

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
May 11, 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, Tammy Audette, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

The Board reviewed the agenda. President Nelson requested the addition of Proposal from Houston Engineering for assistance in water quality sampling. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda with the addition. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the April 27, 2023, minutes. A motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to approve the April 27, 2023, Board meeting with corrections. Motion carried with Manager Dwight abstaining as he was not present at the last Board meeting.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated May 10, 2023. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the Financial Report dated May 10, 2023, as presented. Motion carried. Staff member Ann Joppru indicated that a total of \$500,000.00 in three separate Certificate of Deposits, for twelve months were purchased at Edward Jones at an interest rate of 5.02%.

The Board reviewed a Memorandum of Agreement from Houston Engineering, Inc., requesting the District's assistance in collecting water quality samples for an agricultural project that they are presently working on. Staff member Corey Hanson stated that he would collect a few extra bottles while collecting our regular water quality sampling route. Houston Engineering, Inc., would pay any associated costs for collection and invoicing. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Houston Engineering, Inc., for collection of water quality samples. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme discussed the structures on the Farnes Pool/Elm Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 52 and the Lost River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 17. Jesme recommended investigating the possibility of replacing the structure on the Lost River Pool, and a possible gate repair/replacement on the Farnes Pool/Elm Lake Project. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to authorize Houston Engineering, Inc., to prepare a proposal for the potential structure replacement on the Lost River Pool, RLWD Project 17, and gate repair/replacement on Farnes Pool/Elm Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 52 . Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that the Miller Dam, RLWD Project No. 50C, received damages during the 2023 Spring runoff. Jesme indicated that repairs to the project from the 2022 April/May rain event were completed in late 2022, and therefore did not allow for good

vegetation to take hold. It appears that additional dirt, and installation of rock to slow down the water that flows over the emergency spillway on its way to the main tributary, could help prevent future erosion. Motion by Page, seconded by Dwight, to authorize the District staff to proceed with the repairs to the Miller Dam, RLWD Project No. 50C.

Brian Opsahl, Brady Martz & Associates, P.A., presented the 2022 Annual Audit Report. After various questions by the Board, a motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the 2022 Annual Audit Report as presented.

Administrator Jesme reviewed two quotes from Brodin Comfort Systems: Option 1 calls for the installation of a Geostar 10-ton two stage water to water geothermal unit at a cost of \$26,556; the second option was for the installation of an NTI FTVN series high efficiency modulating natural gas boiler and two Bryant 114san central air conditioners at a cost of \$25,414. After considerable discussion by the Board, motion by Dwight, seconded by Page, to go with Option 2 for the installation of an NTI FTVN series high efficiency modulating natural gas boiler and two Bryant 114san central air conditioners at a cost of \$25,414. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed two funding resolutions with the State of Minnesota for the construction of the Fladeland Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AX and the Beich Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AY. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to authorize the signature on the Resolution for Rural and Farmstead Ring Levee with the State of Minnesota for the Fladeland Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AX and the Beich Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AY. Motion carried. Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., stated that the Plans and Specifications will be ready to submit quotes for construction of the ring dikes. Motion by Page, seconded by Tiedemann, to authorize the District Staff to proceed with advertising for quotes, and allow Administrator Jesme the authority to review the quotes and move forward with construction on a as needed basis. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that landowner Tom Winge requested the removal of trees and sediment from Ditch 8, RLWD Project No. 36. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Tiedemann, to authorize staff the authority to proceed with the repair, under statute for the removal of trees and potential sediment from Ditch 8, RLWD Project No. 36. Motion carried.

Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to withdraw RLWD Permit No. 23045, Tom Winge, Johnson Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Anderson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit; No. 23002 and 23003, Matt Knutson, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; No. 23006, Mike Gasper, Fanny Township, Polk County; No. 23014, Cindy Rissanen, Sanders Township, Pennington County; No. 23016, Blair Holthusen, River Falls Township, Pennington County; No. 23027, Brandon Maygra, Kertsonville Township, Polk County; No. 23031, Curt Johnson, Star Township, Pennington County; No. 23041, Steven Goodwin, Angus Township, Polk County; No. 23042, Todd & Debra Stanley, Lee Township, Beltrami County; and No. 23046, Tom Winge, Johnson Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

Administrators update:

- Jesme and Manager Ose will participate in the RRWMB meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Jesme will be attending the Drainage Workgroup (DWG) meeting, which is scheduled for May 22, 2023, in Alexandria, MN.
- There was a Mud River Project Work Team on May 5<sup>th</sup> at the RLWD office.
- A Thief River 1W1P Planning workgroup/steering committee meeting was held on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The meeting was virtual, and projects are in the queue and there is a timeline to get completed. There is \$61,831 left in the 2020 WBIF grant which was extended to December 2023.
- Jesme and Staff members Audette, Jopru, and Olson attended the FEMA Recovery Transition meeting which closes out the FEMA obligation of the flood damages from 2022. The final phase of the grant management has been turned over to the State of Minnesota for the final phase which includes the projects not yet completed.
- Jesme and Audette attended the Pennington County Annual Township meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion was held amongst the Board and Administrator Jesme, regarding the transition of Jesme's retirement and replacement of his position by Staff member Tammy Audette. President Nelson referred to the fact Audette is not the Administrator until July 1<sup>st</sup> but there may be times signatures may be required such as an authorized signer on bank accounts, credits cards, etc. for the District. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Dwight, to authorize adding Assistant Administrator Tammy Audette as an authorized signer for District bank accounts, credits cards and authorize Audette to sign other documents typically signed by Administrator Jesme on an as needed basis. Motion carried.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that he has not received official documentation from the District court regarding the Appeal on the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179.

Manager Anderson referred to a ditch system in Clearwater County that has a beaver dam located within the ditch. District staff will contact the landowner.

Manager Page inquired on the status of the Baird Beyer Dam, RLWD Project No. 50. Administrator Jesme stated that staff will review the site and report back to the Board.

Manager Ose stated that the Red River Basin Commission will be holding a tour in Canada this summer. Ose represents the RRWMB on the Red River Basin Commission.

Manager Page inquired on Ditch 10, RLWD Project No. 161, and how it withstood the Spring thaw. Administrator Jesme stated that minor repairs will be needed to the project.

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



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LeRoy Ose, Secretary