

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
September 23, 2021

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

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

The Board reviewed the September 9, 2021, minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the September 9, 2021, Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated September 23, 2021. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to unanimously approve the Financial Report dated September 23, 2021. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 14 for the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176 in the amount of \$140,232.24. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to approve Pay Estimate No. 14 in the amount of \$140,232.24 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 Contractor completed work along CSAH 68 and are working their way up CSAH 12. Installation of the sheet piling will be completed next week. CSAH 3 is seeded and mulched and with the timely rains, CSAH 55 grass is growing great. Nordby and Administrator Jesme will be doing a marketing promo featuring the Black River Impoundment on September 27th.

The Board reviewed two grade stabilization funding requests from the Red Lake SWCD, for landowner, Matt Knutson. Administrator Jesme stated that there are two sites in Gervais Township, for a total project cost of \$15,860.91. The Red Lake SWCD is requesting cost share in the amount of \$2,500.00 from the District's 2021 Erosion Control Funds, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve cost share in the amount of \$2,500 for the Matt Knutson Grade Stabilization Projects, from the District's 2021 Erosion Control Projects Funds, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion carried. Jesme stated that landowner, Matt Knutson, has an additional 10 grade stabilization sites located in Red Lake Falls Township, with a total project cost of \$89,201.26. The Red Lake SWCD is requesting cost share in the amount of \$7,500.00 from the District's 2021 Erosion Control Funds, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion by Page, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve cost share in the amount of \$7,500 for the Matt Knutson Grade Stabilization Projects, from the District's 2021 Erosion Control Projects Funds, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed two grade stabilization funding requests from the West Polk SWCD, for landowner, BTN Farms, located in Fisher Township and Sorenson Farms, Inc., located in Roome Township. The total project cost for the BTN Farms Grade Stabilization is \$7,000, with a cost share request from the District in the amount of \$5,250. The Sorenson Farms, Inc. Grade Stabilization Project has a total project cost of \$12,000, with a cost share request of \$9,000. Administrator Jesme stated that funding could come through the District's Erosion Control Funds, RLWD Project No. 164, or from the RRWMB Base Funding for Water Quality Projects, RLWD Project No. 46. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the cost share request in the amount of \$5,250 for the BTN Farms Grade Stabilization Project, from the District's RRWMB Water Quality Base Funding, RLWD Project No. 46. Motion carried. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to approve the cost share request in the amount of \$9,000 for the Sorenson Farms, Inc. Grade Stabilization Project, from the District's RRWMB Water Quality Base Funding, RLWD Project No. 46. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 3, in the amount of \$5,578.75, to Taggart Contracting, Inc., for construction of the Threatt Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AS. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve Pay Estimate No. 3, to Taggart Contracting, Inc., for construction of the Threatt Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AS. Motion carried. Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to set the Final Payment Hearing to Taggart Contracting, Inc., for construction of the Threatt Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AS, for 9:30 a.m., on October 13, 2021 at the District office. Motion carried.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., discussed the construction on the Pine Lake Flood Damage & Fish Habitat Project, RLWD Project No. 26B. The contractor has completed the in-channel work, with plans to place the rock riffles and structure next week. Administrator Jesme discussed the permitting comment period and public review. At the request of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, the Department of Natural Resources completed a Phase 1 archaeological review, noting that nothing was found within the project area.

Engineer Zach Hermann, Houston Engineering, Inc., and Administrator April Swenby, Sandhill River Watershed District (SHRWD), participated in the meeting via zoom to discuss the shared watershed district boundary along MN State High 102 in Onstad Township, Polk County. Hermann stated that he reviewed the effects if the culverts were removed, looking at the culvert sizes and flowlines. After discussion by the Board, it was the recommendation to remove the culvert near Polk County Road 41, which would add 40 acres to the RLWD and set the new watershed district boundary at the old railroad grade, with continued coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the "off-take" ditch. The SHRWD will work with landowners on removal options of the culvert and remaining three locations.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., and staff member Nick Olson discussed downstream repairs to the outlet of the Schirrick Dam, RLWD Project No. 25. Nordby reviewed two alternatives to armor 600 feet of the east side bank, recommending Alternative 2 at an approximate cost of \$88,720, as the best option. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to authorize Houston Engineering, Inc., to complete Plans and Specifications using Option 2 for the downstream repairs to the Schirrick Dam, RLWD Project No. 25. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Plans, Specifications and Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost for the Demarais/Hanson Outlet Repair Project, RLWD Project No. 149. Administrator Jesme stated that a majority of the project will be funded through the Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149. Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., estimated the approximate cost of construction to be \$160,625, recommending that Plans and Specifications be sent out to the contractors, with quotes submitted back to the District office by 9:30 a.m. on October 7th, with final approval by the Board on October 14th. Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the Plans and Specification for the Demarais/Hanson outlet Repair Project, with quotes to be submitted to the District office no later than 9:30 a.m. on October 7, 2021, and presented to the Board for review at the October 14, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

