

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
June 10, 2021

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: Managers: Terry Sorenson, Gene Tiedemann, Tom Anderson, Brian Dwight, Allan Page and LeRoy Ose. Absent: Dale M. Nelson. Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

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

The Board reviewed the May 27, 2021 minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the May 27, 2021 Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated June 9, 2021. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Dwight, to approve the Financial Report dated June 9, 2021. Motion carried.

Staff member Arlene Novak reviewed the League of MN Cities Insurance Trust 2021-2022 Notice of Premium Options for Standard Premiums of less than \$25,000 Workers Compensation. Following questions of the Regular Premium or Deductible Premium options, a motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to select the option of Regular Premium and approve Administrator Jesme to sign the renewal form. Upon roll call vote, motioned carried unanimously.

Staff member Nick Olson discussed significant erosion occurring on the west bank, downstream of the Schirrick Dam, RLWD Project No. 25. Olson stated that when the District operates the dam for a flood event, erosion is occurring downstream of the structure due to the high volume of water being released. Discussion was held on reforming the channel and removal of the sand bar. Manager Dwight suggested the use of stream barbs to direct the water away from the bank. Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to proceed with the hiring of an Engineer to determine the needed repairs for downstream of the Schirrick Dam, RLWD Project No. 25. Motion carried. Olson and Manager Page discussed a request from landowner Dave Schirrick to move the access road to the impoundment, further east on an existing berm, to keep traffic away from the Schirrick home. It was the consensus of the Board, that due to the limited number of times the District needs to access the property, and the fact that the Board currently has an easement with the landowner, the District declined the request to move the access road.

Staff member Nick Olson stated that while operating the gates to the summer elevation at the North Parnell Storage Site, RLWD Project No. 154, the local gate tender noticed that a structure gear box had bullet holes in it, therefore he was not able to operate the gate. Staff member Tony Olson received a quote for \$2,682 for a replacement gear box from Northwestern Power Equipment Company, Inc. Manager Ose stated that a report should be filed with the Polk County Sheriff's Department. It was the consensus of the Board, that staff should file a report

with the Polk County Sheriffs Department. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to approve the replacement of the gear box for the North Parnell Storage Site, RLWD Project No. 154. Motion carried.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., stated that R.J. Zavoral and Sons, Inc., began laying the pipe in County Road 3 for construction of the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176. Nordby stated that inspectors found a damaged six-foot section, with a 23” hole, with rebar showing in the west lane of County Road 3. Nordby and Administrator Jesme met with Mike Flaagan, Pennington County Highway Department, recommending that the contractor replace the damaged culvert section. Nordby stated that the contractor began pulling out the culvert sections this morning, to replace the damaged culvert. The culvert was manufactured by Forterra, they will be on site on Monday to determine a repair plan. Nordby noted that the contractor is waiting for True North to deliver pipe, with the excavation crews arriving in the next two weeks to begin construction on the diversion ditches. Work on the utilities is completed. Nordby stated that probing on the potential wetland banking sites has been completed, with the data sent to the Technical Evaluation Panel. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss the results.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., stated that R.J. Zavoral and Sons, Inc., installed the air vents last week on the Ditch 10 Outlet Repairs, RLWD Project No. 161. Nordby stated that the plan called for grouting the rock chute to lock things together. After inspecting the site, Nordby determined that there is good gradation, therefore grout would not be needed, noting that since they did not grout the project, they did extend the approach to the riprap. The District will need to monitor the area where the stumps were buried as the landowner had concerns of settling.

The Board reviewed a letter drafted by Engineer. Jerry Pribula, Pribula Engineering, Inc., to Burski Excavating, Inc., regarding a punch list of items for completion of Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Administrator Jesme stated that the pipe that was bored under County Road 66, has had settling occur. Discussion will be held with Polk County Highway Department to determine the correct action to take. It was noted that some excavation was completed in the area for utilities, which could have caused some settling. Burski Excavating, Inc., may hire a local contractor to complete the punch list items.

Staff members Nick Olson and Tony Olson reviewed a profile sheet of Branch 108, Ditch 12, RLWD Project No. 169. The Board had directed the staff to solicit quotes for the replacement of a culvert in Branch 108. Nick Olson stated that that District does not have an as-built plan of the lateral and should consider completing a set of as-built plans. Tony Olson received a quote in the amount of \$4,772.40 for a 12-gauge culvert or \$3,242.40 for the 14-gauge culvert, plus freight and incidentals. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to authorize the purchase of the 12-gauge culvert from TrueNorth Steel in the amount of \$4,772.40, plus incidentals, for the installation in Branch 108 of Ditch 12, RLWD Project No. 169. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme informed the Board that R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc., has been working on the punch list of items for completion of the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction

Project, RLWD Project No. 178. Jesme submitted an email to R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc., and MnDOT regarding the Highway 32 box culvert that was damaged.

Administrator Jesme discussed the purchase of temporary right-of-way for replacement of the outlet structure on the Pine Lake Flood Damage Reduction and Fish Habitat Project, RLWD Project No. 26B. Jesme questioned how to pay the landowner for temporary right-of-way where the District will need to take down trees for staging but will not be needed for permanent right-of-way. Jesme stated that .368 acres will be required, recommending that the District pay the landowner the taxable market value for temporary right of way versus the 1.2 multiplier used for permanent right of way. Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to pay the landowner for .368 acres at the taxable market value for the Pine Lake Flood Damage Reduction and Fish Habitat Project, RLWD Project No. 26B. Motion carried. The landowner has indicated that they would like the wood from the trees that will be removed during construction. Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., discussed the completion of the Plans and Specifications, and possibility of advertising for bids prior to receiving the MnDNR permit. Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the Plans and Specification for the Pine Lake Flood Damage Reduction and Fish Habitat Project, RLWD Project No. 26B, with a bid opening of 9:30 a.m. on July 22, 2021, at the District office. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Page, seconded by Anderson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 21068, Christian Kiel, Kiel Corporation, Hammond Township, Polk County; No. 21069, Tim Bakken, Emardville Township, Red Lake County; No. 21070, Richard Salentiny, Garnes Township, Red Lake County; No. 21071 and 21072, Lon & Lawrence Vettleon, Hickory Township, Pennington County; No. 21073, Tracee Bruggeman, Goodridge Township, Pennington County; No. 21074, Mike Tiedemann, Crookston Township, Polk County; No. 21075, Madeline Hangsleben, Huntsville Township, Polk County; No. 21076, FSMN Agri Partners GP, Cloverleaf Township, Pennington County; and No. 21078, Marshall County Highway Department, Rollis Township, Marshall County. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed correspondence from landowner Dennis McCullough regarding the Buffer Law.

The MAWD Region 1 meeting will be held June 22, 2021 at the Wild Rice Watershed District office in Ada, MN. Managers Anderson, Sorenson, Ose and Tiedemann plan to attend.

The Red River Basin Commission Tour will be held July 21, 2021 and will tour several District projects. Managers Anderson, Dwight, Tiedemann and Ose, plan to participate in the tour.

#### Administrators Report:

- Manager Ose will attend the June 15, 2021 RRWMB Board meeting. The Flood Damage Reduction Workgroup will be meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup> via Webex. Jesme attended the RRWMB Budget and Finance Committee meeting on June 3 in the District office.
- Bid opening on the Thief River Falls Oxbow Project will take place on June 16<sup>th</sup> in the City Council Chambers.

- There will be a Clearwater River 1W1P Kick-off meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>, in Brooks and Gonvick. Staff members Corey Hanson and Christina Slowinski will attend. The Policy Committee meeting will be held on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 p.m.
- Jesme and Peter Nelson have been asked to participate in the Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership Program (MARL) on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. MARL is a statewide program which helps to develop the skills of MN Agricultural and rural leaders so they may maximize their impact and effectiveness in local, state, national, and international arenas.
- The Red Lake Falls River Watch Team won first place during the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual River Watch forum.
- Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators will meet on June 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Jesme will be using sick leave on June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and vacation on June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that he has not heard a decision from the courts on the Appeal for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179.

Manager Ose stated that he was at the outlet of the Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, reporting that no water is coming out of the refuge, with a small amount of water coming from Farnes Pool and Ditch 18.

Manager Sorenson discussed the meeting he participated in, along with Administrator Jesme and staff from Houston Engineering and the Sandhill River Watershed District regarding a potential boundary change in Onstad Township, Polk County.

Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to adjourn to June 22, 2021 to allow the Board to participate in the MAWD Region 1 Managers Meeting to be held at the Wild Rice Watershed District in Ada, MN at 9:00 a.m.



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LeRoy Ose, Secretary