

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
February 27, 2020

Vice President Gene Tiedemann called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District Office, Thief River Falls, MN.

Present were: Managers Gene Tiedemann, Terry Sorenson, Allan Page, Brian Dwight, LeRoy Ose. Absent Dale M. Nelson and 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 Sorenson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., requested to appear for discussion on the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176. Nordby stated that the Wetland Conservation Act permit application was submitted on February 19, 2020, which officially kicks off the review and timeline for the agencies to respond to the permit application. A conference call will be held the week of March 2, with the Technical Evaluation Panel to discuss the possibility of moving forward with the wetland banking site plan on this project. There has been considerable work already completed on this site but it was put on hold until the permit application was submitted. Nordby noted that the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group met last week and awarded the District a \$23,000 Project Acceleration Grant to be split between the Black River Impoundment Project No. 176 and the Pine Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 26.

The Board reviewed the February 13, 2020 minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve the February 13, 2020 Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated February 26, 2020. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve the Financial Report dated February 26, 2020. Motion carried.

Staff member Arlene Novak stated that she is reviewing the 2019 Audit. Once the audit is finalized, staff from Brady Martz will present it to the Board.

Staff member Arlene Novak reviewed the General Fund Budget as of December 31, 2019. Motion by Page, seconded by Dwight, to approve the General Fund Budget as of December 31, 2019 as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a Special Construction Proposal from CenturyLink for construction costs to relocate their lines as part of the Thief River Falls Westside FDR Project, RLWD Project No. 178. The estimated cost for CenturyLink to relocate their fiber optic lines within the project area is \$21,455.04. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve the payment and authorize Administrator Jesme the authority to sign the CenturyLink Special Construction Proposal in the amount of \$21,455.04. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Waiver of Procedural Inconsistencies regarding certain land acquisition for the Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178, with landowners Kyle and Misty Mehrkens. Administrator Jesme stated that the Waiver was drafted for the landowners to approve the changes in permanent and temporary damages that occurred since the hearing was held and the Order was approved.

The Board reviewed the Authorization for Final Payment of Damages for Right of Way Acquisition for the Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178. Administrator Jesme stated that this document is for the payment of permanent and temporary damages, plus 4% interest, from the date of the hearing. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve Authorization for Final Payment of Damages for Right of Way Acquisition for the Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Final Certificate for the Acquisition of Property Interests for the Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Dwight, to authorize the approval of the Final Certification for the Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed information on the Pre-Bid meeting that was held February 26, 2020 for the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178. Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineer, Inc., stated that contractors at the Pre-bid meeting made an unusual request for the AutoCAD file which provides the surface/existing terrain of the project area which is used by HDR to not only compute quantities but also is used during construction staking. Dalager indicated that there is some risk in turning over these files in that if the contractor was to download the information and failed to do it properly, there could be some wrong numbers which could make them miss some quantities on their respective bids. Dalager stated that he would typically provide that information to the Contractor that was awarded the project which then allows the engineer and contractor to verify the datum in the field prior to starting construction. It was the consensus of the Board to inform the contractors that this is not a normal practice to provide the requested information and that the District will not provide the AutoCAD surface datum as requested.

Staff member Christina Slowinski discussed a bridge that has deteriorated on Polk County Ditch 33 Improvement, RLWD Project No. 135. Discussion was held on the private or public nature of the bridge, various sizes of in-place culverts, and old ditch plans. It was the consensus of the Board, to bring additional information back to the Board at a future meeting.

Staff member Christina Slowinski discussed various methods of controlling thistle on RIM acreage within the Grand Marais Creek Restoration Project, RLWD Project No. 60F. Slowinski determined that the best method was to ground spray the thistle with Milestone. The Board reviewed two quotes received to complete the task. Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to hire LM Road Services, LLC, to ground spray thistle on RIM acreage within the Grand Marais Creek Restoration Project, RLWD Project No. 60F, at an approximate cost of \$1,588.67. Motion carried. Slowinski noted that spraying will be completed by mid-June.

Administrator Jesme stated that the Viewers are close to completing the Redetermination of Benefits for Judicial Ditch 72, RLWD Project No. 41, which is a joint ditch project between the District and Polk County. In 2017, it was determined that a redetermination of benefits should be completed on the entire system. If approved, it is anticipated that the District would have sole jurisdiction over JD 72, with Polk County having complete jurisdiction over County Ditch 61, and that the District may likely want to rename the legal drainage system thus eliminating Judicial Ditch 72 and the Joint Board.

Engineer Jeff Langan, Houston Engineering, Inc., stated that he and Staff member Nick Olson inspected the north and south pool structures on the Moose River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 13. Langan stated that he saw no immediate changes from the inspection report that was completed in 2007, but recommended completing a detailed report like what was completed in 2007. Outflows would need to be shut off to determine the measurements and plumbness of the walls, and to determine if the walls have shifted. Langan stated that the day they inspected the structures they encountered open water, which they did not anticipate seeing this time of year. It was the consensus of the Board to authorize Houston Engineering, Inc. complete a detailed inspection of the structure(s) and report back to the Board.

Staff member Nick Olson stated that the inlet channel to the south pool of the Moose River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 13, has trees and brush growing along the slope. Olson recommended mechanical brushing, followed by the spraying of herbicide to alleviate the growth. It was the consensus of the Board, to authorize staff to complete the clearing of the inlet slope of the south pool to the Moose River Impoundment.

Staff member Nick Olson reviewed the snow survey sampling week ending February 22, 2020.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Page, seconded by Ose, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 20004, Minnesota Department of Transportation, North Township, Pennington County; and No. 20005, Pennington County Highway Department, Rocksbury Township, Pennington County. Motion carried.

Staff member Tammy Audette stated that in finalizing details of switching the District's Managed IT to Corporate Technologies, it was determined that the District's Barracuda is provided by Marco Technologies. Staff will report back to the Board at a later date.

Administrators update:

- Jesme and Manager Nelson attended the February 18th RRWMB meeting in Ada.
- A RRWMB Water Quality meeting was held in the District office on February 25th to develop criteria for funding water quality projects, using funds that were appropriated by the RRWMB.
- Included in the packet was the MnDNR funding requests for the upcoming bonding session.
- Jesme will attend the RRWMB March conference held in Moorhead on March 10th and 11th.

- A Thief River 1W1P Planning Workgroup meeting will be held today to discuss the 2020/2021 Workplan. The agenda for the meeting was included in the packet.
- The Thief Lake and Agassiz Interagency meeting was held on February 19th in the District office. The meeting was held to allow the agencies to give updates on future projects as well as discussion on flood forecast and operation of impoundments for Spring of 2020.
- The Parnell Advisory meeting was held March 26th at the District office. Considerable discussion was held on the rainfall events last Fall and the forecast for Spring flooding.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "LeRoy Ose". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the text.

LeRoy Ose, Secretary