

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
June 24, 2021

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

The Board reviewed the June 10, 2021 minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve the June 10, 2021 Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated June 23, 2021. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Financial Report dated June 23, 2021. Motion carried.

Staff member Arlene Novak reviewed the General Fund Budget as of May 31, 2021

The Board reviewed the 2022 Budget and Salary timeline.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., updated the Board on the construction of the Ditch 10 Outlet Repairs, RLWD Project No. 161, stating that two joints on the concrete culvert did not get tight enough, therefore will need to be grouted together. The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 2 in the amount of \$40,620.38. Motion by Page, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve Pay Estimate No. 2 to R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc., in the amount of \$40,620.38 for the Ditch 10 Outlet Repairs, RLWD Project No. 161. Motion carried. Nordby stated that the seeding contractor plans to have the CRP seeded the week of June 28, 2021.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 8 in the amount of \$329,066.51 for construction of the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve Pay Estimate No. 8 to R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc. for construction of the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176. Motion carried. Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., stated that the culverts in CSAH 3 have been installed and paved. County Road 12 is currently closed for the installation of culverts, with the intention to pave early the week of June 28, 2021. Ditch construction crews have moved in and have constructed ½ mile of south diversion ditch east of Black River Church.

Bids were opened for the sale of Excess or Surplus Property which included the 2-place aluminum snowmobile trailer, snowblower, 2008 Arctic Cat Snowmobile, 2005 4WD Arctic Cat 4-wheeler and miscellaneous items. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the sale of the 2-place aluminum snowmobile trailer, snowblower, 2008 Arctic Cat Snowmobile,

2005 4WD Arctic Cat 4-wheeler and miscellaneous items that was declared as excess property to the highest bidder for each item. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the executed RRWMB Water Quality Program Grant Agreement 2020-12 for the Thief River Falls Oxbow Restoration and Stormwater Treatment Project, RLWD Project No. 46Q in the amount of \$166,000. Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., discussed betterments to the project to keep the water deeper to help eliminate cattail growth, addition of a diversion structure and drain tile at a total estimated cost of \$730,000. Discussion was held on potential funding partners for the additional project costs. The District had previously committed \$50,000. Wayne Johnson, City of Thief River Falls, stated that the city is willing to contribute an additional \$50,000, adding that he has concerns about the cost of paying for maintenance over the next 25 years. Discussion was held on requesting additional funding from the RRWMB Water Quality Program. Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to request additional funding from the RRWMB Water Quality Program Grant, with the District covering the remaining balance, less the additional \$50,000 contribution from the City of Thief River Falls. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme discussed the need to create a Project Work Team for the Mud River Restoration Project, RLWD Project No. 149A, in order to apply for a Flood Damage Reduction Work Group Acceleration Grant. Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., discussed the Judicial Ditch 11 channel within the Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge and the alignment of the Mud River channel that was straightened. Presently, both channels are about five feet lower than the silted in historical channel. Dalager discussed the amount of sediment that moves through the system, noting this area has a large drainage area. A survey and study of the hydrology has been completed. Excavation/restoration of the original channel would be hard to complete, which is where a Project Work Team would come into play to help review the area, decide what the project goals would be and come up with alternatives to reach the goals or objectives agreed to in the Project Team process. Jesme noted that this does not commit the District to the project but would paint a clearer picture as to what funding sources could be used once the scope of the project is better defined. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to develop a Project Work Team for the Mud River Restoration Project, RLWD Project No. 149A. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the release of water from the outlet of the Euclid East Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60C, which causes issues with some downstream landowners. At a previous landowner meeting, concerns were discussed that the channel does not have enough capacity to handle all the water, without the installation of berms downstream of the outlet. Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., stated that District staff surveyed the downstream channel, with Dalager performing a hydraulic model to determine where the berms would be most effective. The model showed that it is not a ditch capacity issue, rather it is the lower areas that drain into the system and the fact that some of the centerline culverts are plugged. Dalager proposed cleaning portions of the ditch from Highway 75 west to 300th Avenue SW, installing strategic berms and side water inlet pipes with gates, and run a berm on the south side of channel from Highway 75 and east. It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with the recommendations of Dalager.

