

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
March 11, 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, Allan Page, Terry Sorenson, Gene Tiedemann, Tom Anderson, and Brian Dwight. Absent: LeRoy Ose. 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 Page, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the February 25, 2021 minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the February 25, 2021 Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated March 10, 2021. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the Financial Report dated March 10, 2021. Motion carried.

Brian Opsahl, Brady Martz & Associates, P.A., presented the 2020 Annual Audit Report. After various questions by the Board, a motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Tiedemann, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the 2020 Annual Audit Report as presented.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., stated that he has not heard from the Contractor, R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc., regarding Change Order No. 8 for construction of the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178. Dalager stated the City of Thief River Falls is soliciting quotes, to complete work outside the scope of the original contract that they feel would make the overall project a better project in the specific area around Greenwood Street and Highway 32. Dalager indicated that the City of Thief River Falls has access to spoil near DigiKey for no cost to the project which would lessen the cost should we add it to the original contract. The Board reviewed Amendment No. 1 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for additional funds for the box culverts installed on Highway 1. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to authorize Administrator Jesme the authority to sign Amendment No. 1 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178. Motion carried. Dalager indicated that the contractor is working on the detail with the concrete company regarding the damages to the east end structure on the Highway 32 box culvert.

At 9:30 a.m., President Nelson stated that the bid opening for the Threat Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AS would be conducted. Legal Counsel Sparby noted the time and that no further bid proposals would be accepted after the 9:30 a.m. bid submission timeline. Bids were opened and bid amounts were publicly announced and are on file at the office District office. The following bids were received: Wright Construction, Inc., Thief River Falls, MN, \$119,850.00; and Taggart Contracting, Inc., Thief River Falls, MN, \$118,675.00. Engineer Blake Carlson,

Widseth, stated that he will have a conversation with the apparent low bidder, to assure they fully understood the project concept as the bids are 30% over the Engineer's Estimate. Administrator Jesme indicated that discussion will need to be held with the landowner regarding the increased cost of construction. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Tiedemann, and passed by unanimous vote to table the acceptance of the apparent low bid until the March 25, 2021 Board meeting, to allow the Engineer and Administrator time for discussion with the contractor and landowner, and bring recommendations back to the Board.

Administrator Jesme indicated that he has been working with members of the Black River Church for replacement of the trees that were removed for construction of the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176. Jesme received a quote to place six evergreen trees, 6-8 feet in height, with a mechanical spade at a cost of \$300 per tree as well as a quote from Peter Nelson, Pennington SWCD, to plant three rows of smaller trees. Motion by Page, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve placing six trees at the Black River Church at a cost of \$300 per tree and to work with Pennington SWCD to plant smaller trees for the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176. Motion carried.

There will be a Judicial Ditch 72 Joint Board meeting on March 23, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. in the meeting room of the Polk County Transfer Station, Crookston, MN. Administrator Jesme discussed the redetermination of benefits for Judicial Ditch 72, RLWD Project No. 41.

#### Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Manager Tiedemann will participate in the March 16, 2021 RRWMB meeting.
- A MAWD Legislative meeting will be held via Zoom on March 17, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.
- Jesme and Staff member Olson attended the Moose River Interagency meeting on March 3, 2021 via Zoom. Manager Ose and Commissioner Kiesow attended in person.
- Jesme and Staff member Hanson participated in the Thief River 1W1P planning meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>. The meeting provided progress updates on projects listed in the Work Plan as well as discuss BWSR's accounting requirement to assure billing is submitted property for E-Link reporting.
- A Clearwater River 1W1P virtual meeting will be held on March 24 at 1:00 p.m.
- Jesme participated in a virtual meeting with the MSTRWD Administrator and staff from BWSR to discuss the Red Lake River 1W1P and the overlap between the HUC 8 boundary and watershed boundary between the two Districts. BWSR is concerned that the formula for dispersing implementation funds for the 1W1P could cause problems, in that the funding uses the HUC 8 boundary which could result in funds to be dispersed for the Red Lake River 1W1P but lies in the jurisdiction of the MSTRWD or vice versa. The two Districts formed a Joint Powers Board for the Grand Marais which spells out jurisdictional issues such as maintenance of the restored Grand Marais and that of Watershed Ditch 6.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., discussed the historic flooding on Pennington County Ditch 1, reviewing a GIS map of the Thief River Westside FDR Project, RLWD Project No. 178. President Nelson discussed water that would back up on the west side of State Highway 32, west along County Road 7. Dalager stated that water along the Veterans Highway (truck bypass) would now come down the diversion ditch rather than going down County Ditch 1

to County Road 7, which will alleviate flooding along County Road 7. Discussion was held on abandoning a portion of County Ditch 1, which would need to be initiated by Pennington County. Nelson will have discussion with the local landowner.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that the Appeal to the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179 was granted a continuance. A new date has not been scheduled.

At 10:30 a.m., President Dale M. Nelson recessed the general meeting and called the hearing to order for the Pine Lake Flood Damage Reduction & Fish Habitat, RLWD Project No. 26B. President Nelson briefly addressed the audience concerning the purpose and format of the meeting. Administrator Jesme read for the record the MN DNR Commissioner's Final Advisory Report and MN BWSR Commissioner's Final Advisory Report. A copy of such report was provided to the Board and was available for those in attendance. Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., gave a presentation on the Engineer's Report. Upon completion of his presentation, Nate Dalager then turned the hearing back to President Nelson. After all, in attendance were given a chance to ask questions and/or make comments, President Nelson closed the hearing. The hearing is on video tape and available for viewing at the RLWD. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, for implementation of the Pine Lake Flood Damage Reduction and Fish Habitat Project, RLWD Project No. 26B, and order the engineer to proceed with making the necessary survey and preparing plans and specifications that are needed to construct the project. Motion carried. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, that the Final Hearing shall be recessed until the engineer's report and the bids for construction are received. Motion carried.

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



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LeRoy Ose, Secretary