

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
April 25, 2019

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

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

The Board reviewed the April 11, 2019 minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to approve the April 11, 2019 Board meeting minutes with corrections. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated April 24, 2019. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to approve the Financial Report dated April 24, 2019 as presented. Motion carried.

Staff member Arlene Novak stated that Unity Bank requested a Release of Pledged Collateral. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the Release of Pledged Collateral with Unity State Bank. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a letter from the Clearwater County Auditor/Treasurer regarding notification they received that the Tax Court issued an order for Judgement between Great Lakes Gas Transmission LTD and the MN Commissioner of Revenue. The recomputed tax statement in Clearwater County has a reduction of taxes in the amount of \$113,760, with the District receiving a reduction of \$4,199 in our May settlement for taxes paid in 2019.

The Board reviewed a quote from ESRI for a maintenance subscription for ArcGIS in the amount of \$675.00. Administrator Jesme stated that Staff member Ashley Hitt applied for and received a grant from ESRI which reduced the yearly rate from \$3,374.93 to \$675.00. Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Page, to approve the quote in the amount of \$675.00 from ESRI for a maintenance subscription for ArcGIS. Motion carried.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., stated that staff from Houston Engineering will be on-site at the proposed Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176, on May 7th to complete wetland delineation near the Black River Church and an area near one of the diversion ditches. Nordby indicated that these are the two locations that were questioned by members of WACA. Nordby stated that once the findings are submitted to WACA, a determination should be made on the submitted permit applications.

The Board reviewed the Findings of Fact and Order Concerning the Preliminary Hearing for Ditch 17, RLWD Project No. 179. Discussion was held on part of the resolution that names three disinterested viewers. Jesme indicated that he has reached out to three viewers, but they have not accepted the project yet so listing their names is premature. Discussion was held on not listing individual names of the viewers, rather stating the appointment of three disinterested viewers. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the Findings of Fact and Order Concerning the Preliminary Hearing for Ditch 17, RLWD Project No. 179, with corrections stated. Motion carried.

Engineer Jerry Pribula, Pribula Engineering, PLLC, presented the Plans and Specifications for Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Pribula stated that the project contract will have a start date of on or before July 8, 2019, with completion date of on or before July 8, 2020. The awarded Contractor will also be required to complete installation of the State Highway 220 culvert prior to the pre-haul of beets this fall. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve the Plans and Specifications for construction of Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177, and set the Bid Opening for May 23, 2019 at the District office, with the time to be determined at the May 9, 2019 Board meeting. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a proposal from Tinjum Appraisal Company, Inc., to complete appraisal of property for the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178 in the amount of \$8,500. Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the proposal from Tinjum Appraisal Company, Inc. for the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178. Motion carried. Administrator Jesme stated that he will request a timeframe for completion of the appraisal.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., discussed the proposed Watershed Management District (WMD) for the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178. Dalager reviewed the estimated project costs and funding sources. The District will need to determine the maximum amount for assessment under the WMD. The WMD will also need to have a maintenance fund. Discussion was held on the location of the hearing. Administrator Jesme updated the Board on a hearing Pennington County held regarding the transferring County Ditch 70 to the City of Thief River Falls. Jesme understood the hearing went very well with the County approving the transfer of Pennington County Ditch No. 70, contingent on the Thief River Westside FDR Project being completed.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Dwight, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 19007, Ken & Randy Wagner, Lowell Township, Polk County; No. 19008, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Bridge Township, Koochiching County; No. 19009, River Falls Township, Pennington County; No. 19011, Owen Peterson, Keystone Township, Polk County; and No. 19012, Pennington County Highway Department, Cloverleaf Township. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme reviewed a draft Government Data Practices Policy and Data Request Form for the District, which was submitted for review by the Board. It was the consensus of the Board to have the document reviewed by legal counsel and bring back to the Board at a later meeting.

Staff member Loren Sanderson updated the Board on operation of the District impoundments. Sanderson stated that a substantial amount of water was already stored within the Euclid East, Brandt and Parnell Impoundments prior to closing of the gates on April 6, 2019. Discussion was held on the length of time to hold water, with consideration given to the integrity of the levies/embankment, if water is stored for a longer duration than 30 days. Sanderson noted that in compliance with the operating plan, Schirrick Dam should be empty today.

Manager Torgerson presented photos of area flooding on Pine Lake, and a photo of the outlet of Judicial Ditch 5, (Four-Legged Lake). Discussion was held on the elevation of cabins on Pine Lake.

Manager Tiedemann discussed the concerns of landowner Ron Salentine, regarding the elevation of the emergency spillway on the Brandt Impoundment. It was the consensus of the Board, to have District staff work with Mr. Salentine, to review the elevations.

Discussion was held on the potential of purchasing an additional vehicle for District staff use. The Board directed Administrator Jesme to request quotes for an additional vehicle and report back to the Board.

Manager Dwight discussed photos he took of tile pumps running into an already flooded ditch system. Discussion was held regarding tile pumps running and not allowing for downstream maintenance of a ditch system.

Motion by Dwight, seconded by Ose, to set the maximum Watershed Management District assessment in the amount of \$500,000 for the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178 and schedule the public hearing for, Thursday, May 23, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at the meeting rooms of the Quality Inn, 1060 Highway 32 South, Thief River Falls, MN 56701. Motion carried. It was the consensus of the Board, to wait until the public hearing is held, to receive public input for the length of time to schedule the Watershed Management District assessment payback time period.

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



Terry Sorenson, Secretary