

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
March 13, 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, Brian Dwight, Allan Page, LeRoy Ose and Gene Tiedemann. Absent: Les Torgerson Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel Sparby.

The Board reviewed the agenda. Manager Dwight requested the addition of Bartlett Lake. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Dwight, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda with the addition of Bartlett Lake. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the February 22, 2018 minutes. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the February 22, 2018 Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated March 12, 2018. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve the Financial Report dated March 12, 2018 as presented. Motion carried.

Manager Sorenson stated that a Certificate of Deposit will mature on March 30, 2018 with Edward Jones. Sorenson recommended depositing the maturing Certificate of Deposit into the District's Northern State Bank checking account. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to approve the deposit of the Certificate of Deposit set to mature on March 30, 2018 into the District's Northern State Bank checking account. Motion carried.

Engineer's Jerry Pribula and Nick Pribula, Pribula Engineering, presented the Engineer's Preliminary Survey Report for the establishment of RLWD Ditch No. 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to accept for filing the Engineer's Preliminary Survey Report for the establishment of RLWD Ditch 16, RLWD Project no. 177 and set the preliminary hearing for April 26, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the District office. Motion carried.

Brian Holmer, Rod Otterness, and Mark Borseth, representing the City of Thief River Falls, appeared before the Board to discuss the Thief River Falls West Side Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178. The Thief River Falls West Side Flood Damage Reduction project is a joint effort between the District, City of Thief River Falls and Pennington County to address flood concerns from County Ditch 70, west of the City of Thief River Falls. Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), in their Capital Improvement Plan, has targeted Minnesota State Highway 1 and TH #59 corridor that enters the City of Thief River Falls on the west side, for a highway improvement project targeted for 2020. The District, city and county have been working with MnDOT to strategize the timing of the MnDOT project to coincide with the development of the Thief River Falls West Side Flood Damage Reduction Project. MnDOT will need a decision by the end of April, as to the location of the proposed outlet of the project. At this point, it appears that the Thief River Falls West Side Flood Damage Reduction Project

has a \$2 million-dollar shortfall in funding. Officials from the City will be at the state capital lobbying for funding for the proposed project and requested a letter of support from the District. Administrator Jesme also lobbied for support when he attended the Minnesota Association of Watershed District's Legislative Reception. It was the consensus of the Board, to submit a letter of support for the potential State funding for the Thief River Falls West Side Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc. discussed the landowner meeting held at the District office on March 12, 2018 for the proposed Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176. The Board reviewed a letter received from landowners, Mike and Lori Brooks. Nordby stated that his office will work on completing the plan and permitting requirements. Discussion was held on ROW requirements, field crossings, and drop structures. Discussion was held on the solicitation of quotes for rental of agricultural land for the 2018 crop year. Due to the possibility of fall construction, the District would require crops to be harvested by September 1, 2018. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to proceed with the advertising for the rental of approximately 406.48 acres of agriculture land, for the 2018 crop year, located within the area of the proposed Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176, with crops to be removed by September 1, 2018. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme discussed the Judicial Ditch 72, RLWD Project No. 41/Polk County Ditch 61, landowner meeting held on February 27, 2018 at the Gully Community Center. Viewers are currently working on the redetermination of benefits for Judicial Ditch 72. Polk County is proceeding with the consolidation of ditches with Polk County Ditch 61.

Administrator Jesme stated that the District and Agassiz National NWR received the signed grant agreement for a Conservation Partners Legacy Grant in the amount of \$242,000 for cattail management to enhance wildlife habitat and increase biodiversity in more than 26,000 acres of non-forested wetlands. Work will also consist of repairs to water control structures. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to assign the Agassiz Wetland Habitat Quality and Management Enhancement, as RLWD Project No. 180. Motion carried.

Engineer Nate Dalager stated that he received an email from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), stating the Corps will certify 10 acres of wetland banking located within the Louisville-Parnell Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 121.

The Board reviewed correspondence from BWSR regarding Determination of Adequacy for Mahnomen and Beltrami County's Buffer Ordinance.

