

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
January 25, 2018

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, Terry Sorenson, Gene Tiedemann and Brian Dwight. Absent: Les Torgerson, Allan Page and LeRoy Ose. Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel Sparby.

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

Clearwater County Commissioner, Neal Illies, requested to appear before the Board.

The Board reviewed the January 11, 2018 minutes. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the January 11, 2018 Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated January 24, 2018. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the Financial Report dated January 24, 2018 as presented. Motion carried.

Staff member Arlene Novak reviewed the General Fund Budget as of December 31, 2017. Novak stated that the auditors will be in the District office on February 1st and 2nd, to complete the 2017 audit.

The Board reviewed the Investment Summary as of January 24, 2018. Staff member Arlene Novak stated that a Certificate of Deposit that matured on January 17, 2018 was reinvested with Unity Bank-CDARS program for one year, at a rate of 1.5%. An additional Certificate of Deposit will mature on February 8, 2018 through Unity Bank-CDARS program. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Dwight, to re-invest the Certificate of Deposit that will mature on February 8, 2018 with Unity Bank-CDARS program for a 6-month term at 1.4%. Motion carried.

The Conflict of Interest policy was reviewed by the Board. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Dwight, to approve the Conflict of Interest Policy and have each Board member sign the Conflict of Interest policy and return it to staff member, Arlene Novak. Motion carried.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., reviewed the anticipated project schedule and updated budget for the Black River Impoundment Project, RLWD Project No. 176. Nordby stated that a meeting with landowners will be held in the next month to review the proposed right-of-way numbers for the diversion ditches. Nordby stated that he has submitted information for EQIP funding and the submittal of a draft Wetland Banking Scoping document to the agencies, with the permit application to be submitted soon. The wetland banking process will take approximately one year to get through, followed by a monitoring period after construction.

As part of the permit process, the MnDNR Dam Safety department require elevations of homes downstream of the project. The archaeological study will be completed this Spring. Administrator Jesme stated that this project did receive a Project Acceleration Grant through the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, with an additional Project Acceleration Grant to be submitted.

RRWMB Executive Director Rob Sip, updated the board on the transition and reorganization of the RRWMB since he was hired effective November 29, 2017. Mr. Sip stated that Nicky Swenson was hired as the Executive Assistant. The RRWMB will have temporary office space in Ada and will eventually be co-located within the Wild Rice Watershed District office. Sip discussed outreach, sharing of information, communication, processes and procedures on which to move forward on and the development of dialogue. Monthly RRWMB meetings will continue to be rotated throughout the watershed district offices. Sip stated that he recommended the addition of a Legislative Committee on the RRWMB, to work with legislative priorities to obtain state and federal funds. Ron Harnack retired as lobbyist for the RRWMB and was replaced by Lisa Frenette. Frenette was able to work with Mr. Harnack prior to his retirement. Sip discussed the following items: new board member orientation; development of electronic meeting packets; March Conference to be held March 21-22, in Moorhead; and RRWMB five-year funding plan.

Discussion was held on the Four-Legged Lake, RLWD Project No. 102A, Project Work Team meeting held on January 19, 2018 and the request of the Board for the Project Work Team members to try and reach a consensus on a recommended elevation for the outlet of the Four-Legged Lake system. Due to the Project Work Team's inability to reach a consensus, the District Board requested the Project Work Team members provide written comments as to the reason why they were not able to come to a consensus on certain recommended elevations. Comments are due to the District office by February 1st, with further discussion by the Board at the February 8, 2018 Board meeting.

Clearwater County Commissioner, Neal Illies, appeared before the Board to discuss the position of the Clearwater County Board regarding the Judicial Ditch 5, RLWD Project No. 102 and the resolution passed by the Clearwater County Board on June 20, 2017. Illies discussed prior lake elevations, ditch abandonment procedures, appointment of viewers and reconvening of the abandonment hearing process. Legal Counsel Sparby indicated that the District Board tabled the abandonment hearing to allow the Project Work Team to work towards a potential Flood Damage Reduction Project. Sparby further indicated that Clearwater County provided written testimony at the hearing regarding damage of Clearwater County roads due to unauthorized raising of water levels. Illies stated that the Clearwater County Board passed a resolution withdrawing the letter objecting to the abandonment of Judicial Ditch No. 5. Illies indicated that he would like to see the elevation for any future project at 1426, with an increase to 1428 for FDR.

Administrator Jesme stated that the District had previously been approached by the Audubon Society to participate in the placement of kiosks for bird watching on District impoundments along the Highway 75 corridor. Due to the departure of staff from the Audubon Society, the

project did not move forward. As part of the original plans, the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District (MSTRWD) oversaw building the kiosks, which has been completed in 2017. The MSTRWD has inquired if the District would like to purchase them at a cost of \$2,500 each and install them on a few of our projects. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the purchase of two kiosks from the MSTRWD at a cost of \$2,500 each to be installed at the Euclid East Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60C and the Parnell Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 81. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed correspondence from BWSR regarding Determination of Adequacy for Roseau County and Red Lake County Buffer Ordinance. Administrator Jesme stated that he participated in a conference call with the Buffalo Red River Watershed District regarding drafting of the District's buffer ordinance.

The Board reviewed correspondence from Koochiching County Commissioner Wayne Skoe, requesting participation in the District's Advisory Committee representing the Upper Red Lake area. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the appointment of Wayne Skoe to the Upper Red Lake area on the District's Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

The MAWD Legislative Reception, Breakfast, and Day at the Capitol will be held March 7-8, 2018 in St. Paul, MN.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that the land transaction with Craig Swanson for the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176 was completed.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary