

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
October 12, 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.

Managers present: Dale M. Nelson, LeRoy Ose, Gene Tiedemann, Terry Sorenson, Allan Page, Brian Dwight and Tom Anderson. Staff Present: Myron Jesme, Tony Olson, Nate Koland and Erick Huseth and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

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 with the additional agenda item of Miller Dam. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the September 28, 2023, minutes. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the September 28, 2023, Board meeting minutes with the correction in spelling. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated October 11, 2023. Discussion was had to omit check number 40935 in the amount of \$8,995.00 due to this item being added on the agenda. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve the Financial Report dated October 11, 2023, omitting check number 40935 which will be covered later in the meeting. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed payment to DBS Backhoe & Excavation, LLC for Miller Dam Project 50C, in the amount of \$8,995.00. It was shared that this project was completed late 2022 but due to erosion from spring runoff, this repair was required. Motion by Page, seconded by Tiedemann to approve payment in the amount of \$8,995.00 to DBS Backhoe & Excavation, LLC. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the computer equipment update for Water Quality Coordinator and Engineering Specialist for the purchase of two laptops from Corporate Technologies in the amount of \$5,829.5. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the purchase of two computers from Corporate Technologies. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the 2024 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Grant Agreement for the Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149 in the amount of \$1,700,439.00. It was shared that this is about a \$300,000 increase in funding for this watershed, which is welcomed due to the large list of projects already being developed. Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to approve the 2024 WBIF for the Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed information provided by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) concerning an additional \$7,750,000 available from the FY22-23 WBIF Supplemental Funds Request, available through the competitive grant option. It was determined that due to a large

project load on the Red Lake River 1W1P, this may be an avenue to get additional funding for this watershed.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 1 to Quality Spray Foam LLC DBA Anderson Excavating for the Thief River Streambank Project, Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A-Stock Site in the amount of \$46,370.45. Staff member, Nate Koland, gave an update on the project and the location of this project. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann to approve Pay Estimate No. 1 in the amount of \$46,370.45. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Service Agreement by Houston Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$24,060.00 to review and design three additional sites for streambank stabilization in Section 34, Excel Township, Marshall County, as part of the Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A. Engineer Nordby better defined the sites that were identified in a past geomorphology study completed by District and MnDNR staff. It was noted that these sites are downstream of State Ditch (SD) No.83, RLWD Project No. 14 and will include MnDNR permitting which is not required when working within SD #83. Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to approve Houston Engineering, Inc. Service Agreement in the amount of \$24,060.00. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a change order request from Natural Resource Conservation Service Engineer, Scott A Smith, for Thibert Dam, RLWD Project No. 50G, to add hydro mulch for the embankment of the project due to material delays being delivered to the site by True North Steel. Considerable discussion was had about how these delays have caused issues with the contractor's timeline, but also the additional cost to the project. Motion by Page, seconded by Anderson, to have a change order submitted to Olson Construction to add hydro mulch to the contract. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Red Lake SWCD cost share request for the David Bourque Grade Stabilization Project. Total estimated project cost is \$15,469.00. Project cost breakdown is 75% being funded by BWSR Clean Water funding with local match of \$3,867.25. The Red Lake SWCD request to the District is \$2,800 with landowner cost share totaling \$1,067.25. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page to cost share \$2,800.00, with funds from the Clearwater River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149B. Motion carried.

Staff member Tony Olson addressed RLWD Permit Nos. 23169 & 23170 for Howard & Janet Harzke Irrevocable Trust, 23187 & 23188 for Darrin Glass, and 23189 & 23190 for Earl Pederson. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page to table said permits until the next board meeting on October 26, 2023. Motion carried.

Staff member Tony Olson addressed what appears to be a permit violation in Section 10, Lessor Township, Polk County. It was noted that there has been no complaint filed with the District at this point but there is also no permit on file for this work. After considerable discussion, there was a motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to contact Lessor Township to hear their concerns with the unpermitted work. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 23177, Enbridge Energy, Emardville Township, Red Lake County; No. 23178, Jeremiah Johnson, Emardville Township, Red Lake County; No. 23180, Marjorie Bakke, Cedar Township, Marshall County; No. 23181, John Erickson, Polk Centre Township, Pennington County; No. 23182, Jacob Malwitz, Emardville Township, Red Lake County; No. 23183, Gary Rahier, Equality Township, Red Lake County; No. 23184, Pennington County, Rocksbury Township, Pennington County; No. 23185, Charlie Johnson, Equality Township, Pennington County; No. 23186, Steve & Darlene Bergman, Greenwood Township, Clearwater County; No. 23191, Shayne Munter, Hill River Township, Polk County; No. 23192, Pennington County, Hickory Township, Pennington County; and No. 23194, Randy Myhre, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County. Motion carried.

#### Administrator's Report:

**Pine Lake:** Staff member Tony Olson has submitted the aeration permit with the MnDNR for Pine Lake.

**Wild Rice Allocation:** Due to low flows in the Clearwater River, District staff have been working with the area wild rice growers to determine the appropriate share of water, while keeping the river level above 36 cubic feet per second (cfs). Allocation begins once the river level is below 72 cfs at Plummer. Staff member Nate Koland is being trained in the process.

**River Watch Kickoff:** The District office hosted the River Watch Kickoff on September 29<sup>th</sup>. There were upwards of 60 kids in attendance at the event. Although we did receive heavy rain, all students were able to canoe with the crew from Wilderness Inquiry in their 10-person canoes!

**Pennington County Road 62:** District staff met with Nate Dalager and Mike Flaagan regarding the culverts, drainage and maintenance issues along Pennington County Road 62. Dalager will present a cost estimate to the District in the near future.

**Project Work Teams:** Administrator Audette will participate in Steering Committee meetings on October 13<sup>th</sup> for both the Mud River Project and the Turtle Cross Connection Project.

**Staff Update:** Elaine Rychlock will begin employment with the District on Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Polk County Ditch 99 Bank Stabilization:** Construction is proceeding on the outlet of Polk County Ditch 99 Bank Stabilization. A key trench after the first rock drop will be added to the project cost at an approximate cost of \$1,700, which could be possibly covered through the Red Lake River 1W1P. This project is being funded by the District, RRWMB, Polk County, and other various sources.

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Legal Counsel Sparby updated the Board concerning the completion of Pine Lake FDR Projects permanent and temporary easements. Sparby also touched on the fact he has discussed with Administrator Audette concerning the need for Houle Excavating LLC concerning proper signature authorizations on the bid documents.

Sparby also touched on the Improvement to County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179 Brief which is due October 16<sup>th</sup>.

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 large initial "L".

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LeRoy Ose, Secretary