

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
February 22, 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.

Present: Managers: Gene Tiedemann, Tom Anderson, Brian Dwight, LeRoy Ose, Grant Nelson, and Allan Page. Absent: Terry Sorenson. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Elaine Rychlock, Nate Koland, Erick Huseth, Lindsey Kallis.

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Anderson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the February 22, 2024, agenda as presented. Motion carried.

A request to appear was made by Marshall County resident, Darrold Rodahl.

The Board reviewed the February 8, 2024, minutes. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Nelson, to approve the February 8, 2024, board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated February 21, 2024. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Page, to approve the Financial Report dated February 21, 2024, as presented. Motion carried.

Darrold Rodahl shared his concerns and presented landowner signatures regarding the proposed Mud River Project, RLWD Project No. 180C, without first addressing downstream flooding issues. Rodahl requested a meeting with the District, for discussion on possible flooding solutions along State Ditch 83, RLWD Project No. 14. After discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Ose, to authorize a meeting with Rodahl and delegates from the landowners, along with Manager Ose, Administrator Audette, and Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc. Motion carried. Audette will work with those involved to determine a meeting date.

Administrator Audette reviewed the IRS mileage rate increase for 2024. The IRS mileage rate increased to 67 cents a mile, up 1.5 cents from 2023.

Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to authorize Administrator Audette the authority to sign the Amended 2022 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Grants to include the Supplemental Funds for the Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149; and the Clearwater River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149B. Motion carried.

Manager Nelson discussed how the MN Dept of Agriculture (MDA) and local partners currently operate fourteen weather stations in the Minnesota Ag Weather Network (MAWN). This network provides local ag weather information and is integrated into the North Dakota Ag Weather Network (NDAWN). Nelson inquired if the District would allow the installation of a weather station near the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176. Motion by Page,

seconded by Ose, to approve District staff and Manager Nelson to work with the MDA to determine if a site near the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176, would be a viable site. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette and Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., stated that the RRWMB approved funding in the amount of \$214,400 for the Chief's Coulee Project, RLWD Project No. 46S. This amount was determined to be a percentage of the Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) portion of the project. Audette stated that she had contacted Matt Bauman, MnDNR, who recently replaced Pat Lynch, to inquire if the MnDNR had any potential funding for the project. Motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to approve an application to the MnDNR for funding in the amount of \$106,000 for the Chief's Coulee Project, RLWD Project No. 46. Motion carried.

Rob Sip, Executive Director for the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) presented an update on RRWMB activities. Sip discussed the rollout of LiDAR; budgetary and financial information along with annual programs funded and current funding commitments by the RRWMB in 2024; and legislative efforts in 2024. Sip reminded the Board that the RRWMB/FDRWG March Conference will be held March 19-20th, in Moorhead.

Administrator Audette shared that Lauren Palmer has been hired to be our summer intern for 2024. She will start mid-May and work with us through August.

Administrator Audette discussed the possibility of getting a new logo design for the RLWD. Audette shared we need a new website as well as Houston Engineering would like to discontinue hosting our website.

Administrator Audette reviewed a financial donation request from the West Polk SWCD for the Area I Envirothon to be held on May 1, 2024, at Rydell Refuge. Motion by Page, seconded by Anderson, to approve the maximum donation request of \$300 to the West Polk SWCD for the Area 1 Envirothon. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed permits for approval. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve the following permits with conditions as stated on the permit: No. 24-003, Ogden Farder Jr., Badger Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

Administrators Update:

- **PRAP:** I was informed by BWSR employees, Matt Fischer and Don Bajumpaa that BWSR plans to complete a PRAP study on the District along with the Red Lake River 1W1P. I have an informational meeting scheduled for March 4th with Don. More information to follow.
- **RRWMB:** I attended the RRWMB meeting on February 20th in Ada. Discussion on culvert inventory was held at the meeting. More information to follow on this topic.
- **Legislative Update:** Included in the packet is a Legislative Update and information from Tom Gile regarding Legislative revisions to tiling requirements for land sales.
- **District Audit:** The RLWD Audit will be held the week of March 4th.

- **River Watch Forum:** Just a reminder that the River Watch Forum will be held on February 27 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks.
- **Vehicle Maintenance:** Just a heads up that the Traverse needs new tires at a cost of \$1,300. Staff have scheduled an appointment for February 29th.
- **Vacation:** I will be on vacation starting February 23rd through March 1st, returning to the office on March 4th. I am accessible by phone/email if any questions arise while I am gone.
- **Wild Rice Allocation:** District staff were notified that one wild rice grower had begun pumping water from the Clearwater River. With ice conditions, District staff will need to stream gage to get an accurate amount of water. The District may need to look at purchase of newer stream gaging equipment.

Legal Counsel Sparby shared that the Oral Argument to the Supreme Court for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179, is scheduled for March 5, 2024.

Manager Dwight stated that there is legislation that would turn the “Keep It Clean” campaign over to the MnDNR.

Manager Page reported on the meeting held with Jess Determan, Field Drainage, Inc.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary