

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
April 28, 2022

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

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Anderson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the April 14, 2022, minutes. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the April 14, 2022, Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated April 27, 2022. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Financial Report dated April 27, 2022, as presented. Motion carried.

Staff member Ann Joppru reviewed the District's health insurance plans, premiums, and deductibles. Currently the District pays \$500.00 towards the staff members single policy per month and \$1,250.00 for family coverage per month. After considerable discussion by the Board, motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, for the District to pay 90% of the of the single and family coverage health insurance plans for District employees, effective immediately. Motion carried. Joppru noted that new rates for 2023 will be available in August, with open enrollment period from October to December, 2022.

Staff member Tammy Audette stated that Administrator Jesme has had discussions with renter Nick Knott, regarding the option of renting the agricultural land within the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176, or the potential of enrolling the property into a CRP program. Jesme will report back to the Board with further information.

The Board reviewed a letter from Andrew Graham, Red River Basin Coordinator on behalf of the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group regarding funding of project assessment monitoring for projects developed through the 1998 Mediation Agreement. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Tiedemann, to send a letter of support for funding of project assessment monitoring. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed correspondence from the Red River Retention Authority regarding talking points for the Red River Basin Water Storage and Flood Control concerns.

Correspondence was received from Marshall County regarding the potential eligibility for federal or state disaster declaration for damages relating to the 2022 high rainfall and spring

flooding. Staff member Tammy Audette stated that Beltrami County contacted the District regarding potential disaster declaration also.

Gates on all District impoundments were closed during the recent rain events. Gates on the Schirrick Dam, RLWD Project No. 25, were closed on April 24, at 1:00 p.m. District staff opened one gate two feet on April 26th as the pool had filled up and was in jeopardy of going over the emergency spillway. It was noted that downstream conditions allowed for opening of the gate. Manager Page discussed operation of the structure and potential of purchasing a hydraulic pump to operate the gates. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to authorize staff to look into the costs for the purchase of a hydraulic pump, and bring the information back to the Board. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permit for approval. Motion by Page, seconded by Anderson, to approve RLWD Permit No. 22-024, Louisville Township, Red Lake County, with conditions stated on the permit. Motion carried.

Staff member Ann Joppru stated that it has been 15 years since the office was built, therefore painting of the office would be recommended. The Board directed Joppru to obtain quotes of both paint and labor and report back to the Board. It was the consensus of the Board, to remove the projector and screen, as they are no longer in use, prior to any painting.

The Board reviewed various handouts from Administrator Jesme that will be further discussed at the next Board meeting held May 12, 2022.

Legal Counsel Sparby discussed the Motion Hearing held for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179. Sparby indicated that the judge has 60-days to decide.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc. discussed two possibly three culverts washed out on the diversion ditches of the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176. Nordby stated that he will wait for conditions to improve before a full inspection is completed. Nordby indicated that the impoundment is filling up but should be able to handle the predicted rain event the area is forecasted to receive this coming weekend.

Engineer Dillion Nelson, HDR Engineering, Inc. stated that the Pine Lake area received a 100-year, 10-day rain event. Discussion was held on the upstream water that the lake received and impact on the local cabin owners. The District hired a contractor to physically remove the plywood boards in the structure to allow for water to be drawn down.

President Nelson stated that he was very pleased with the operation of the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178, in how the local business saw a lot of water, which was gone within 24 hours. Discussion was held on the erosion that occurred when a local landowner completed some fall ditching. Repairs will need to be made in those areas.

Manager Sorenson discussed two large blowouts upstream of the Pine Lake Project.

The draft Plan for the Clearwater River 1W1P was completed and approved by the Policy Committee for a 30-day internal review. The plan will then be reviewed again by Policy Committee for approval of all LGU's. Part of the plan will include language for a Water Management District in various watersheds. Language will be like what we did in the Thief River Watershed 1W1P.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "LeRoy Ose". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

LeRoy Ose, Secretary