

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
January 24, 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, and LeRoy Ose. Absent: Les Torgerson. Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

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

The Board reviewed the January 10, 2019 minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the January 10, 2019 Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated January 23, 2019. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to approve the Financial Report dated January 23, 2019 as presented. Motion carried.

The Conflict of Interest policy was reviewed by the Board. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Sorenson, 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.

Dillion Nelson, EIT, HDR Engineering, Inc. updated the Board on the last coordination meeting with the City of Thief River Falls, Pennington County and MnDOT, for the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178. Nelson discussed two options for work within the area of 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which is considered a township road and road ditch. Discussion was held on the replacement of culverts or possible urbanization of the downstream portion of the township road ditch, adequacy of the outlet, and potential of landowner's petitioning for a lateral to take the ditch farther north. Discussion was held on the utility conflicts with Sjoberg's and underground electric with the City of Thief River Falls. Nelson stated that the City of Thief River Falls has underground electric that supplies power to Sanford Hospital along the Highway 32 corridor. Staff from the City of Thief River Falls estimated a cost of \$40,000 to relocate the cable. Nelson reviewed two potential changes to the ditch alignment to avoid the underground utilities. It was the consensus of the Board, to have HDR Engineering, Inc., move forward with design to include the relocation of the underground utilities.

Engineer Jerry Pribula, Pribula Engineering, Inc., presented, for informational purposes, the proposed Preliminary Engineer's Report for the Improvement of Polk County Ditch No. 39, RLWD Ditch 17, RLWD Project No. 179. Polk County Ditch No. 39 is a nine-mile ditch that runs parallel to County Road 65, and outlets into the Grand Marais Creek. Pribula stated that he

met with staff from the Polk County Highway Department to discuss improvements to part or all of the ditch system. Pribula noted that when they designed the ditch system, they considered the overflow of waters that would come from Polk County Ditch 66. Discussion was held on the berm that was installed in Section's 11, 12, and 13, Keystone Township, where local landowners have installed berms to contain the water from overflowing. Another item of interest is a fiber optic and overhead power line at Highway 220. Pribula also indicated, the proposed improvement will move away from County Road 65 to allow construction of road side slopes. Pribula discussed the estimated cost of utilities and total project cost. Discussion was held on the inclusion of side water inlets (SWI). Pribula has approximately 83 SWI included in the design, with plans to pare it back to 45-50 installations. Administrator Jesme indicated that 83 SWI's appeared to be high for 9.25 miles of ditch. Considerable discussion was had on potential cost share funding for SWI's and future maintenance costs, should all 83 be installed. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to accept for information and filing, the proposed Preliminary Engineer's Report for the Improvement of Polk County Ditch No. 39, RLWD Ditch 17, RLWD Project No. 179. Motion carried.

Engineer Jerry Pribula, Pribula Engineering, Inc., presented, for informational purposes, the Detailed Engineer's Report for the Establishment of RLWD Ditch No. 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Pribula stated that Ditch 16 will be approximately 9 miles long and will run on the south side of 110<sup>th</sup> Street NW out letting into the Grand Marais Creek. Pribula stated that he has been working with MnDOT to resolve the issue of cutting Highway 220 for installation of a new box culvert, at which point the ditch will turn due to local utilities. Pribula discussed the need for an Archeological Cultural Survey to be completed this Spring and the need for a determination of wetlands at the outlet at the bottom of the ditch near the Grand Marais. Pribula stated that the estimated project cost is \$2.3 million. Administrator Jesme stated that the installation of SWI's and the number of SWI's will be addressed at the final hearing. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Dwight, to accept, for information and filing, the proposed Detailed Engineer's Report for Establishment of RLWD Ditch No. 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Motion carried.

Robert Wagner presented information on the Viewers' Report for the establishment of RLWD Ditch No. 16, RLWD Project No. 177 and submitted the proposed report for informational purposes and filing. Wagner stated that the Viewers determined that the total benefits of the project are \$3,058,689.00. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to accept, for information and filing, the proposed Viewers' Report for the establishment of RLWD Ditch No. 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Motion carried.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., discussed a meeting he attended along with Administrator Jesme, Board Managers Sorenson and Torgerson, Clearwater County Commissioner Mark Larson and Theresa Ebbenga, MnDNR regarding the Pine Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 26. Dalager discussed the various components of the project and a prior request to complete an Alternative Analysis Report. Dalager stated that he looked at every potential site and evaluated the impacts, with Sites D and E, having the least impact and being the most likely to be permitted. Site E is already a degraded stream, as it is the site of a 6' beaver dam, which is on-channel retention. Discussion was held on the issue of the trout stream designation and how it could affect the proposed FDR Project. Site F is also considered an on-

channel storage site. Dalager stated that the District gained 260 ac.ft. of storage by replacing the outlet structure on the Little Pine Lake WMA, which was considered as Site F. The Pine Lake area watershed is a steep watershed with ravines and valleys, where there is no flat land for off channel storage. To retain water, a dam would need to be built in the ravine or valley to hold water back. A meeting will be held later in February with all the DNR staff.

Administrator Jesme stated that District staff completed a benefitted area map that was submitted to Pennington County for the Challenger Ditch Re-Alignment and Modification, RLWD Project No. 122A. Legal advertising and notices will be submitted for the February 28, 2019 hearing.

Administrator Jesme stated that he was informed that the BWSR Board approved the Plan Amendment for inclusion of Water Management Districts for Black River Impoundment and Thief River Falls West Side FDR as they relate to the Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149.

The Board reviewed the Memorandum of Agreement for the Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A. Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for the Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A, pending review and approval of Legal Counsel Sparby. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed correspondence from the MnDNR regarding the domestic well interference complaint in Red Lake County. The MnDNR has determined that the complaint is not valid and that no further action will be taken by the DNR.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Page, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 19001, Earl Pederson, Emarville Township, Red Lake County; No. 19002, Red Lake County Highway Department, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; No. 19003, Polk County Highway Department, Brandsvold Township, Polk County; and 19004, Garden Valley Technologies, Grove Park/Tilden and Woodside Townships, Polk County. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the purchase of a conference call phone for the District Board room. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to approve spending up to \$2,000, for the purchase of a conference call phone for the District Board room. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme and staff member Tammy Audette stated that in 2012, the District purchased a used Canon copier for \$10,250, with a five-year equipment maintenance agreement. Due to the costs of repairing an aged machine, the District is spending an average of \$605.00 per month for service and supplies. The Board reviewed a quote using the MN State Contract Purchasing/Lease option for a new copier. It was the consensus of the Board, to receive additional quotes and report back to the Board.

Administrator Jesme requested updating of four District computers that were purchased in 2011. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Tiedemann, to authorize updating of four District computers. Motion carried.

Executive Director, Rob Sip, RRWMB updated on the Board on recent activities of the RRWMB. Sip stated that RRWMB Board is in now in Phase II of the Strategic Plan. Sip explained that that RRWMB held a special meeting in October 2018, to review how they fund non-retention projects. Sip was directed to send out a Strategic Plan Input questionnaire to the member Districts regarding funding of alternative flood damage reduction projects, cost-share levels of such projects, and development of a strategic plan. Sip encouraged the District to submit the questionnaire as a Board. Discussion was held on the current mission of the RRWMB, the principal and supporting objectives, outreach to County Boards, and RRWMB Budget. Sip reviewed the expenditures and levy receipts from 2013-2018 and history of RLWD projects funded through the RRWMB. Discussion was held addressing the additional benefits funded through the RRMWB. Discussion was held on the 2019 legislative priorities and changes to the RRWMB membership.

The MAWD Legislative Reception and Day at the Capital will be held February 20-21, 2019 at the Double Tree Hotel, St. Paul.

The RRWMB March Conference will be held March 20-21, 2019 at the Marriott in Moorhead. A Red River Basin Drainage Conference will be held the day prior to the start of the conference.

#### Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Manager Ose and Torgerson attended the RRWMB meeting in EGF on January 15, 2019, followed by the Red River Basin Commission Conference in Grand Forks. Jesme will participate in a RRWMB finance committee meeting in the District office after today's meeting.
- The Thief River 1W1P Advisory and Policy Committee meeting was held on January 9, 2019 at the District office. The main objective of the meeting was to review Section 4 to develop a draft which can be submitted to the Policy Committee for approval. The Plan Committee met on January 22 to review the Watershed Wide Implementation Worksheet. The next Thief River 1W1P meeting will be held March 13<sup>th</sup> at the District office.
- Jesme will sit on a MPCA Waters and Watershed round table panel on February 6<sup>th</sup> in Brainerd to discuss partnerships on developing projects. Jesme will share the partnerships for the Grand Marais Outlet Restoration and Cut Channel Projects.
- Jesme will be on vacation February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Included in the packet was a September 2018 Water Quality Report.

Manager Ose discussed options that Bremer Bank would offer the Red River Management Board should they purchase Certificate of Deposits.

Manager Tiedemann inquired on the status of the JD 5, RLWD Project No. 102 (Four-Legged Lake) and if a response was sent to the Clearwater County Environmental Services office. Legal Counsel Sparby stated that there are no new developments on JD 5, and that a response had not been submitted to Clearwater County Environmental Services.

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Discussion was held on cancelling the February 14, 2019 Board meeting due to the lack of a quorum of managers being available for this meeting. Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to cancel the February 14, 2019 meeting due to the lack of a quorum. Motion carried.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry Sorenson".

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Terry Sorenson, Secretary