President Dale M. Nelson called the RLWD Ditch No. 16, RLWD Project No. 177, Final Hearing to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District office, 1000 Pennington Avenue South, Thief River Falls, MN 56701.


President Nelson briefly addressed the audience concerning the purpose and format of the meeting. Jerry Pribula and Nick Pribula, Pribula Engineering and engineers for the petitioned project presented the Detailed Engineer’s Report. Upon completion of his presentation, Jerry Pribula then turned the hearing back to President Nelson. After all questions from the Board and audience had been answered by the Engineer, the meeting was turned to the viewers.

Viewers Jerry Bennett, Roger Beiswenger and Robert Wagner presented the Viewer’s Report to the Board and members of the audience. Upon completion of Mr. Bennett’s presentation, the meeting was turned back to President Nelson. After all questions from the Board and audience had been answered by the Viewer’s, the meeting was turned back to the Board.

Administrator Jesme noted three letters received from absentee landowners within the proposed project area, as well as the Final Advisory Report received on behalf of the Director of the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Jesme indicated that copies of these letters and the Directors Final Advisory Report had been provided to the Board and were available to the public in the packets given to each participant upon entering the hearing room.

Administrator Jesme read for the record the MN DNR Commissioner’s Final Advisory Report. A copy of such report was provided to the Board and was available for those in attendance.

After all, in attendance were given a chance to ask questions and/or make comments, President Nelson closed the hearing. The hearing is on video tape and available for viewing at the RLWD.
It was the consensus of the Board, to have Administrator Jesme meet with landowner, Shane Vonasek, regarding the potential loss of his trees on his property, and report back to the Board.

The Board of Managers discussed the various concerns of landowners in attendance regarding the benefited area of the Viewer’s Report. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Dwight, to establish, by order, RLWD Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177, according to the Engineer’s Report; to adopt the Viewers Report of benefits and damages as amended or corrected by the Board, as set forth in the attached Exhibit “A”; finding that the statutory factors necessary to establish the drainage project were present and to direct Legal Counsel Sparby to prepare Findings and an Order consistent with the motion or the Board’s consideration and adoption. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, with motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

Terry Sorenson, Secretary