

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
October 22, 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 in person: Dale M. Nelson, Gene Tiedemann, Terry Sorenson, LeRoy Ose, and Les Torgerson. Present via conference call: Allan Page and Brian Dwight. Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

The Board reviewed the agenda. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the October 8, 2020 minutes. Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the October 8, 2020 Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated October 21, 2020. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the Financial Report dated October 21, 2020. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Investment Summary dated October 21, 2020.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., stated that R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc., did some inspection on the west side (staging location area) of the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 178. Administrator Jesme and Managers Nelson and Page met with the Black River Church Council on October 21, 2020. Discussion was held on bringing in a row of trees at an approximate cost of \$200-\$400 a tree and then have the SWCD plant several rows also. Jesme reported that the council members are not concerned about the trees along the west side of the three acre parcel west of church but did request additional black dirt on the north side of the cemetery to allow for proper growth of grass. Jesme discussed a conference call with the NRCS regarding negotiating the \$3 million grant. The RRWMB made the decision to move forward with funding the project that was approved at their last meeting and work out details concerning the NRCS grant when additional information is received. The NRCS stated that the RLWD contribution will date back to September 19, 2020 so all monies spent after that timeline will be allowed. Nordby stated that he submitted all the plans, Geotechnical and Engineers' Reports to the NRCS for their review.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 10 in the amount of \$156,158.78 to Burski Excavating, Inc. for construction of RLWD Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve Pay Estimate No. 10 for \$156,158.78 to Burski Excavating, Inc. for Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Motion carried. Administrator Jesme stated that they are working on the last mile of the ditch system and hope to be completed by the middle of next week.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 12 in the amount of \$505,748.58 to R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc. for construction of the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Torgerson, to approve Pay Estimate No. 12 in the amount of \$505,748.58 to R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc., for construction of the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Change Order No. 7, for additional sand material on the two MnDOT box culverts through TH #32 and TH #1. Administrator Jesme stated that the MnDOT Highway 32 culvert was capped at \$400,000, therefore the project will be required to cover the additional sand material for that site but MnDOT has agreed to pay the change order cost to material for TH #1 Box Culvert. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Torgerson, to approve Change Order No. 7, to R.J. Zavoral and Sons, Inc., in the amount of \$62,724.40, for the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178. Motion carried. Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., stated that the Contractor is about 94.67% complete of finishing the project. Dalager discussed his concern regarding the Storm Water Implementation Plan and finalizing the seeding and mulching. Discussion was held on lessening the percentage of retainer until the spring 2021. Dalager indicated that the ditch bottom and most likely additional seeding will have to be addressed next spring.

Administrator Jesme stated that he received a call from the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association (MNDHA) regarding a habitat crossing bridge on Jacobs Road, near Elm Lake that is no longer needed since Marshall County installed a crossing near the current location of the bridge. MNDHA asked Jesme should they not find a place for the bridge, if there was a public spot the District could use the bridge. Jesme asked the Board if the Parnell Impoundment would be a possible location should this particular bridge work at the location discussed by the Board at a previous meeting. The Deer Hunters Association is not able to meet due to the Covid19 pandemic but will discuss various options when possible. It was the consensus of the Board, that the District may be interested in the bridge if it becomes available.

Staff member Christina Slowinski stated that a culvert on a crossing referred to as the “Simmons Crossing” on the Burnham Creek Project, RLWD Project No. 43B, has a culvert that has deteriorated. Slowinski reported that this crossing has been repaired twice in the past years. Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., reviewed the pipes, determining that since the one pipe is shot, the chances are good that so is the other pipe. Nordby stated that it appears water sits in these pipes frequently which attributes to rusting and deterioration. Nordby recommended replacement of the 2 – 29”x42” CSP arch pipes, recommending the use of quarry rock and crushed rock at various sizes to prevent erosion on the downstream end of the culvert. Nordby stated that the grouted riprap is still in place at the outlet end, and is recommending leaving it in-place, and tying it into the new design. Nordby also indicated that he was a little surprised at the lack of cover over the top of the culvert which may have to be addressed during construction. Slowinski reviewed three types of culvert to consider for replacement: galvanized, aluminized, and polymer (plastic coated); Nordby’s opinion of probable construction cost is \$21,619.20. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to approve replacement of the two aluminized culverts in the “Simmons Crossing”, on the Burnham Creek Project, RLWD Project No. 43B. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that the maintenance/modifications have been completed on the Brandt Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60D. Jesme will work on acquiring a flowage easement with the landowner located along the inlet channel of the impoundment

Administrator Jesme reported that a ring dike funding request was received from Chad Ste. Marie, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County. Jesme reminded the Board that Peter Nelson, Grand Plain Township, Pennington County had also requested assistance. Jesme will speak to Rob Sip, RRWMB, regarding a potential funding partnership.

Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Torgerson, to table RLWD Permit No. 20207 and 20208, Darrel & Danny Payment, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on RLWD Permit No. 20236 David Solo, Moylan Township, Marshall County, for the installation of a culvert in Marshall County Ditch 32, Lateral 1, to allow for access to their property. Administrator Jesme stated that the landowner purchased a used culvert which is undersized for the drainage area. District Staff determined that an additional 54" pipe would be required based on a 4-year ditch design. Approval was received from Marshall County with the addition of the 54" pipe. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve RLWD Permit No. 20236, David Solo, Moylan Township, Marshall County, with conditions stated on the permit. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 20206, Darrell & Danny Payment, Gervais Township, Red Lake County; No. 20251, Luke Kaushagen, Agder Township, Marshall County; No. 20254, Thygeson Construction, North Township, Pennington County; No. 20255 and 20256, Leslie Hofstad, Equality Township, Red Lake County; No. 20257, Kyle Mehrkens, Rocksbury Township, Pennington County; No. 20258 and 20259, Bray Township, Pennington County; No. 20260, Schulz Farm, Euclid Township, Polk County; No. 20261, Anthony Gerardy, Emardville Township, Red Lake County; No. 20262, Wayne Harder, Silverton Township, Pennington County; No. 20263, Roy Quick, River Township, Pennington County; No. 20265, Daniel Aandal, Grand Plain Township, Marshall County; No. 20266, Ray Martell, Gervais Township, Red Lake County; No. 20267, Gene Schmitz, Red Lake Falls Township, Red Lake County; No. 20268, Red Lake Falls Township, Red Lake County; No. 20269, John Palmquist, River Falls Township, Pennington County; No. 20270, Steiger Farms, Inc., Polk Centre Township, Pennington County; No. 20271, John Frahm, Smiley Township, Pennington County; No. 20272, Del Determan, River Falls Township, Pennington County; No. 20273, Donavon Dahl, Rollis Township, Marshall County; No. 20289, Rodney Wold, Reiner Township, Pennington County; and, No. 20291, Dan Bruley, Kertsonville Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Manager Ose participated in the RRWMB meeting. Discussion was held on Black River funding agreement and construction update, USGS cost share of gauges throughout the Red River Valley LiDAR, state bonding bill and various other items.

- The Red Lake River 1W1P Planning Workgroup met on October 13th in preparation for the Policy Committee meeting on October 21st.
- The USACOE increased the outflow on the Red Lake Dam from 800 cfs to 1000 cfs. The Highlanding gauge at the time read 6.37 and will likely rise to 7.5-8.0 with the increase of outflow.
- Jesme attended a FEMA DFIRM meeting on October 14th via zoom with the Pennington County Flood Plain Coordinator, Peter Nelson, and various MnDNR staff. The meeting was to discuss how outreach and public meeting planning for the new mapping process, will look like during the COVID restrictions.
- Included in the packet was a June 2020 Water Quality Report.

At 10:05 a.m., Rob Sip, RRWMB, joined the meeting via conference call to update the Board on the state bonding bill, which included \$17 million for the Flood Hazard Mitigation program. Sip informed the Board that the Flood Hazard Mitigation program is going through an overhaul and plan to be more transparent on their ranking of funded projects.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that the 90-day review period for the JD 5 (Four-Legged Lake), RLWD Project No. 102, is up October 24, 2020. Information will be sent out to the Board members once it is available.

Manager Torgerson stated that a landowner called him inquiring about restoration of wetlands. Administrator Jesme stated that the US Fish and Wildlife Service had a similar program north of Bagley.

Manager Sorenson asked Tony Nordby if the boundary survey for the Sand Hill River WD along the off-take ditch on MnDOT Hwy 102 had been completed. Nordby will inquire on the status of the survey.

Manager Tiedemann commented on the work completed at the outlet of the Parnell Impoundment, stating that he felt they were going to follow the seepage all the way to the outlet to help protect the township road. Jesme suggested that Tiedemann reach out to Staff member Nick Olson to explain what he felt the repair should look like to assure it gets completed to his satisfaction.

President Nelson inquired if anymore consideration had been given into the Tiedemann Site 2 flood storage site.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary