

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
December 29, 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: Gene Tiedemann, Terry Sorenson, Tom Anderson, Brian Dwight, LeRoy Ose, and Dale M. Nelson. Absent: Allan Page. Staff Present: Myron Jesme, Tammy Audette, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

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

The Board reviewed the December 8, 2022, minutes. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the December 8, 2022, Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated December 28, 2022. Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the Financial Report dated December 28, 2022, as presented. Motion carried.

Staff member Ann Jopru reviewed the General Fund Budget as of November 30, 2022.

The Board reviewed correspondence from the League of Minnesota Cities, announcing that the District received a \$1,880 dividend on our Property/Casualty Insurance.

Administrator Jesme reviewed the Construction Report for the Knutson Dam Structure Replacement Project, RLWD Project No. 50F, prepared by Houston Engineering, Inc., which will be submitted to the State of Minnesota Dam Safety.

Administrator Jesme stated that he was contacted by staff from the MnDNR regarding a potential project partnership on a connection of lakes, referred to as Turtle Lake, Connection Lake, and Cross Lake, all located in Polk County. Jesme indicated that various structures were built in the 1930's, and they are in various states of disrepair, which has caused lake levels to recede. This potential project could result in the District having the opportunity to gain some Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) benefits with the establishment of the lake levels along with fish passage. Engineer, Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., discussed the Expanded Distributed Detention Storage Study, RLWD Project No. 92A, that the District completed in 2013, noting that a project within this area would have an influence in regard to peak flows at Crookston. Jesme stated that he requested the MnDNR staff to meet internally for discussion on their goals for the project, which meeting was completed a few weeks ago. Jesme stated that the next step would be for the Board to approve the staff in moving forward with a Concept Report, after staff meets with staff from the MnDNR. Jesme indicated that a Project Team would most likely need to be established for this project, with potential funding through the FDRWG. Discussion was held on the

MnDNR being a partner in this project to move the project forward. Motion by Ose, seconded by Anderson, to move forward with the Turtle Lake, Connection Lake, and Cross Lake Project, and to use the project number established in 1994 which is RLWD Project No. 114. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the Crescent Avenue Project, Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149, located in Crookston, MN, along the Red Lake River. District and HDR Engineering, Inc., staff completed a survey of the project area. Discussion was held on the lack of access to the project site. The Board reviewed a Proposal for Engineering Services from HDR Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$37,988. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the Proposal for Engineering Services from HDR Engineering, Inc., for the Crescent Avenue Project, Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149. Motion carried.

Alyson Bergstrom, Beltrami SWCD, appeared before the Board (via Zoom) for discussion on a request for funding of the Beltrami County Forest Stewardship Plan. Ms. Bergstrom indicated that the Forest Stewardship Plans are located in an area of focus within the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS), for the Upper/Lower Red Lake Watershed. The Beltrami SWCD is requesting \$5,400 from the District to assist in providing a cost-share program for landowners to obtain a forest stewardship plan for Beltrami County within the District's boundaries. The cost share would equate to approximately 1,000 forest stewardship acres. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the request of the Beltrami SWCD, for cost share in the amount of \$5,400 for the Beltrami County Forest Stewardship Plan, to be paid for from the District's Water Quality Budget, RLWD Project No. 46. Motion carried.

Staff member, Nate Koland, appeared before the Board for discussion on renewal of the District's Civil 3D (AutoCAD) programs. The District currently uses two seats for Civil 3D, with a renewal yearly. A one-year subscription renewal for two seats would cost \$3,470.78, with an option for a 3rd seat for a total of \$5,960.72. Koland indicated that a 3-year subscription for two seats would cost \$9,893.98, for a savings of \$518.36, compared to a yearly subscription. Koland did not have a quote for a 3-year subscription for three seats. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the purchase of up to two seats of Civil 3D (AutoCAD) program for three years, with staff exploring the option of adding a third seat with a three-year subscription. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that he was informed by the District's Natural Resource/GIS staff person Christina Traner (Slowinski), that she is planning to relocate by June 2023, therefore providing notice that she will be resigning from her job at that time. There is a possibility that it could be sooner if she acquires a new job sooner than planned. Discussion was held on advertising for her position, in an attempt to allow for overlapping training of the new individual. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Dwight, to approve advertising for the Natural Resource Technician Position in mid-January. Motion carried.

Staff member, Tony Olson, stated that he was contacted by Gervais Township, requesting a revision to RLWD Permit No. 22046. Olson stated that the original culvert request was for a 54" culvert, Gervais Township has requested an amendment to the permit for a 60" culvert. Motion

by Ose, seconded by Anderson, to approve the request of Gervais Township for a 60" culvert. Motion carried.

Staff member, Tony Olson, requested that the following permits be tabled for further review: No. 22221, Paul Sorenson, Bygland Township, Polk County; No. 22267, Delano Thorson, Roome Township, Polk County; No. 22268, River Falls Township, Pennington County; and No. 22273, Justin Halvorson, Louisville Township, Red Lake County. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Sorenson, to table the above-mentioned permits for further review. Motion carried with Manager Tiedemann abstaining from discussion and vote.

Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to deny RLWD Permit No. 22269, Gerald Michaelson, Louisville Township, Red Lake County. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 22274, Clearwater County Highway Department, Pine Lake Township, and No. 22275, Clearwater County Highway Department, Eddy Township. Motion carried.

The 40th Annual Red River Basin Land and Water International Summit Conference will be held January 17-19, 2023 in Winnipeg, MB.

There will be a Drainage Conference in Alexandria, MN on February 8-9, 2023.

The MAWD-Legislative Breakfast will be held February 15-16, 2023.

The 24th Annual Joint Conference RRWMB/FDRWG will be held February 21-22, 2023 in Moorhead, MN.

If any Board member or staff want to attend any of these conferences, please contact Tammy for reservations.

Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Manager Ose participated in the December 13, 2022 RRWMB via Zoom.
- Jesme and Staff member Hanson attended the Thief River 1W1P Planning Work Group meeting held on December 16th in preparation for the Advisory/Policy Committee meeting held on December 19th. Staff members Hanson, Audette and Joppru, along with Manager Ose attended the Thief River 1W1P Advisory/Policy Committee meeting on December 19th.
- Staff member Hanson and staff from HDR Engineering, Inc. met with landowners on the Crescent Avenue Project located in Crookston, MN, as part of the Red Lake River 1W1P.
- District staff continues to work on data input on completed projects for FEMA.

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Discussion was held on draft legislation proposed by the MnDNR which would add language to 103E.015 that would add various controversial items which include an additional 90-day comment period for petitioned drainage projects.

Manager Ose discussed the Thief River 1W1P Advisory/Policy committee meeting and some of the questions were how this plan relates to work on State Ditch 83.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "LeRoy Ose". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

LeRoy Ose, Secretary