Administrator Jesme stated that the Agassiz Wetland Habitat Quality and Management Enhancement Grant, RLWD Project No. 180A is completed and will be closed out. This was a MnDNR Conservation Legacy Partner Grant for working within Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge.

Administrator Jesme stated that the Judicial Ditch 72, RLWD Project No. 41, Redetermination of Benefits Continuation Hearing will be convened this afternoon at 2:00 p.m. at the McIntosh City Hall. Jesme reviewed a request from landowner Gary Mathis to withdraw all of his property removed from the benefited area of the legal drainage system. Jesme indicated that it would be difficult to remove Mathis' property without him first diverting water away from the system.

The Board reviewed River Watch Agreements between the District and the Red Lake Falls School District and the Win-E-Mac School District. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve the River Watch Agreement between the District and the Red Lake Falls School District and the Win-E-Mac School District. Motion carried.

Staff member Nick Olson presented that the Craig and Linda Larson ring dike, located in Crookston Township, Polk County, RLWD Project No. 129AV. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to present the Craig and Linda Larson Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AV, to the RRWMB for potential cost share funding. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that he had spoken with landowner Peter Nelson, who stated that he intends to proceed with the construction of a ring dike on his property.

Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve a one-year extension to RLWD Permit No. 20107, Enbridge Energy, with a new completion date of June 26, 2022. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Gene, seconded by Ose, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit No. 21030, Brenda Scherer, et.al., Garnes Township, Red Lake County; No. 21077, Minakwa Golf Course, Lowell Township, Polk County; No. 21079, Dan Stroot, Belguim Township, Polk County; No. 21081, Douglas & Bard Erdman, Andover Township, Polk County; No. 21082, Mike Gasper, Fanny Township, Polk County; No. 21083, Mike Gasper, Euclid Township, Polk County; No. 21084, Mike Gasper, Louisville Township, Red Lake County; No. 21085, Mike Gasper, Crookston Township, Polk County; No. 21086, Edward & Stephanie Boushee, Huntsville Township, Polk County; No. 21087, Chad Lian, Mayfield Township, Pennington County; and No. 21089, Joe Phillip, Grand Plain Township, Marshall County. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that President Biden authorized the recognition of a new federal holiday, Juneteenth (June 19th) in commemorating the emancipation of slavery. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, that the District will observe the new federal holiday, Juneteenth (June 19th) and reflect such change in the District's Personnel Policies. Motion carried.

Administrators Update:

- Manager Ose attended the RRWMB meeting on June 15, 2021.

- Jesme participated in the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Workgroup meeting on June 16th. The appropriation of Project Work Team funds to active Project Teams was discussed.
- A Clearwater River 1W1P Advisory and Policy Committee meeting was held on June 23rd in Bagley.
- The Red Lake River 1W1P Planning Workgroup will meet on June 28th in preparation for the upcoming Policy Committee meeting which will be held on July 14th.
- Jesme and Peter Nelson participated in the Minnesota Agriculture & Rural Leadership Program session. This is a statewide program which helps to develop the skills of Mn Agricultural and Rural Leaders to help maximize their impact and effectiveness in local, state, national and international arenas.
- Staff members Hanson and Slowinski participated in the Riverview Nature Camp held in Thief River Falls. Included in the packet was photos of the camp.
- Jesme and Managers Sorenson, Anderson and Tiedemann participated in the MAWD Region 1 meeting on June 22nd in Ada.
- Jesme will participate in the Minnesota Association of Watershed Administrators meeting on June 11th.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., stated that since the Pine Lake Flood Damage Reduction and Fish Habitat Project, RLWD Project No. 26B is not receiving state or federal funding therefore Highway Heavy prevailing wages will not be a requirement.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that he has not heard any update on the Appeal to the Improvement of Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179.

Manager Ose stated that there is no water coming out of Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge and very little out of Ditch 200 and 20, noting that this would be a good year to have maintenance done on State Ditch 83, RLWD Project No. 14.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary