

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
May 9, 2024

President, Gene M. 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, Tom Anderson, LeRoy Ose, Allan Page, Grant Nelson, and Brian Dwight. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Elaine Rychlock, Erick Huseh, Tony Olson, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby. Guests: Brian Opsahl, Darrold Rodahl, Gary Kiesow, Tony Nordby, and Nate Dalager.

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

The Board reviewed the April 25, 2024, Board meeting minutes. A motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Nelson, to approve the April 25, 2024, Board meeting minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated May 8, 2024. A motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the Financial Report dated May 8, 2024, as presented. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed the ACH handout in the board packet. A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve the ACH monthly on-line payments as listed. Motion carried.

Brian Opsahl, Brady Martz & Associates, P.A., presented the 2023 Annual Audit Report. After various questions by the Board, a motion was made by Ose, seconded by Anderson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the 2023 Annual Audit Report, as presented.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc. updated the Board on a potential project on the Clearwater River located in Section 22 and 27, Greenwood Township, Clearwater County, as part of the Clearwater River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149B. The project could consist of the installation of rock riffles and rock arch rapids to reduce velocity and head cutting of the river channel.

Administrator Audette reviewed the Drees/Stock Bank Stabilization Projects, Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A. Administrator Audette stated that the final numbers should be available for the next board meeting.

Administrator Audette reached out to Andrew Graham, MnDNR, to inquire on Facilitation Services for the SD 83 Flooding Concerns Project Work Team. Moriya Rufer, Houston Engineering, was also a possible option to use for Facilitation Services. After considerable

discussion, the board suggested Audette work with Moriya Rufer, Houston Engineering, for the SD 83 Project Work Team Facilitation Services.

Administrator Audette discussed the improvements needed for Polk County Ditches 104, 61, 47, 94, RLWD Project No. 119. The ditch improvement was completed in 1996-1997, 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 Dwight, to approve a survey of Polk County Ditches 104, 61, 47, 94, RLWD Project No. 119, to determine the appropriate actions required. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed two quotes for the repair of the District's office parking lot. Option 1 was from E & A Services LLP with a cost of \$10,184.97. Option 2 was from Advanced Striping with a cost of \$15,116.00. After discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Nelson, to accept the quote from E & A Services LLP for RLWD parking lot repairs at an estimated cost of \$10,184.97. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit; No. 24026, Shirley Odegaard, River Falls Township, Pennington County; No. 24033, Pennington County, Rocksbury Township, Pennington County; No. 24034, Pennington County, Smiley Township, Pennington County; No. 24035, Kjell Johnsrud, Kratka Township, Pennington County; No. 24037, Jeffrey Bachand Revocable Trust, Lambert Township, Red Lake County; No. 24038, Black Gold Farms, Lambert Township, Red Lake County; No. 24039, Brian Lundeen, Smiley Township, Pennington County; No. 24040, Allen Vettleson, Deer Park Township, Pennington County; No. 24041, James Abeld, Wylie Township, Red Lake County, and No. 24042, Halverson Family Holdings LLLP, Lambert Township, Red Lake County. Motion carried.

The 2024 MN Watersheds' Summer Tour will be held June 25-26, 2024, in St. Paul, MN. Please let staff member Bushy know if you are planning to attend and she will get your hotel room and register you for the tour. Our second board meeting in June is scheduled for June 27. After much discussion, a motion was made by Ose, seconded by Anderson, to move the June 27, 2024, board meeting to June 28, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. at the Red Lake Watershed District's office. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed a petition drafted by the City of Thief River Falls, to be presented to Pennington County for the Chief's Coulee, RLWD Project No. 46S. The petition requests the use of Pennington County Ditch 70 as an outlet for the Chief's Coulee Project. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Page, to approve the RLWD Administrator to sign the petition to Pennington County, as drainage authority, for the use of Pennington County Ditch 70 as an outlet for a portion of the Chief's Coulee Project. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed a Lessard Sam Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) funding application for the Mud River Project, RLWD Project No. 180C. The LSOHC funding application is due May 24, 2024. Jim Graham, USFWS, will work on the application along with

the help of Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc. Audette stated that the application needs to be submitted on behalf of the Red Lake Watershed District. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Anderson, to approve submittal of the LSOHC funding application for the Mud River Project, RLWD Project No. 180C. Motion carried.

Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., provided an update and proposal for the Turtle Cross Connection Project, RLWD Project No. 114. A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve Task Order #3 for the Turtle Cross Connection Project, RLWD Project No. 114. Motion carried.

Administrators Update:

- **Pine Lake levels:** Elevation of Pine Lake on 5/3/24 was 1,283.95. The data collection buoy will be installed on Friday. The summer target elevation is 1,283.5. As per the operating plan, stoplogs can stay at the current elevation until the elevation is over 1,284. Staff recently removed debris from the fish passage.
- **Pine Lake Project – Phase 2.** District staff is working on landowner signatures for the easements. One landowner is concerned about the removal of any trees. This issue may need to be re-addressed after the pre-construction meeting which is scheduled for May 29th at 10:00 a.m. on-site.
- **New Vehicle:** The District received the 2024 Chevy from Thiberts last week. District staff will need to have mud flaps, running boards and a box liner installed.
- **Black River Impoundment:** Myron Jesme was in the office last week to assist in close-out of the Black River Impoundment funding. The District was not able to close out the funding until we received the FEMA funds. Documents will be submitted to the RRWMB within the next week.

A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.



LeRoy Ose, Secretary