will be sent out in July.

Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to authorize President Nelson, the authority to sign the Resolution to Adopt and Implement the Red Lake River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, RLWD Project No. 149, that was approved at the April 26, 2017 BWSR meeting. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme reviewed the Advisory Committee members and gave an update on the Request for Qualifications for the Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A. Managers Nelson and Dwight will represent the District on the Advisory Committee, with Manager Ose, as Delegate and Manager Nelson, as Alternate on the Policy Committee.

Administrator Jesme updated the Board on the Four Legged Lake, RLWD Project No. 102A, Project Work Team meeting. Discussion was held on the 2010 ordinary high water mark determination by the MnDNR. Jesme stated that Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., is developing three alternatives for the Board's consideration.

Administrator Jesme discussed the Pine Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 26, Project Work Team meeting. Jesme discussed the meetings held with the landowners on Site E and D and the additional acre feet of storage on the Little Pine Lake Structure.

Administrator Jesme stated that the culvert on County Road 23 and the old railroad grade on Judicial Ditch 5, RLWD Project No. 102, is not functioning properly. Jesme requested approval from the Board to determine the source of why the water is not flowing property. Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Sorenson, to authorize the inspection and excavation of debris from the culvert on County Road 23 and downstream channel to allow for the proper flow of water on Judicial Ditch 5, RLWD Project No. 102. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a Release of Claims and Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreement for haying on District projects. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve the following Release of Claims and Indemnification and Hold Harmless Agreements: Josh Barrett, RLWD Project No. 169; Andrew Anderson, RLWD Project No. 171 and 171A; Mark Askeland, RLWD Project No. 60C and 60D. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the process used for hiring contractors for mowing on District projects.

The District received notification of compliance for the Local Government Pay Equity Act from the State of Minnesota-Management and Budget office.

The Board reviewed the RRWMB Strategic Planning, including the following documents: notes from the March 21, 2017 RRWMB Strategic Planning meeting; position description for the Executive Director; timeline; and organizational chart. The Board directed Legal Counsel Delray Sparby to review the documents for further discussion at the June 8, 2017 Board meeting.

The Board reviewed the 2017 MAWD Summer Tour information to be held June 21-23, 2017 in Bemidji. MAWD will hold a Special Meeting of Members on June 21, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., at the Country Inn & Suites, Bemidji.

Administrator Jesme indicated that the June 22, 2017, Board meeting date falls on the same day as the MAWD Summer Tour. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to change the June 22, 2017 Board meeting to June 27, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the District office. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 17037, Department of Natural Resources, Minnie Township, Beltrami County; No. 17044, Louis Vettleson, Wyandotte Township, Pennington County; No. 17048, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Lowell, Fanny and Euclid Township, Polk County; No. 17049, Pederson Brothers Farms, Grove Park Township, Polk County; No. 17050, John Barrett, Sullivan Township, Polk County; No. 17051, Pennington County Highway Department, Deer Park Township; No. 17052, Darrel Payment, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; No. 17055, Ron Weiss, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; No. 17056, Gary Roisland, Kratka Township, Pennington County; No. 17057, Keith Solberg, Mayfield Township, Pennington County; No. 17058, Robin Hannanen, Badger Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

#### Administrators Update:

- Jesme attended a FEMA Flood Risk Review meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> at the MnDNR office in TRF. This meeting was a result of the FEMA DFIRM Grant that the District applied for to better map the floodplain along the Red Lake River from East Grand Forks to Thief River Falls. The meeting was intended for public review of the modeling and mapping that was recently completed. It appears that FEMA will complete the Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Pennington and Red Lake Counties.
- Jesme and Staff member Nick Olson attended the MN Public Drainage Manual meeting held May 22, 2017 in Moorhead.

- Jesme and Manager Page presented the 2016 Annual Report to the Red Lake County Commissioners on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, followed by Jesme and Manager Nelson attending the Pennington County Commissioner's meeting later that day. Jesme will attend the following County Commissioner's meetings: May 30<sup>th</sup>, Clearwater County; June 6<sup>th</sup>, Polk and Marshall County; and June 20<sup>th</sup>, Beltrami County.
- Marisa Newton started her summer employment with the District on May 15<sup>th</sup> assisting the water quality department. Logan Engelstad will start on May 30<sup>th</sup>, assisting with various surveying.

Manager Tiedemann discussed the buffer legislation, indicating that if the District takes enforcement of the District's ditches, the District needs to notify BWSR by July 1, 2017 for possible funding assistance.

Manager Torgerson stated that he had been contacted by a landowner along the Blackduck River regarding the need for clearing and snagging within the Blackduck River. Manager Dwight discussed the possibility of clearing and snagging grants through the DNR. Dwight indicated he will do further research, and report back to the Board.

Manager Sorenson stated that construction at the Erskine American Legion Park, RLWD Project No. 164, is complete and that the City of Erskine and the American Legions representatives were very pleased with the finished product.

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



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LeRoy Ose, Secretary