

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Managers' Minutes  
March 28, 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, Nate Koland, Tony Olson, Lindsey Kallis, Corey Hanson, Erick Huseth and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby. Guests: Jacob Huwe, Randy Knott, Tony Nordby, Gary Kiesow, and Darrold Rodahl.

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

The Board reviewed the March 14, 2024, minutes. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Dwight, to approve the March 14, 2024, board meeting minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the March 18, 2024, minutes. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the March 18, 2024, board meeting minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated March 27, 2024. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the Financial Report dated March 27, 2024, excluding check# 41200 payable to RRWMB in the amount of \$11,935.00. Motion carried.

Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, discussed RLWD Project No. 17, Lost River Structure Replacement. Nordby had a meeting with the DNR & the USFWS. Nordby discussed repairs to the structure versus a completely new structure. Possible funding sources available through: Eco Grant, DNR, and RRWMB. Manager Dwight suggested doing more research before deciding how we will proceed.

Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, discussed RLWD Project No. 52, Elm Lake Screw Gate Replacement. In removing the old one, draw down will need to be coordinated with the USFWS. Estimated cost of \$65,000. Nordby will have plans for the next meeting which will be an action item.

RLWD Project No. 14, SD 83 Maintenance/Repair of SD 83, Spot Cleaning was discussed. Administrator Audette shared that previous Administrator Jesme recommended having Houston Engineering review the feasibility study that was done in 2000, along with review of the spot cleaning that has been completed since then. Motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to authorize Houston Engineering to investigate the prior feasibility report to assist with pursuing additional sites that may be identified. Motion carried.

Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering discussed RLWD Project No. 50F, Knutson Dam. There appears to be defective work at the structure. The contractor for the project, Taggart Construction, will need to address repair work when weather and road restrictions allow. Nordby stated that emergency repairs were completed by Anderson Excavating in the amount of

\$2,420.00. A motion was made by Page, seconded by Ose, to authorize payment in the amount of \$2,420.00 to Anderson Excavating for emergency repairs to the Knutson Dam, RLWD Project No. 50F, and to work with Taggart Construction regarding the necessary repairs. Motion carried, with Manager Nelson abstaining.

At the last board meeting on March 14, 2024, Tony Nordby, from Houston Engineering, reviewed the report from Braun Intertec related to the Houston Avenue Project located within the City of Crookston. The City of Crookston is interested in being the LGU for potential buyouts. It was recommended that Tony Nordby and Corey Hanson work together with the City of Crookston on possible buyouts.

Huot Bank Stabilization, RLWD Project No. 149, was discussed. The Red Lake SWCD feels this is too big of a project for them and they would like to turn it over to the District to handle. The cost is estimated to be \$560,000 per Logan Handyside, RLSWCD. The Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149, will have funds available for Technical and Engineering for design of the project. Supplemental funding was awarded to the 2022 Red Lake River WBIF in the amount of \$397,509 for construction of the Huot Bank Stabilization Project. A motion was made by Page, seconded by Sorenson, to establish the Huot Streambank Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 149, and authorize Houston Engineering, Inc., to prepare a proposal for engineering services. Motion carried.

Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, reviewed the plans and specifications for RLWD Project No. 129BC, Payment Ring Dike. Proposals shall be delivered by 4:30 pm on April 24, 2024, to the RLWD office. Landowners, Danny & Jami Payment have paid their portion of 12.5% for the project. A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Nelson, to approve moving forward with the plans and specifications for the construction of the Payment Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129BC, with quotes being received until April 10, 2024, by 4:30 pm. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed the inspection report from the MnDNR for Schirrick Dam, RLWD Project No. 25.

Inlet Berm Maintenance at the Brandt Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60D was discussed. Staff member Huseth received a quote from Anderson Excavating in the amount of \$5,000 to remove stumps, reshape dike and seed disturbed areas. A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve Anderson Excavating doing the repairs. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed the memo from Rob Sip, RRWMB, outlining the cost share payments due for the USGS Stream Gages. The RLWD's portion is \$11,935. The cost share time period is the operation of gages from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024 (FY24). A motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Ose, to approve the payment of \$11,935 issued on Check #41200 to the RRWMB, which was removed prior from today's Financial Report. Motion carried.

RLWD staff member, Tony Olson, presented information on LAKESCOUT, a lake level monitoring data buoy. LAKESCOUT is a data buoy capable of year-round operation in the

harshes of conditions. The water monitor is easy to deploy and can be used year-round. Once installed LAKESCOUT takes measurements every 12 hours and transmits data wirelessly to an online portal. Data may be viewed remotely on a computer or mobile device. A motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Anderson to approve the purchase of a LAKESCOUT buoy in the amount of \$5,995. Motion carried. Olson indicated that installation and training of the device will cost \$300, along with \$480 for a data services subscription renewal.

The Board reviewed permits for approval. Motion by Ose, seconded by Anderson, to approve the following permits with conditions as stated on the permit: No. 23-169, Howard Harzke Irrevocable Trust, Moylan Township, Marshall County; No. 23-170, Howard Harzke Irrevocable Trust, Moylan Township, Marshall County; No. 24-008, Bruce Stromstad, Kertsonville Township, Polk County; No. 24-009, Darin Carlstrom/Polk County Highway Dept, Brandsvold Township, Polk County; /No. 24-010, Darin Carlstrom/Polk County Highway Dept, Russia Township, Polk County; No. 24-011, Rich Sanders/Polk County Highway Dept, Columbia Township, Polk County; No. 24-012, Randy Lee, Badger Township, Polk County; No. 24-013, Randy Lee, Badger Township, Polk County; Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a permit extension request. Motion by Page, seconded by Nelson, to approve the permit extension for Permit No. 23-016, Blair Holthusen, River Falls Township, Pennington County. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette proposed appointing Ben Linder to our RLWD Advisory Board. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve the appointment of Ben Linder to the RLWD Advisory Board. Motion carried.

#### **Administrator's Update:**

- **Clearwater River 1W1P:** Audette participated in the March 27, 2024 Clearwater River 1W1P Policy Committee meeting held at the District office.
- **Turtle Connection Cross Project Team Meeting:** We have scheduled a Turtle Connection Cross Project Team meeting for Friday, April 19, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Garden Valley building in Erskine. Chiefs Coulee: Audette was informed that the District will receive \$106,000 from the MnDNR Flood Hazard Mitigation grant program. The District needs to prepare some additional information and have the Board pass a resolution. We will have that information ready for the April 11, 2024 Board meeting.
- **State Ditch 83 Flood Concerns:** We met with 3 area landowners concerning the State Ditch 83 flood concerns on Monday, March 23rd. Nate Dalager was unable to attend today's meeting, so we plan to present an update at the April 11, 2024 Board meeting.
- **RLWD Advisory Board Meeting:** The District held their 2023 Advisory Board meeting on March 18th at the District office. We had 4 Board members present and approximately 20 Advisory members present. District staff members did a wonderful job preparing for and presenting at the meeting. We presented 5 questions to the members for feedback. The results are posted on the Board room south wall.
- **BWSR PRAP:** If you haven't done so already, please complete the PRAP survey sent to you by Don Bajumpaa.

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Legal Counsel Sparby stated that he has not heard anything on the Supreme Court decision on the appeal related to the Improvement of Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project 179.

Manager Ose discussed the meeting he participated in regarding flooding concerns on State Ditch 83, RLWD Project No. 14.

Manager Dwight discussed the drafting of new legislation as it relates to the Upper Red Lake and lands surrounding the lake.

Manager Dwight stated the Upper/Lower Red Lake 1W1P Policy Committee was postponed due to inclement weather, however the Advisory Committee was held virtually.

Manager Page discussed the inclusion of lands into a benefitted area regarding the Section 25, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County permit.

Motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson, 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 positioned above a horizontal line.

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LeRoy Ose, Secretary