Staff member Nick Olson stated that the Latundresse Dam, RLWD Project No. 50B, Knutson Dam, RLWD Project No. 50F, and the Thibert Dam, RLWD Project No. 50G, all dams that were built through SCS/NRCS programs and then turned over to the District, have concerns that could cause failure to each of the projects. Cassie Ahmed, NRCS State Watershed Engineer, recommended reaching out to the NRCS for possible engineering assistance and potential funding through the landowner. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to authorize District staff to survey the Latundresse Dam, RLWD Project No. 50B, Knutson Dam, RLWD Project No. 50F, and the Thibert Dam, RLWD Project No. 50G, and report back to the Board with approximate costs to repair all three structures. Motion carried.

Staff member Nick Olson discussed the cleaning of the Euclid East Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60C outlet channel. Olson stated that an invoice in the amount of \$15,010, was received for Pay Estimate #1 of work completed from Quality Spray Foam/Anderson Excavating. Discussion was held on approaching Polk County in regard to replacing the culverts at the end of the work completed. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to approve payment to Quality Spray Foam/Anderson Excavating in the amount of \$15,010 for cleaning of the outlet channel of the Euclid East Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60C.

Discussion was held on the Mud River Project Work Team meeting held on September 14, 2021. Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc. will work the staff from the MnDNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to determine the best project concept. Dalager stated that Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge has a planned project that will complement the Mud River Project.

Construction is proceeding on various sites of State Ditch 83, RLWD Project No. 14, in collaboration with the Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A. Quality Spray Foam/Anderson Excavating is completing the work. The bid was awarded to Davidson Construction for work on the Judicial Ditch 23, under the jurisdiction of Marshall County and funded for through the Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A. Marshall County requested that the District lead the construction portion of the project.

Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to table RLWD Permit No. 21121, Gary Roisland, to allow District staff time to work with the landowner and Pennington County. Motion carried.

The board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 21133, Brian Kasprick, Euclid Township, Polk County; No. 21134, Brent Strickler, Euclid Township, Polk County; No. 21139, Dan Cymbaluk, Lowell Township, Polk County; No. 21140 and 21141, Linus Schmitz, Red Lake Falls Township, Red Lake County; No. 21145, Jerry Hasndedl, River Falls Township, Pennington County; No. 21146, Esp Christensen, Garnes Township, Red Lake County; No. 21147, Peter Quam, Badger Township, Polk County; No. 21148, Badger Township, Polk County; No. 21149, Gordan and Faythe Thureen, Northland Township, Polk County; No. 21150, Joshua Skalsky, Sanders Township, Pennington County; and No. 21152, Gary Rodrique, Smiley Township, Pennington County. Motion carried.

Two applications were received for the Accounting Officer Position. It was the consensus of the Board to advertise for one additional week for the position.

Administrators update:

- Manager Ose attended the September 21, 2021 RRWMB Meeting.
- Jesme and Manager Nelson presented the 2020 Annual Report to the Pennington County Commissioners on September 14th. Jesme and Manager Anderson will attend the Clearwater County Board meeting on October 12th.
- Jesme participated in a virtual Drainage Workgroup meeting on September 9th.
- Jesme participated in the Mud River Project Work Team meeting held September 14th at the District office. There were approximately 18 people in attendance.
- Staff members Hanson and Slowinski participated in the 6th Grade Outdoor Education Day on September 15th in Thief River Falls.
- The NW MN Water Festival was held September 21st and 22nd. Staff members Hanson and Slowinski participated both days.
- Staff members Hanson and Slowinski attended the Clearwater River 1W1P meeting on September 14th.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that the Sandhill River Watershed District could pass a Resolution and present a Petition to BWSR for the boundary change being considered.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that he is waiting on a Stipulation of Facts for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RWLD Project No. 179. Once it is reviewed, he will submit it to Attorney Mark Grainger.

Manager Ose discussed approval by the RRWMB for a flyover for Lidar.

Manager Tiedemann stated that the MAWD Annual Meeting in December has been cancelled due to Covid.

Manager Tiedemann and Administrator Jesme discussed the cleaning of Euclid East Impoundment outlet channel. Jesme will work on finalizing a Flowage Easement.

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Cassie Ahmed, NRCS State Watershed Engineer stated that the NRCS PL566 funding is available, and they are looking for new projects. Ahmed reported that Deb Walchuk, NRCS Red River Basin Coordinator will be retiring November 30th.

The Judicial Ditch 72, RLWD Project No. 41, Consolidation hearing will be held on September 28, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Polk County Commissioners meeting room in Crookston.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary