

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
June 8, 2023

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 Tiedeman, Terry Sorenson, Tom Anderson, LeRoy Ose, Allan Page, and Brian Dwight. Staff Present: Myron Jesme, Ann Joppru, Melissa Bushy, Lindsey Kallis and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

President Nelson introduced two new employees for the District: Melissa Bushy has been hired as Office Manager and Lindsey Kallis has been hired as Natural Resource Technician.

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 as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the May 25, 2023, minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the May 25, 2023, Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated June 7, 2023. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the Financial Report dated June 7, 2023, with the exception of check #40743 for \$29,130.00 written to the League of Minnesota Cities, as this is next on the agenda to review/approve. Motion carried.

Staff member Ann Joppru presented an Invoice for 2024 Property and Casualty Premium from the League of Minnesota Cities for \$29,130.00. Motion by Tiedeman, seconded by Sorenson to approve the premium adjustment for 2024 and to pay the invoice in the amount of \$29,130.00. Motion carried.

Quotes for the Fladeland Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AX and the Beich Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AY, were opened at 4:00 p.m., on June 6, 2023, at the District office. Administrator Jesme stated that we received 2 quotes for the Terry Beich Ring Dike. Engineers Estimate of probable cost was \$133,650. Quotes submitted for consideration were from Gladen Construction Inc. in the amount of \$195,292.00, and from Lunke's Inc in the amount of \$115,423.00. Motion made by Ose, seconded by Dwight to award the apparent low quote to Lunke's Inc., in the amount of \$115,423.00. Administrator Jesme stated that we received 3 quotes for the Robert Fladeland Ring Dike. Engineering estimate construction costs was \$134,288. Quotes submitted for consideration were from Gladen Construction in the amount of \$244,199.00, Olson Construction in the amount of \$150,768.06 and quote from Anderson Excavating in the amount of \$141,284.60. Motion made by Page, seconded by Dwight to award the work to Anderson Excavating. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme presented a proposal from HDR Engineering, Inc. including Project Management & Coordination and Construction Services for Polk County Ditch 99 Outlet

Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 149. The cost of this phase is \$13,365.00 which includes assisting Polk County Highway Department in the inspection and supervision of the project construction. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page to approve the proposal for services for HDR Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$13,365.00. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme presented to the Board a projected cost breakdown for the Polk County Ditch 99 Outlet Stabilization Project, noting that the \$112,500 RRWMB Base Water Quality funding indicated in a previous discussion with Rob Sip, RRWMB, the projected Base funding available was \$173,333.00. Mr. Sip, the amount of total money available from the RRWMB was revised which resulted in the adjustment for each Watershed District to be \$112,500.00.

Administrator Jesme presented the Craig Stroot Land Rental agreement for fiscal years 2023 and 2024 for lands farmed within the Parnell Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 81. The contract is for renting 141.46 acres at a rate of \$30.00 per acre year. Which totals \$4,243.80 annually. After considerable discussion, a motion by Ose, seconded by Page to approve the 2023 and 2024 rental agreement with Craig Stroot. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a request from the West Polk SWCD for cost share for the installation of a grade stabilization structure located in Section 13 of Crookston Township, Polk County. The total cost of the project is \$8,800.00, with a 90% cost share request of \$7,920.00 from the District. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the cost share request in the amount of \$7,920.00 for the grade stabilization structure, from the District's 2023 Erosion Control Funds, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme made the Board aware of an upcoming Watershed Manager Orientation hosted by BWSR. There will be 2 locations and dates available. The first one is on Wednesday, July 12, 2023 in Detroit Lakes from 9-12 at the United State Fish & Wildlife Service Office and the second one is on Friday, July 28, 2023 in Warren from 9-12 at the Marshall County Courthouse. If you would like to attend, please let staff member Melissa Bushy know and she will register you.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 23037, Elliott Solheim, Crookston Township, Polk County; No. 23044, Strickler Ag, Euclid Township, Polk County; No. 23052, Paul Rutherford, Nesbit Township, Polk County; No. 23057, J-S Farmland GP, Lambert Township, Red Lake County; No. 23058, Pennington County, Sanders Township, Pennington County; No. 23059, Pennington County, Numedahl Township, Pennington County; No. 23060, Pennington County, Polk Centre Township, Pennington County; No. 23061, David Miller, Gervais Township, Red Lake County; No. 23063, Enbridge Entergy Limited Partnership, Lambert Township, Red Lake County; No. 23064, Ronald Audette, Norden Township, Pennington County; No. 23065, Wayne Vettleson, Equality Township, Red Lake County; No. 23066, Wayne Vettleson, Equality Township, Red Lake County; No. 23069, Pennington County, River Falls Township, Pennington County; No. 23070 Pennington County Highway Department, Kratka Township, Pennington County; No. 23073, Red Lake County Highway Department, Poplar River Township, Red Lake County; No. 23074, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; No. 23075, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; No. 23071, Pennington County Highway

Department, Kratka Township, Pennington County; No. 23072, Pennington County Highway Department, Silverton Township, Pennington County. Motion carried.

The Red Lake Watershed District will be hosting a bus tour that will tour many areas the RLWD has been working on in the last couple of years. This tour is for the RLWD Advisory Committee members and RLWD Board members on Monday, June 26, 2023. If interested, please let the office know by June 15, 2023.

Administrators Update:

- Red River Watershed Management Board - Due to the Minnesota Watershed Summer Tour being held June 20 and 21 in Albert Lea, the RRWMB meeting will be held June 27th in Ada. Tiedemann, Ose, Dwight, and Jesme will attend in person and if Audette wants to attend, she can as well.
- Mud River Project – On May 30th at 9:00 am, RLWD staff, James Graham, USFWS and HDR Engineering met with TRF Mayor, Brian Holmer and City Water Superintendent, Wayne Johnson to give them a short preview and discuss with them components of the Mud River Project. The intent of the meeting was to better explain the purpose of the meeting and to share some of the proposals that have been presented to the Planning Work Team. There will be a landowner meeting for this project on site at 1:00 pm today to give them a bird's eye view of some of the project's options.
- Houston Avenue – Corey Hanson and staff from the city of Crookston met with landowners who live along Houston Ave to discuss riverbank erosion and options that may be able to assist them for the long term. It became clear that a buyout of homes may be the best option. More discussion between the City of Crookston, State and landowners will be had.
- Upper/Lower Red Lake 1W1P – on June 1st at 10:00 am there was a steering committee meeting held for the development of the plan. This meeting was held in preparation of the Policy Committee meeting which will be held at 10:00 am July 27. Board Manager Dwight can give an update.
- Thief River 1W1P – There was a planning work team meeting held at 1:00 pm, June 5th via Teams. This meeting was held in preparation for the Advisory/Policy Committee meeting which will be held at 9:00 am June 12th at the District Board Room.
- Red Lake River 1W1P – on Tuesday June 6th there was a planning work group meeting to discuss projects and review the budget. This meeting was in preparation for the upcoming Policy Committee meeting scheduled for June 14th at 9:30 am.
- Drainage Workgroup Meeting – On June 8th at 11:00 am, the Drainage Workgroup will meet for the first time since the legislative session closed. Jesme stated he will have to leave this meeting early to attend the Mud River Landowner meeting. Adequate Outlet subcommittee meeting will be held June 26th in Alexandria. This meeting will be in conflict with the Advisory Committee tour which will be held on the same day.
- MN Watersheds Summer Tour – Jesme stated he will be leaving for the MN Watersheds Summer Tour June 19th for the events which will be held June 20th through June 21st. There is the entire Agenda and Itinerary included in your packets for your review.

Legal Counsel Sparby reviewed with the Board Case No. A22-1163 Red Lake Watershed District and Drainage Petitioners' (Appellees) joint response to petition for review of decision of the Court of Appeals. This is the response to a petition to the Supreme Court for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179. Question was posed to the timeline. Sparby thought the Supreme Court would review and respond in approximately 30-45 days.

Manager Dwight updated the Board on the Mud River Project. He stated that the landowners really appreciated the group looking at downstream impacts.

Manager Dwight stated that the next Steering Committee meeting for the Upper/Lower 1W1P will be held in September. He felt there should be a shoreline landowner representing the Upper Red Lake on the committee and recommended Administrator Jesme for this volunteer position once he retires from the District at the end of the month.

Manager Tiedemann reported that Polk County installed a new culvert on Polk County Ditch 66C downstream of Euclid East Impoundment. Tiedemann indicated that the County applied for State Bridge funds to replace the culvert.

During the Board update session, Manager Nelson reported draining issues he witnessed on Pennington County Ditch 96 and had a few questions for Administrator Jesme.

Manager Sorenson asked if mail or email notification was sent out for July 21 meeting in Fosston for the Turtle/Cross/Connection Lake meeting. Jesme would check with Tammy Audette on timing of the notice.

Manager Nelson inquired about the status of Chief Coulee. HDR Engineer, Nate Dalager, reported that the design is done and ready to apply for permits. It is anticipated that along with funding coming from grant from BSWR, there may be additional funding from Red Board water quality base funding, the City of TRF and RLWD may work out an agreement on how to split the balance. Discussion was held on other possible responsible parties. Dalager stated that there was public education needed.

Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to change the date of the next Board meeting from June 22, 2023 to June 29, 2023 due to conflicts with the MN Watersheds Summer Tour in Albert Lea, MN on June 20-21, 2023.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary