

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
March 28, 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: Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel Sparby.

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

The Board reviewed the March 15, 2019 minutes. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to approve the March 15, 2019 Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report and Investment Summary dated March 27, 2019. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the Financial Report and Investment Summary dated March 27, 2019 as presented. Motion carried.

Staff member Arlene Novak reviewed the Pine Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 26 expenditures and reimbursements as of March 25, 2019. Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., updated the Board on a meeting held with staff from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) held on March 15, 2019. Discussion was held on the costs to complete the plan and the federal planning process. Further discussion was held on the outcome of the MnDNR meeting. Dalager discussed the various aspects of the project, including the replacement of the outlet structure. Discussion was held on whether we should update Property Owners of Pine Lake Association (POOPLA) on the status of the project. It was the consensus of the Board, to have Administrator Jesme and Dalager report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Staff member Arlene Novak reviewed the expenditures and reimbursements for the Four-Legged Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 102A as of March 25, 2019

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., updated the Board on discussions with staff from BWSR and members of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) regarding permitting and wetland banking site for the Black River Impoundment Project, RLWD Project No. 176. Nordby discussed the concerns of permitting agencies, regarding the coulee areas being cut off due to the diversion ditches. Nordby stated that he prepared some examples of what the area would be for the coulee, stating that minor modifications can be provided and submitted for response. Discussion was held on expanding the wetland banking site area from a 100-year event down to a 25-year event. Nordby discussed the risk of extending the banking area back farther into the pool if the wetlands were to get inundated. It was noted that a five-year monitoring period would be required for the initial wetland banking. Nordby stated that once we receive the permit, a RRWMB Step 3 submittal would be completed.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., reviewed the project timeline for the Thief River Falls West Side Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178. Pennington County has scheduled a hearing for April 23, 2019, to transfer County Ditch 70 to the City of Thief River Falls. Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) will hold an open house on April 4, 2019, to discuss improvements to Highway 1 west of Thief River Falls. Dalager estimated that 40% of the District's project would be completed in 2019, with the remaining 60% being completed in conjunction with the MnDOT portion in 2020. Legal Counsel Sparby stated that he is working on a Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Thief River Falls and the District for the city's force main portion of the project, which would allow the District to bid the force main project with the District's project. Discussion was held on the Estimated Market Value (EMV) of property that would require an easement for construction of the project. Dalager provided maps showing the EMV for property within the project area. It was the consensus of the Board, to meet with the local landowners, using the highest EMV of property within the project area, plus 20% for permanent right-of-way, and \$150/per acre for two years for temporary right-of-way. Dalager stated that he would confirm the EMV numbers with the Pennington County Assessor.

The Board reviewed the executed agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for wetland mitigation on the Louisville-Parnell Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 121. The District was credited with 4.758 acres, which will be placed into the District's Wetland Banking, RLWD Project No. 147 for future projects.

The Final Hearing for Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177, will be held on April 4, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the District office.

President Nelson stated that it came to the attention of District staff that not all affected or interested persons were properly served notice for the preliminary hearing, scheduled for March 28, 2019 at 10:00 a.m., for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Ditch 17, RLWD Project No. 179, therefore the hearing needs to be rescheduled. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to set the preliminary hearing for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Ditch 17, RLWD Project No. 179 for April 11, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District office. Motion carried.

Staff member Loren Sanderson stated that recent snow survey sampling, found that the snow has compressed approximately 8 inches, but there was very little change in moisture content. There is approximately 4.1 inches to 5.2 inches of water content in the snow. Sanderson has been working with local landowners, near District impoundments, regarding river stages and timing of gate closures if necessary. Manager Dwight discussed the possibility of adding a snow sampling site east of the Red Lakes.

The Board reviewed the job description for an Engineering Specialist. Legal Counsel Sparby stated that the District is not required by statute or agreement to advertise for the position, but could do so if desired. President Nelson stated that former employee Nick Olson, is interested in returning to the District for fulltime employment and available to begin employment on April 15,

2019. Discussion was held on desirable qualifications of the job description and potential starting salary. Nelson stated that the District Personnel Policy and Procedures state, “the Board may grant a higher accumulated rate of vacation for experienced employees”. Olson previously worked for the District, fulltime for four years and Houston Engineering Inc., for two years. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to offer the fulltime position of Engineering Specialist to Nick Olson and pay an hourly rate of \$24.52 per hour, with vacation leave be set for an employee with six years of work experience. Motion carried. Sparby stated that since the District gave Mr. Olson an offer for employment, a signed application is not required.

Legal Counsel Sparby is waiting to hear on the scheduling conference for the motion of dismissal of the appeal of the Board’s decision to not abandon Judicial Ditch No. 5, RLWD Project No. 102.

Manager Dwight stated a District permit was applied for by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The permit is for an improvement of to TH#1 as well as adjacent storm sewer along both sides of TH#1 within the city of Northhome. Dwight indicated that the existing storm sewer outlets as well as the improved storm sewer outlets into Bartlett Lake. Dwight was wondering if there were other options for the outlet. Dwight spoke with Staff member Loren Sanderson regarding the matter and will meet with Koochiching County Commissioner Wayne Skoe in the future.

Manager Ose stated that the RRWMB agreed to designate funding for Lidar, with the two-watershed district’s that are not within the RRWMB willing to pay their appropriate share.

Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to adjourn to the April 4, 2019 Final Hearing for the Establishment of RLWD Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177 at 10:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District office, 1000 Pennington Avenue South, Thief River Falls, MN 56701. Motion carried.



Terry Sorenson, Secretary