

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
January 25, 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, Terry Sorenson, Tom Anderson, Brian Dwight, LeRoy Ose, Grant Nelson, and Allan Page. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Elaine Rychlock, Erick Huseh, Nate Koland, Tony Olson, Corey Hanson, Lindsey Kallis, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Page, seconded by Sorenson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the January 11, 2024, board meeting minutes, as well as the January 16, 2024, board meeting minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the January 11, 2024, board meeting minutes, and the January 16, 2024, board meeting minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated January 24, 2024. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Nelson, to approve the Financial Report dated January 24, 2024. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed the updates to the Data Request Form that is on our website. Tammy Audette is now listed as the Responsible Authority and Melissa Bushy is listed as our Data Practices Compliance Official. Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to approve the revisions to the Data Request form as presented. Motion carried.

Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation District staff member, Aly Bergstrom, was present via Zoom to present to the board their request for funding in the Forest Stewardship Plan Cost-Share. Ms. Bergstrom shared that there are carryover funds from 2023 in the amount of \$1,632.92 from 2023 RLWD contribution to be used in the 2024 Forest Stewardship Program. The Beltrami SWCD is requesting an additional \$4,000 from the RLWD to assist Beltrami County landowners within the Red Lake Watershed District in 2024. The additional \$4,000 would bring the total amount available for cost-share to \$5,632.92. This would equate to approximately 100 stewardship acres. Motion by Page, seconded by Dwight, to approve the request of the Beltrami SWCD for \$4,000 to assist in the 2024 Forest Stewardship Plan cost-share. Motion carried.

HDR Engineering staff member, Nate Dalager, reviewed the preliminary design proposal for the Mud River Project, RLWD Project No. 180C. The design fee estimates for the completion of Tasks 1 through 4 is \$190,550, which will be performed on a time and materials not-to-exceed basis. Discussion occurred. A motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Ose to table the preliminary design proposal and for Administrator Audette to reach out to Jim Graham, USFWS, to ask him to appear before the board regarding funding for the Mud River Project, RLWD Project No. 180C. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette provided an update to the board on RRWMB funding for RLWD Project No. 46S, Chief's Coulee. Audette shared this has been sent to RRWMB Technical Advisory Committee for review and will then be brought back to the RRWMB in February.

Administrator Audette discussed the RLWD Wild Rice Allocation Program, RLWD Project No. 45, stating that Houston Engineering, Inc. assisted in the calibration of the wild rice pumps, which is needed as part of the Wild Rice Allocation Program. A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to coordinate with Houston Engineering, Inc. for assistance in calibration of the grower's pumps for the Wild Rice Allocation Program, RLWD Project No. 45. Motion carried.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc. reviewed the Channel Stability Memo relating to Judicial Ditch 13 and the outlet of the Moose River Project, RLWD Project No. 13. Audette stated that although this project is not in the priority area of the Thief River 1W1P, the Policy Committee is very interested in this project. Staff member, Corey Hanson, will present the memo to the Thief River 1W1P committee.

Staff member, Tony Olson, reviewed the letter that was sent to Robert Mayer related to non-permitted diking activity in Polk County, Section 15, Badger Township.

Staff member, Tony Olson, reviewed the letter that was sent to Aaron Miller related to a permit violation located in Pennington County, Section 18, Star Township.

Administrator Audette discussed posting for the position of Summer College Intern at the RLWD office. The purpose would be to assist full-time staff with various district activities and projects. A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve posting for the position of Summer College Intern. Motion carried.

Administrator's Update:

- **Houston Avenue:** District staff finished surveying the Houston Avenue project located in Crookston and will turn their survey data over to Houston Engineering. More information to follow.
- **Drainage Coordination Discussion:** Included in the packet is information on the Drainage Coordination discussion that Audette participated in with Rob Sip, RRWMB, and other administrators throughout the RRWMB.
- **BWSR Drainage Work Group:** Included in the packet is information submitted to BWSR on behalf of the Drainage Work Group.
- **Cardinal Ring Dike:** The District received the landowners' cost share on the Cardinal Ring Dike. Staff will proceed with obtaining quotes for construction.
- **RRWMB:** Included in the packet is information from Rob Sip, RRWMB, regarding the 2024 Legislative session.
- **Pine Lake:** Due to the mild winter, lake levels at Pine Lake were above winter target elevation (winter target elevation is 1282.5). District staff pulled one stoplog on December 15th as the lake level was at 1282.8 and climbing. Staff will reinstall when

elevations are at or below winter elevations. As of January 22, 2024, the elevation was 1282.55.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated we have filed our Appeal Brief with the Supreme Court for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179, and that the Amicus Brief has been filed as well. Dates have yet to be set for the time and location of oral arguments before the Supreme Court.

A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, 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 horizontal line underneath the name.

LeRoy Ose, Secretary