The Board reviewed a draft letter to Enbridge regarding the proposed Line 3 replacement project, that will cross the dredged portion of the Lost River under the jurisdiction of the District. As required by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Enbridge is requesting a letter of No Objection from the District for crossing the pipeline under the Lost River which was a Corps' sponsored project. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to authorize President Nelson, to sign the letter to Enbridge, regarding the proposed Line 3 replacement. Motion carried. Enbridge will complete the District's permit application process.

The Board reviewed a request for an extension to Permit No. 17037, Minnesota DNR Forestry, Minnie Township, Beltrami County, until June 1, 2019. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Ose, to grant a one-year extension for RLWD Permit No. 17037, Minnesota DNR Forestry, Minnie Township, Beltrami County, until June 1, 2019. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Ose, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 18008, Mike and Jani Wiebolt, Sanders Township, Pennington County; No. 18009, Garden Valley Telephone Company, King Township, Polk County, and No. 18010, Red Lake County Highway Department, Wylie Township, Red Lake County. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the District's Tile Permit Drainage Rules. Manager Dwight requested that District staff should review the tile permit rules and regulations that the Middle Snake Tamarac Watershed District use, and report back to the April 12, 2018 Board meeting.

The 2018 MN Viewers Association dues request was submitted to the Board. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, and passed unanimously that the RLWD submit annual dues in the amount of \$200 to the MN Viewers Association.

The MAWD Summer tour will be held June 20-22, 2018, hosted by the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District.

The RLWD Advisory Committee meeting will be held on March 19, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the District office. Managers Ose, Sorenson, Page and Dwight plan to attend.

#### Administrators Update:

- The next RRWMB meeting will be held on March 20, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead, in conjunction with RRWMB/Red River Basin Flood Damage Work Group March Conference. Included in the packet was the agenda for the Technical Seminar and the conference.
- Jesme, Tammy Audette and Corey Hanson participated in a phone conference on February 27<sup>th</sup> for the preparation of Thief River 1W1P meeting that was held on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the District office.
- The Red Lake River 1W1P Policy Committee met on February 21<sup>st</sup> at the District office to review potential projects and budget. The final Work Plan was submitted to BWSR by March 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Jesme and Loren Sanderson participated in the Parnell Impoundment Advisory meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup> at the District office. Polk County Ditch 126 and County Ditch 60 Advisory committee members met at the same time.
- Jesme and Manager Tiedemann participated in the MAWD Legislative Reception March 7-8, 2018 in St. Paul. Jesme also participated in the Minnesota Association of Watershed Administration meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Meetings were held with various legislators to discuss potential FDR funding.

- Staff member Ashley Hitt attended the Aquatic Invaders Summit II conference in Minneapolis on February 28-March 1, 2018. Hitt currently sits on the Polk County AIS workgroup.
- Included in the packet was a snow survey moisture survey completed by District staff.
- Included in the packet was the November and December 2017 Water Quality Report.
- Jesme reminded that Board that he will be on vacation March 15-19<sup>th</sup>.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that he can assist Nate Dalager and Administrator Jesme with the drafting of a letter of support for the Thief River West Side Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178.

Administrator Jesme stated that he had received an email from landowner Karen Gebhard regarding the status of the Abandonment for Judicial Ditch 5, RLWD Project No. 102.

Manager Dwight stated that he and Manager Ose, will meet with members of the Thief River 1W1P Policy Committee members to discuss the 1W1P process.

Manager Dwight stated that he attended a meeting regarding the Bartlett Lake near Northome. Dwight indicated that the MPCA completed a sediment study and has hired Emmons and Olivier Resources, Inc. to identify projects for implementation to help the lake recover.

Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to adjourn to the March 19, 2018, RLWD Advisory Board meeting at 9:30 a.m. at the RLWD Office at 1000 Pennington Avenue South, Thief River Falls, MN 56701. Motion carried.



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LeRoy Ose, Secretary