

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
January 23, 2020

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, LeRoy Ose. Absent Allan Page 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 Dwight, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the January 9, 2020 minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the January 9, 2020 Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated January 22, 2020. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to approve the Financial Report dated January 22, 2020. Motion carried.

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

Staff member Arlene Novak stated that as of January 1, 2020 the Federal Allowable Mileage rate decreases to 57.5 cents per mile.

Viewer's Rob Wagner and Mike Baumgartner appeared before the Board to present the Viewers' Report for informational purposes and filing for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179. Mr. Wagner stated that the Viewers determined that the total benefits of the project area \$2,466,715.50. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to accept, for information and filing, the proposed Viewers' Report for the establishment of the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179. Motion carried.

Engineer Jerry Pribula, Pribula Engineering, Inc., presented, for informational purposes, the Detailed Engineer's Report for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179. Pribula discussed prior comments from BWSR, and the need for the type of design due to break out flows. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to accept, for information and filing, the proposed Detailed Engineer's Report for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179. Motion carried. Manager Dwight asked if there was a need for a potential impoundment in Section 14, Keystone Township. Pribula responded that the area is too flat for construction of an impoundment in terms of large-scale storage. The most you could store in the first half mile would be about one and a half feet of water.

Wayne Johnson, City of Thief River Falls, appeared before the Board to discuss the Clean Water Act as it pertains to the collection of data within the Red Lake River and Thief River. Johnson stated that the City of Thief River Falls is entertaining the idea of moving the intake of water supply for residents of the City of Thief River Falls to the Red Lake River instead of the current site on the Thief River, which would require installation of a pipe down the middle of the river. Johnson indicated that they have a good idea of where the source of contamination of the current site comes from. Johnson requested information collected by the District and other agencies, to assist in preparing a fact sheet to present to federal legislators to aid their plight. It was the consensus of the Board, that Administrator Jesme direct District staff, to work with Mr. Johnson for the development of a fact sheet with data collected by the District to assist the City of Thief River Falls.

President Nelson turned the meeting over to Vice President Tiedemann.

The Board recessed for a 5-minute break.

Vice President Tiedeman reconvened the Board meeting.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., discussed three alternatives for repair to the outlet of Ditch 10, RLWD Project No. 161. Nordby stated that after the Spring 2019 event and Fall 2019 rain event, additional cracks have formed, with water starting at the top, disappearing as it goes down the riprap and then spraying out towards the bottom. FEMA is currently reviewing site information for potential federal funding. Discussion was held on Alternative 3, which would require the installation of a pipe that would outlet into the existing plunge pool. Nordby stated that with this option, the current in-place rock and concrete would be used as a secondary outlet for high flows. The estimated construction cost for Alternative 3 is \$220,000, for a total of \$322,000 with contingencies. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Ose, to authorize Nordby to explore Alternative 3 for additional design, specifications and cost, for the repairs to the outlet of Ditch 10, RLWD Project No. 161. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that the District was informed that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit for the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178, is being reviewed and waiting for signature. Jesme is hopeful that the permit will be received by the end of January. Once the permit is approved, this will allow for the execution of the Cooperative Agreement with MnDOT. Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., stated that he is planning to submit the Plans and Specifications, to the Board, at the February 13, 2020 Board meeting, with a bid opening date scheduled for March. A pre-bid meeting would be held with interested contractors.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., discussed the information he presented at the Pine Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 26, team meeting that was held January 17, 2020. Dalager discussed the achievable goals and alternatives. Administrator Jesme discussed applying for a CPL Grant due to this project having the possibility of fish passage. Additional research will need to be completed on the outlet structure. Dalager discussed the potential of an

additional 600 ac.ft. of storage, that could be used as Star Value with the RRWMB for potential funding.

Administrator Jesme stated that he received notice that the District was awarded a CPL Grant in the amount of \$168,420 for the Burnham Creek Project, RLWD Project No. 43B, for repairs to a wildlife outlet structure that failed. This project is an 80-acre complex owned by the District but managed by the MnDNR. Jesme will meet with staff from HDR Engineering, Inc., next week to work towards getting the project ready for the Advertisement for Bids.

The Board reviewed the approved RRWMB Strategic Plan and Executive Summary.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 20001, Garden Valley Telephone Company, Leon Township, Clearwater County; No. 20002, Garden Valley Telephone Company, Pine Lake Township, Clearwater County; and No. 20003, BNSF Railway Company, Euclid Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the District Engineer Senior position. Since no applications were received, it was the consensus of the Board, to have the committee meet to strategize on where to go from here.

MAWD dues for 2020 were presented to the Board. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, and passed unanimously to approve paying \$7,500 for the 2020 MAWD dues. Motion carried.

The Red River Basin Drainage Conference will be held January 27, 2020 at the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, Moorhead, MN.

Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Manager Ose attended the RRWMB held January 14, 2020 in Moorhead. Included in the packet was the summary of the meeting.
- Jesme and Managers Ose, Tiedemann, Page and Sorenson attended the Red River Basin Land and Water Institute and Annual Conference in Fargo, January 14-16, 2020.
- The District received the new Canon copier on January 22, 2020.
- Staff member Corey Hanson attended the Bartlett Lake Management Plan meeting January 21, 2020 in Northhome. This session was held to get input from the public and various agencies for various civic engagement projects.
- Staff member Corey Hanson attended the Pennington County WRAC meeting January 13, 2020 at the District office.
- Jesme participated in the Red Lake River 1W1P Planning Workgroup meeting on January 16, 2020, to finalize the workplan for submittal to BWSR. Jesme was recently informed, that the plan was submitted to BWSR for review.
- Jesme and staff member Nick Olson will attend the Red River Basin Drainage Conference on January 27, 2020. Jesme will give a presentation on the partnership and collaboration for the development and design of the Thief River Falls Westside FDR Project.

- The District audit will be completed by Brady Martz on February 4-5, 2020.
- Jesme will be on vacation from February 3-12, 2020.

Legal Counsel Sparby indicated that he was served with an appeal from the attorney representing citizens of Judicial Ditch #5 Project No. 102. Sparby will contact the Clearwater County Auditor's office to see if they were served and follow through with his review of the Appeal documents.

Manager Dwight stated that he, along with staff from the Beltrami SWCD, were rescheduled for the second time to discuss the Thief River 1W1P, with the Beltrami County Commissioners.

Manager Dwight stated that he attended the Bartlett Lake meeting. Dwight indicated that the meeting was well attended, with a lot of community interest.

Discussion was held on the Viewer's Report for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179. Administrator Jesme questioned, if the outlet fee to Polk County Ditch 66 is a one-time fee for improvement of the CD 39 system. Legal Counsel Sparby will research this issue and have a conversation with Legal Counsel Kurt Deter who represents the petitioners.

Manager Ose stated that he attended the Marshall County WRAC meeting on January 22, 2019 in Newfolden. Staff from Agassiz NWR also attended.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary