

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
March 15, 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 Arlene Novak.

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

The Board reviewed the February 28, 2019 minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to approve the February 28, 2019 Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated March 13, 2019. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Dwight, to approve the Financial Report dated March 13, 2019 as presented. Motion carried.

HDR Engineer Nate Dalager updated the Board on the funding mechanisms and methods for determining charges for the Water Management District for the Thief River Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project. The next coordination meeting will take place on Monday, March 18 at 1:30 p.m. at HDR Engineering, Inc. office. A conference call with John Kolb, Rinke Noonan, will be held today, Friday, March 15, to discuss scheduling.

Administrator Jesme updated the Board on RLWD Ditch 16, RLWD Proj. No. 177 and Petition for Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Proj. No. 179, hearings. The Property Owners Reports have been sent for RLWD Ditch No. 16 and the Final Hearing has been set for April 4, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at the District office. The Preliminary Hearing for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Proj. 179, has been set for March 28, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at the District office.

The Local Government Agency Resolutions for the approval of the amended plans to include Water Management Districts into the One Watershed One Plan have been approved by West Polk Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Polk County. There was some question if we had received the resolution from Pennington SWCD and Pennington County.

Jesme informed the Board that the Minnesota House of Representatives has introduced a Flood Damage Reduction bonding bill in the amount of \$75 million. Jesme also indicated that he had heard a bonding bill from the Senate will be forthcoming. With the spring flooding that is occurring in portions of the State and the potential of significant flooding in other parts of State, it is hoped that these bills pass and Governor Walz will sign them. Presently Governor Walz has no FDR bonding in the first budget.

Correspondence from the MNDNR regarding a well interference in Red Lake County during the summer of 2018 was reviewed by the Board. It was noted by the MN DNR that the well interference complaint was valid. Based on DNR available information, irrigation pumping from two authorized irrigation wells and one unpermitted well likely contributed to this interference.

Administrator Jesme gave a brief explanation of Lidar tools and website that are being managed by the International Water Institute. Jesme indicated that administrators recently had a meeting in which Chuck Fritz attended to show functions of the tools that are presently being used in North Dakota but due to absence for funding on the Minnesota side of the valley, these tools are no longer available to the watershed districts or the public. Staff member Loren Sanderson informed the Board of the usefulness of the Lidar tool in the past and how the RLWD has utilized this tool in permitting and surveying. It is estimated that the cost for hosting Lidar is \$30,000 annually. Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, and passed unanimously, to request to the Red River Watershed Management Board designate funding for these Lidar tools in order to keep the tool available.

Brian Opsahl, Brady Martz & Associates, P.A., presented the 2018 Annual Audit Report. After various questions by the Board, a motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the 2018 Annual Audit Report as presented.

Manager Dwight stated the City of Northome would like to move forward with Bartlett Lake management. Emmons and Olivier has been contacted regarding a previous study done on Bartlett Lake and would be willing to assist in the process of moving forward with a lake management plan. Manager Dwight asked to be placed on the RLWD Advisory Committee agenda on Monday, March 18, in order to present this update on Bartlett Lake in the absence of RLWD Advisory committee member Wayne Skoe. Consensus of the Board was for Manager Dwight to update the RLWD Advisory Committee on Bartlett Lake.

Staff member Ashley Hitt presented quotes for repair/replacement of the PH probes of 3 YSI 600 QS sondes that the Red Lake Watershed District own. Since this equipment model is no longer being manufactured by the company, YSI, they will continue to repair until 2020. Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to approve the repairs of 3 YSI 600 QS sondes. Motion carried.

West Polk SWCD submitted a request for a financial donation for the Area I Envirothon. The Area I Envirothon will be held on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at Rydell Refuge. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to donate \$300 to the West Polk SWCD for Area I Envirothon to promote education and awareness of water quality issues. Motion carried.

Various dimensions of equipment and placement for Board room technology were discussed by the Board. Manager Dwight inquired about conference call upgrades and associated equipment. Quotes for Board room technology and information regarding the phone systems will be requested and presented at a future board meeting.

Administrator Jesme stated there is an opportunity for former summer staff person Marisa Newton to assist the Red Lake Watershed District in hydroconditioning Lidar data in the subwatersheds of Red Lake and Thief River. It was consensus of the Board to approve the hiring of Marisa Newton for summer intern position at an hourly rate of \$15.00 per hour. Jesme also stated that the position vacated by Brady Stanley has not been filled and with the expectations of busy construction seasons for the next few years, he was wondering if the vacant position should be filled. The consensus of the Board was to identify the job description and position to be advertised, and bring back to the Board for discussion.

Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Manager Ose will be attending the RRWMB meeting to be held at the Courtyard by Marriot in Moorhead at 9:30 a.m. on March 20, 2019.
- Jesme will attend the 1st Annual Drainage Conference starting at 8:45 a.m. on March 19, 2019 at the Courtyard by Marriot in Moorhead, MN. The goal of this conference is to draw more folks from the Red River Valley that have not in the past attended the Drainage Conference sponsored by Rinke Noonan, which has been held in St. Cloud.
- Due to a planned vacation, Jesme will attend a small portion of the RRWMB March Conference.
- The Thief River 1WIP Advisory Committee meeting was held at 9:00 a.m. on March 13, 2019 at the District Office. Following the completion of the Advisory Committee meeting, the Policy Committee met to discuss the Memorandum of Agreement as well as discussion of timeline for completion of the Draft Plan which will hopefully be put out for public comment sometime in early summer of 2019.
- The Advisory Committee of the Red Lake Watershed District will hold their annual meeting at 9:00 a.m., March 18, 2019, at the District office.
- An article and picture from the Leader Record which features and recognizes Red Lake County Central students on their first place finish at the River Watch Forum is included in packet.
- Jesme will be on vacation from Thursday, March 21 and returning April 1, 2019.

Legal counsel update was given by Administrator Jesme. Legal Counsel Sparby had informed Administrator Jesme that the courts appointed a new Judge to hear the motion for dismissal of the appeal of the Board's decision to not abandon Judicial Ditch #5. It was noted that the previous judge assigned to the case had removed himself due to conflict of interest and another judge has been appointed.

Manager Tiedemann indicated that he has taken calls from some concerned landowners within the benefited area of the proposed Red Lake Watershed District Ditch #16. Some of the concerns are the benefits to their particular lands and their feelings they should not be included in the benefited area.

Manager Page noted that Red Lake County has hired an engineer for their county.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry Sorenson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Terry Sorenson, Secretary