

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
August 8, 2024

President, Gene Tiedemann, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District Office, Thief River Falls, MN.

Managers Present: Gene Tiedemann, Terry Sorenson, Brian Dwight, LeRoy Ose, Grant Nelson, and Allan Page. Managers Absent: Tom Anderson. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Elaine Rychlock, Nate Koland, Tony Olson, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

The Board reviewed the July 25, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Nelson, to approve the July 25, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated August 7, 2024. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve the Financial Report dated August 7, 2024. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the need for side water inlets (SWI) on the Moose River/JD 21 project downstream of the Moose River Impoundment. Staff member Nate Koland stated that he has spoken with four landowners along the Moose River/JD 21 project who all expressed interest in SWI installations. Koland discussed the release of water from the impoundment and monitoring of downstream conditions. Engineer, Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering discussed the Technical Memorandum he prepared for District through the Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A, identifying areas in need of SWI's and rock riffle structures to help prevent erosion and head cutting of the system, which is also a joint ditch between Beltrami and Marshall County. Audette stated that Beltrami County has received an estimate to complete the engineering of the two farthest downstream rock riffles. Manager Dwight stated that this area has the potential for restoration of oxbows and erosion control projects, along with addressing the concerns of the JD 21 Joint Board as it relates to road safety. It was the consensus of the Board to schedule a meeting with various local governmental units for further discussion.

Troy Taggart, Taggart Construction appeared before the Board for discussion on repairs to the Knutson Dam, RLWD Project No. 50F. The District replaced the structure in 2022, with Taggart completing the work. Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., stated that in the Spring of 2024 erosion occurred along the riser pipe of the structure. Nordby discussed the backfilling and packing of soil around the structure. Taggart referred to various soil types and moisture in the soil. Discussion was held on the potential of adding a concrete base for stability and who would pay for costs to repair the structure. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Ose, to split the cost of repairs 50/50, with the understanding that the District would pay the cost for any additional items not in the current contract with Taggart Construction for the Knutson Dam Project, RLWD Project No 50F. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette stated that as part of the Clearwater River 1W1P, the District is working on the Clearwater River Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 149B. Engineer, Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., discussed the project and work completed previously in the area. District staff recently completed additional surveying, with Nordby working on a

preliminary design and cost estimate. Audette stated that the grant application for the project is due on August 22, 2024, with a 10% match required by the District if the grant is awarded. Additional information will be presented at the August 22, 2024 Board meeting.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 1 to Anderson Excavating for materials on-hand for replacement of the sluice gate on the Elm Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 144A, in the amount of \$17,072.48. Motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to approve Pay Estimate No. 1 to Anderson Excavating in the amount of \$17,072.48 for materials on hand at the Elm Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 144A. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette provided an update on the Payment Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129BC, and the Cardinal Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129BB.

Administrator Audette provided an update on the Thief River Area/State Ditch 83 Flooding Concerns Project Team Meeting that met on July 31, 2024. Good discussion was had. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 16, 2024.

Administrator Audette reviewed the letter received from the Beltrami SWCD. The Beltrami SWCD and planning partners request public comment on the proposed Upper/Lower Red Lake Comprehensive Watershed Plan. Written comments will be accepted until September 30, 2024, at 4:30 pm.

Administrator Audette discussed the Burnham Creek Channel, RLWD Project No. 43B. The ditch improvement was completed in 1989, with no major repairs since then. Audette stated that there is a considerable sediment buildup and blocked culverts, recommending that District staff complete a survey to determine the amount of sediment that needs to be removed. A motion was made by Page, seconded by Sorenson, to approve a survey of the Burnham Creek Channel, RLWD Project No. 43B, to determine the appropriate actions required. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette spoke about Ditch 11, RLWD Project No. 166. Landowners notified the District that the ditch is draining slower than originally constructed, especially on the upper end. The original Polk County Ditch constructed in 1903, improved in 2006, is 6.36 miles in length, and no major repairs have been done since construction. District staff had noted that the outlet needs to have sediment removed prior to calls from landowners. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Ose, to approve surveying the Ditch 11, RLWD Project No. 166 system to determine the appropriate actions required. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Page, to approve the withdrawal of RLWD Permit No. 24098, Esther Township, Polk County, as requested. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Page, seconded by Dwight, to approve tabling RLWD Permit No. 24063, Equality Township, Red Lake County, to allow for further review by District staff. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 24024, Knute Knutson, Red Lake Falls Township, Red Lake County; No. 24067, Stan Tvedt, Emardville Township, Red Lake County; No. 24068, Jackson Faulk, Mayfield Township, Pennington County; No. 24084, Earl Pederson, Garnes Township, Red Lake County; No. 24085, Ronald Hegge, Garnes Township, Red Lake County; No. 24092, USFWS, Eddy Township, Clearwater County; No. 24086, Scott Tersteeg, Badger Township, Polk County; No. 24093, USFWS, Eddy Township, Clearwater County; 24094, USFWS, Eddy Township, Clearwater County; No. 24096, USFWS, Sinclair Township, Clearwater County; No. 24095, Donald Stenberg, North Garnes Township, Red Lake County; and No. 24100, Knute Knutson, Red Lake Falls Township, Red Lake County. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette stated that the original agreement with retired Administrator, Myron Jesme, for assistance during the transition period with Administrator Audette, had expired after one year. Audette requested approval for assistance from Jesme on an as-needed basis at the same rate of \$75.00 per hour, noting that the Board will be kept informed as to the various needs. Audette stated that Jesme requested that payment be made as previously done and that the beginning of 2025 be viewed as a Professional Consulting Contract. Motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to approve assistance on an as-needed consulting basis with Jesme, and re-evaluate as of January 1, 2025. Motion carried.

The MN Watersheds Annual Event & Trade Show will be held December 2-6, 2024, at Grand View Lodge in Nisswa, MN. Staff member Bushy is checking into lodging accommodations and other details. She will email the board/staff with the information.

Administrators Update:

- **Moose River Impoundment Update:** Due to heavy rainfall in the Grygla/Moose River area, both pools of the Moose River Impoundment were closed on Friday, July 26th at 9:00 p.m. Gates were opened on August 5th:
 - *South Pool: 2 – 36” gates fully open – current pool elevation 1216.15’ (+2.5’ above objective). Approximately 274 cfs release.
 - *North Pool: 1-36” gate $\frac{3}{4}$ open – current pool elevation 1213.74’ (+2.0’ above objective). Approximately 119 cfs release.
- **Lost River Pool Structure:** Audette participated in a meeting regarding the Lost River Pool Structure with Tony Nordby and staff from the MnDNR (Doug Franke and Matt Olson). Olson reviewed various structure designs with the group. The next meeting will be held in early September.
- **RRWMB:** Audette plans to attend the RRWMB meeting on August 20th, in Ada. Included in the packet are comments that the RRWMB drafted regarding the WCA Rulemaking. Also included was an email from Rob Sip and Jamie Beyer (Boise de Sioux WD) that contained some good comments.
- **RLWD Newsletter:** The June 2024 RLWD Newsletter was included in the packet.

Red Lake Watershed District

August 8, 2024

Page 4 of 4

Manager Ose shared pictures of the major rain event on July 26, 2024, in Grygla, MN.

The Board met in Executive Session. After reconvening to the regular meeting, a motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Nelson to approve the donation of sick leave policy, which will be added to the District's Personnel Policy. Motion carried.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "LeRoy Ose". The signature is written in a cursive style.

LeRoy Ose, Secretary