

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
February 24, 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 Nelson, LeRoy Ose, Gene Tiedemann, Allan Page, Brian Dwight, and Tom Anderson. Absent: Terry Sorenson. Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette.

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

The Board reviewed the February 10, 2022, minutes. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to approve the February 10, 2022, Board meeting minutes with corrections related to the Polk County Permit. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated February 23, 2022. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the Financial Report dated February 23, 2022, as presented. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that the Ottertail County Highway Department will purchase 1.6981 acres of wetland banking credits at \$14,000 per acre from the District's Wetland Banking Project, RLWD Project No. 147. Jesme stated that 5.03 acres of wetland banking credits had not been deducted for construction of the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176. The wetland mitigation was approved in 2020, but the credits were not withdrawn. Jesme indicated that the District will have approximately 7 acres of state certificated wetland banking credits remaining.

Administrator Jesme stated that they have come to a conclusion that the District will not be able to create wetland banking credits within the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176, as hoped. In collaborating with staff from Houston Engineering, there are maybe some opportunities where we could make some small wetlands in various locations for future mitigation needs. Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., stated that Corp's staff have indicated that we may be able to get some restoration credits or creation credits. Nordby noted that although extensive investigation has been completed, the information will be useful if future development of the wetland banking credits is needed. Houston Engineering, Inc., will complete a summary of the information for the project file. Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to cease from completing development of wetland banking credits for the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176.

The Board reviewed a Purchase Agreement drafted by Legal Counsel Sparby, for the sale of 5.88 acres of property on the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178 to Tango TNE LLC, in the amount of \$200,000. Motion by Tiedeman, seconded by Dwight, to approve the Purchase Agreement between the District and Tango TNE, LLC, in

the amount of \$200,000, for the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Project, RLWD Project No. 178, authorizing President Nelson the authority to sign the document for execution. Motion carried.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., presented an Opinion of Probable Cost in the sun of \$200,439.45 for replacement of the Knutson Dam, RLWD Project No. 50. Nordby stated that his estimate includes construction costs, engineering, temporary easement, and takes into consideration the recommendation from the MnDNR for an increased pipe size and change to the slope of the project. Motion by Page, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the proposed changes for the replacement of the Knutson Dam, RLWD Project No. 50, authorizing Engineer Tony Nordby, to proceed with the Plans and Specifications for construction. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme and Staff member Tony Olson discussed the location of County Ditch 1, Clearwater County, RLWD Project No. 103. Jesme indicated that this ditch system is one of many turned over to the District from Clearwater County back in 1982. Olson stated that the project has a large, benefitted area but the exact location of the ditch is undetermined and past ditch inspector reports are not clear. Olson stated that letters were sent out to the landowners, within the benefitted area, requesting them to participate in a meeting scheduled for April 1, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Gonvick Community Center.

Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve RLWD Permit No. 22-009, Polk County Highway Department, Crookston Township, with the recommendation that a public hearing should be held prior to the completion of work. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that since construction of the District's office in 2007, several ballasts in the office lighting have burnt out, and replaced with LED lights. Discussion was held on replacing the office lighting as ballasts have burnt out. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to authorize the replacement of lights on an as needed basis. Motion carried.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Joint RRWMB and FDRWG Conference will be held March 22-23, 2022, in Moorhead.

#### Administrators Update:

- Manager Tiedemann attended the RRWMB meeting on February 15, 2022. Jesme attended via WebEx.
- The Mud River Project Work Team meeting that was scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to a winter storm. The meeting has been rescheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the District office.
- The Clearwater River 1W1P Planning Workgroup met on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Planning Workgroup is nearing the final plan section review, mainly reviewing the PTMapp completion for the watershed. It is the hope of the group to get the final draft plan completed this summer along with the development of the Memorandum of Agreement for the implementation of the plan. There was some discussion of asking the RLWD to be the fiscal agent.

- The BWSR Watershed Managers Training scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup> in Barnesville, MN, was cancelled due to a winter storm.
- A Thief River 1W1P Planning Workgroup meeting was held on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, to give an update on projects that are ready to be constructed this summer. Work was also completed on the development of the workplan for the next round of funding.
- The Parnell Impoundment Advisory committee meeting was held on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the District office, with Managers Tiedemann and Page in attendance, Commissioners Strandell and Holy and landowner Brian Love were in attendance.
- Jesme presented a presentation at a BWSR Implementers meeting concerning 1W1P partnerships, projects, and funding.
- Jesme will participate in a “Keep it Clean” campaign kickoff meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup> at the West Wind Resort in Waskish, MN, along with Manager Dwight.

The Board was informed of the intent of Staff member Nick Olson to resign from the District after the Spring flood season. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to regretfully accept the resignation of Nick Olson. Motion carried.

The Districts Advisory Committee meeting will be held March 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at the District office.

In the absence of Legal Counsel Sparby, President Nelson reported that a telephone scheduling conference was held on February 24<sup>th</sup> regarding the Appeal to the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179. The parties appear to be very close to a finalized stipulation, with the exception of how to state or interpret 2-3 disputed facts. The Court has ordered that the parties have until March 18<sup>th</sup> to submit facts that can be stipulated. If there are any remaining facts in dispute, a Zoom hearing, just on those disputed facts will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. If there are no facts in dispute and the parties are able to agree as to all stipulated facts, then this date will be used as the Cross-Summary Judgement hearing date. If the 26<sup>th</sup> of April is used as a hearing as to unstipulated facts, the Court will hear the arguments and make a finding as to those facts. We would then have the full Cross-Summary Judgement hearing on Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

Administrator Jesme stated that the steel for the Pine Lake Structure, RLWD Project No. 26B, has been delivered and will be installed once it warms up. Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., is working with Clearwater County regarding the downstream culverts.

Manager Dwight discussed the “Keep it Clean” campaign for the Upper Red Lake Area Association. Legislation is being drafted to be submitted to the revisor’s office, in the hopes for funding to give to counties, SWCD’s and Watersheds. Dwight discussed the potential of installation of RV dumping stations and an organizational meeting to be held on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

The MAWD Legislative Meeting will be held March 16-17, 2022 in St. Paul, MN.

Manager Nelson will not be in attendance at the March 10, 2022 meeting.

Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, 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 light blue background behind it.

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LeRoy Ose, Secretary