

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
July 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.

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

The Board reviewed the agenda. Administrator Audette asked to add an item to the agenda. The 2024 BWSR Estimated Market Values for Watershed Districts was added to the agenda. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Dwight, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda with addition. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the July 11, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the July 11, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

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

A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Nelson, that Dakota Heritage Bank in Red Lake Falls be designated as a depository for the RLWD. Motion carried.

At 9:30 a.m., President Gene Tiedemann recessed the general meeting and called the hearing to order for the Petition for Use of Red Lake Watershed District Project No. 2, Red Lake River Drainage System as an Outlet submitted by Tyler, Ryan, and Quinten Nelson. Staff member Tony Olson stated that the landowners submitted a permit to tile an area that did not pay benefits into RLWD Project No. 2. Landowners were recently informed of a potential ditch improvement project that will alleviate the need to petition the RLWD Project No. 2 system. After much discussion, landowner Tyler Nelson officially withdrew his petition request. The hearing was adjourned.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc. presented the Engineers Report for the Turtle Connection and Cross Lake Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 114. After fielding questions by the Board, motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Engineer's Report for the Turtle Connection and Cross Lake Flood Damage Reduction Project.

The Board reviewed a request for payment from the West Polk SWCD for Erosion Control Funds, RLWD Project No. 164 that had previously been approved in 2021. Audette stated that the West Polk SWCD determined that they had not billed the District for the two projects; the Sorenson project in the amount of \$7,790.25 and the BTN Farms, Inc. project, in the amount of \$5,195.25, which had been completed. It was the consensus of the Board, to submit payment to the West Polk SWCD on the previously approved projects.

Administrator Audette presented the Carol Zammert CRP revision and signature authority for the District Farm Service Agency is requesting documentation as to the authority for signature on CRP contracts on behalf of the District. Motion by Sorenson, seconded Ose, to authorize Administrator Tammy Audette the authority to sign necessary documents related to said CRP contracts on behalf of the District. Motion carried.

At their July 16, 2024 meeting, the RRWMB set their 2025 Red River Levy at 75 percent (0.0003627).

The Board reviewed the Minnesota Watersheds' 2024 Resolutions Process.

Staff member, Tony Olson, discussed RLWD Permit No. 24075 in Section 18, Louisville Township, Red Lake County. The recommendation was to approve the tabled permit. A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve RLWD permit No. 24075. Motion carried.

Staff member, Tony Olson, discussed RLWD Permit No. 23208 in Section 1, Bygland Township, and Section 6, Fisher Township, Red Lake County. The recommendation was to grant the permit extension request. A motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Anderson, to approve the permit extension request for RLWD permit no. 23208. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the following permits with conditions as stated on the permits: No. 24074, JTO Inc, Excel Township, Marshall County; No. 24077, Everett Reitmeier, Fairfax Township, Polk County; No. 24079, Kevin Sanders, Grand Plain Township, Marshall County; No. 24080, Kevin Sanders, Cloverleaf Township, Marshall County; No. 24087, Marshall County Highway Dept, Eckvoll Township, Marshall County; and No. 24088, Enbridge Energy, Leon Township, Clearwater County. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed the 2024 Wetland Conservation Act Statute Changes handout.

Administrator Audette reviewed the Upper/Lower Red Lake 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149B Timeline to Completion document.

A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to approve the battery replacement of HOBODissolved Oxygen loggers Water Quality Equipment. Motion carried.

Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to authorize the purchase amount limit for Administrator Audette to be set at \$2,500, without Board approval. Motion carried. Audette stated that she would keep the Board informed of purchases made.

Administrator Audette reviewed the BWSR 2024 Estimated Taxable Market Values for Watershed Districts. This is the taxes payable 2024 estimated & taxable market values for Watershed Districts in Minnesota.

The Proposed 2025 Budget and Salary recommendations and General Fund Budget was presented by Administrator Audette. Audette presented a worksheet of descriptions of what expense is included in each line item of the budget. The proposed salaries are based on employee steps, along with the 3.5% COLA for each employee, and 10% for the 2025 salary structure adjustments. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the proposed 2025 General Fund Budget, in the amount of \$251,573.50, and set the 2025 General Fund Budget hearing for 9:15 a.m. on Thursday, August 22, 2024, at the Red Lake Watershed District office. Motion carried.

### **Administrators Update:**

- **RRWMB:** Included in the packet was a letter from the RRWMB to the Clean Water Council regarding Clean Water Funds.
- **DNR Well Interference Letters:** Included in the packet was a Well Interference Investigation Report for the Noyes Property located in Poplar River Township, Red Lake County.
- **RRWMB Administrators Meeting:** On Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, Audette participated in the RRWMB Administrators meeting. The agenda with notes from the meeting were included in the packet.
- **RLWD Scholarships:** Audette sent an email to Matt Fischer, BWSR regarding the potential of the District offering a scholarship to Natural Resource students. Mr. Fischer stated that he is not aware of any reason that the District should not be allowed to do this, but we should check with Legal Counsel. He is also aware of some SWCD's that offer scholarships. Fischer stated that, "The applicant pool for natural resources positions has been very limited in many rural areas of the state, especially in northwest MN. I think a connection to your plan(s) can easily be made for this expenditure to support your ability to build and maintain staff capacity". He also made it clear that this is NOT an eligible grant expense.
- **Thief River Subwatershed (SD 83):** Included in the packet is the agenda, prior meeting notes, and project team progress for the Thief River Subwatershed Project Work Team. The next meeting will be held on July 31, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the District office.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "LeRoy Ose". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered on the page.

---

LeRoy Ose, Secretary