

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
September 28, 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, and Tom Anderson. Managers absent: Brian Dwight. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Corey Hanson, Lindsey Kallis, Tony Olson, Nate Koland, Melissa Bushy and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

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 with the addition of Thibert Dam. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the September 14, 2023, minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the September 14, 2023, Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated September 26, 2023. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve the Financial Report dated September 26, 2023, as presented. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette provided an update on the 2024 RLWD Health Insurance Renewal. After meeting with North Risk Partners, we were told we will see a 6.3% increase in our health insurance premiums for 2024. There will be no increase in dental insurance premiums for 2024.

Administrator Audette reviewed the Garden Valley Technologies Discounted Capital Credit Buyout Offer. A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to act on the Garden Valley Technologies Discounted Credit Buyout Offer on October 9, 2023. Motion carried.

Staff Member Tony Olson stated that repairs to the Miller Dam, RLWD Project No. 50C have been completed.

Administrator Audette stated that the contractor for the replacement of the outlet structure on the Thibert Dam, RLWD Project No. 50G, is having issues receiving the correct riser pipe from True North Steel. District and NRCS staff are concerned about completion of the project prior to freezing as the project is exposed. Staff member Nate Koland will work with the contractor on a pay estimate.

The Board reviewed two funding resolutions with the State of Minnesota for the construction of the Cardinal Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129BB and the Payment Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129BC. Motion by Page, seconded by Tiedemann, to authorize the signature of the Administrator on the Resolution for Rural and Farmstead Ring Levee with the State of Minnesota for the Cardinal Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129BB. Motion carried. A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to authorize the signature of the Administrator

on the Resolution for Rural and Farmstead Ring Levee with the State of Minnesota for the Payment Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129BC. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed the quote received from Corporate Technologies for the purchase of Windows Server 2022 Licensing in the amount of \$2,653.48. Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the purchase. Motion carried. Audette indicated that the cost includes an estimated cost for Professional Services.

Administrator Audette reviewed the quote received from Corporate Technologies for the purchase of 3 YR Meraki Renewal in the amount of \$2,553.92. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Page, to approve the purchase. Motion carried. Audette indicated that the cost includes an estimated cost for Professional Services.

At 9:30 a.m., President Nelson stated that the bid opening for the construction of the Pine Lake Project Phase II Bridge Replacement Project, RLWD Project No. 26B would be conducted. Legal Counsel Sparby noted the time and that no further bid proposals would be accepted after the 9:30 a.m. bid submittal deadline. Bids were opened and bid amounts were publicly announced and are on file at the District office. The following bids were received:

Houle Excavating LLC, Little Falls, MN, \$395,023;
Anderson Excavating, Thief River Falls, MN, \$449,567.91;
Gladen Construction Inc, Laporte, MN, \$400,913.40;
Knife River Materials, Bemidji, MN, \$590,472.94;
Triple D Construction & Leasing Inc, Plummer, MN, \$504,370;
Davidson Construction Inc, Newfolden, MN, \$422,542;
Landwehr Construction, St. Cloud, MN, \$423,684.90; and
Tunheim Corporation, Fargo, ND, \$516,463.

Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote to accept the apparent low bid from Houle Excavating LLC, in the amount of \$395,023.00 for construction of the Pine Lake Project-Phase II Bridge Replacement Project, RLWD Project No. 26B, contingent upon the audit by staff and review of the bids by Legal Counsel Sparby, District staff, and Project Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc.

Staff member Tony Olson addressed RLWD Permit No's. 23139 – 23143 from the Polk County Highway Department. The Board previously denied all five permits at the September 14, 2023, Board meeting. After reviewing case study information received from Legal Counsel Sparby and Attorney John Kolb and discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to approve Permit No.'s 23139 – 23143, Polk County Highway Department. Motion carried.

Staff member Tony Olson addressed RLWD Permit No. 23166. After further discussion, a motion was made by Ose, seconded by Anderson, to table RLWD Permit No. 23166. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Page, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 23163, Polk County Highway Department, King Township, Polk County; No. 23171, Pam Paradis, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; No. 23173, Dale Nelson, Rocksbury Township, Pennington County; and No. 23174, Don Strickler, Euclid Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette shared the upcoming dates for the 41st Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference. The conference will be held January 16-18, 2024, in Fargo, ND. Board members who are interested in attending, please let staff member Bushy know.

Administrator Audette discussed the November 2023 board meeting dates – November 9 & November 23. November 23 is Thanksgiving Day. After much discussion on choosing a new date for the second meeting in November, a motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Anderson to change the November 23 board meeting date to November 20, 2023. Motion carried with Managers Ose and Sorenson opposed.

Administrator Audette discussed the dates for the upcoming 2023 Minnesota Watersheds Annual Conference & Trade Show. The conference will be held November 28 – December 1, 2023, in Alexandria, MN at Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center. The RLWD staff is planning to attend. Any board members who wish to attend, please let staff member Bushy know.

Administrator Audette stated that Elaine Rychlock has accepted the position as Accounting Officer. Audette indicated that Rychlock's salary will start at Level 8 of the 2023 District salary structure for Accounting Officer. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve the hiring of Elaine Rychlock as Accounting Officer, including pay and benefits at Level 8 of the 2023 District salary structure for Accounting Officer. Motion carried.

Administrator's Report:

Farmes Pool-Elm Lake and Lost River Pool Structures: Staff member Nate Koland and staff from Houston Engineering inspected the Farmes Pool-Elm Lake structure early this week. The screw gate on the structure appears to have eroded severely. An Engineer from Houston Engineering's office in Fargo will inspect the Lost River Pool later next week, after the water elevations have dropped to an acceptable level. Houston Engineering will submit their findings and recommendations after the final inspection.

Upper/Lower Red Lake 1W1P: Staff members Tammy Audette, Corey Hanson, and Managers Dwight and Anderson participated in the Upper/Lower Red Lake 1W1P Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting in Red Lake on September 26th.

Maple, Badger, and Mitchell Lakes Outlet Structures: Manager Terry Sorenson, Myron Jesme, Tony Nordby and Tammy Audette participated in a meeting with staff from the Polk County Highway Department, MnDNR and members of the Maple Lake Association, regarding potential changes to the outlet structures of the Maple, Badger and Mitchell Lakes. The Maple

Lake Association will submit a survey to their landowners regarding replacement of the outlet structure. More information to follow.

RRWMB meeting: Tammy Audette attended the RRWMB meeting held in Ada on September 19th.

Ring Dikes: Staff member Nate Koland gave a tour of the Beich and Fladeland Ring Dike to Andrew Graham, with the MnDNR. Mr. Graham was pleased with both projects.

Pine Lake: The District was contacted by Andrew Graham with the MnDNR regarding taking photos of the Pine Lake Dam with the fall colors. Staff member Erick Huseth gave the staff from MnDNR a tour of the project.

Manager Tiedemann questioned the placement of a berm on the northwest corner of the exterior ditch of the Parnell Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 81, where water tends to overtop the township road during larger events. District staff will work with Manager Tiedemann to rectify the situation.

Manager Nelson questioned moving forward with maintenance concerns along Pennington County Road 62 as it relates to the past construction of Ditch 14, RLWD Project No. 171 and the Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 171A. Administrator Audette will set up a meeting with Pennington County to discuss the issue and report back to the Board.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary