

LOWER RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD

Meeting:

Lower Red River Watershed Management Board
March 2, 1989

The Lower Red River Watershed Management Board met on March 2, 1989 at 9:00 A.M. at the Northland Lodge at Crookston, MN.

President Don Ogaard called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

Dan Wilkens	Iner Quern
Roger Ward	Don Ogaard
Paul Brekken	Richard Bowen
Aubrey Thomas (alternate)	

Others present were:

Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Richard Haase, Red Lake Watershed District
Rich St. Germain, Houston Engineering
Lloyd Wiseth, Red Lake Watershed District
Arnold Person, Red Lake Watershed District
Ron Adrian, Middle River-Snake River Watershed District
Gene Ueland, Wild Rice Watershed District
Omar Rood, JOR Engineering
Lance Yohe, The International Coalition
Don Hanson, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Jim Marks, Black Horse Services Company

Dave Green, Black Horse Services Company

Minutes of the January 11, 1989 meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurers report as of March 2, 1989 was accepted as read.

Roger Ward handed out a schedule for County Auditors to use in reporting LRRWMB taxes receivable.

Dan Thul reported on the overview of the Red River Valley prepared for inclusion in the County Water Plans. Copies were given to interested parties for review. Specific data available to each county on the timing analysis was discussed.

Dan Thul reported on a meeting he attended in Grafton, North Dakota with the six-county group representing the six counties in the northern most part of the valley. He requested that the four Watershed Districts from that area review the Memorandum of Understanding and consider signing the agreement.

Dan Thul passed out the most recently completed Corps of Engineers Timing Analysis. He explained that six additional flood events were added for a total of ten. The technical information includes a frequency analysis along the entire mainstem, a timing analysis of the tributaries at a number of locations on the main stem, and a cursory comparison of the flow volumes associated with each tributary.

Don Hanson, from the Minnesota Department of Natural Division of Forestry, was present to discuss a proposal to provide technical assistance to valley residents in salvaging the elm tree resources along the mainstem and tributaries. The benefits of the program will be to utilize this valuable timber resource, to provide an equitable return to landowners, and to minimize damages to the tributaries of the Red River. The proposal called for funding of two forester positions for two years to assist and coordinate timber sales in the Red River Valley in Minnesota. Don Ogaard recommended passing an ordinance controlling debris left in the floodway after logging operations and will provide a 'model' ordinance for the member Watershed Districts.

Motion by Manager Wilkins, seconded by Manager Person, to support the program and to provide financial assistance to fund two persons for two years at \$27,000 per man per year on the condition that the contracts for timber removal by loggers include language to remove debris from the floodway (in consultation with the local watershed districts).

Lance Yohe, the International Coalition gave an update on the Local Water Planning process. The process includes the final drafts be completed by March 31, mailed for review by first part of April, and meetings to be set up between County, Watershed Districts, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts for review.

Lance Yohe provided a handout outlining the status of the land use update and the GIS database. A number of changes have been made to the procedure used to conduct the land use update including utilizing ASCS photography and high altitude photography to supplement the LANDSAT data, acquiring early spring LANDSAT data to improve ability to classify uses, change the level of detail from 1:100,000 scale to 1:24,000 scale, incorporate the use of 1:24,000 scale mylar photos of the National Wetland Inventory, and cancel operations in Winnipeg to complete the project in Grand Forks. About two-fifths of the project is interpreted with about one-third of this digitized. The project is anticipated to be completed in June and within the budget.

A list was presented by Lance which showed the data items that have been included in the GIS data base. This data was obtained directly from the State data base system (LMIC) or collected separately and digitized for inclusion by DPA International.

Finally, Lance presented a financial report outlining the land use/GIS grant expenditures. Of the total budget of \$190,000, \$153,750 has been spent, leaving a balance of \$36,250.

Don Ogaard had sent out a letter to all Watershed District Managers discussing options on establishing future directions for the Lower Red Board. One option included funding a position on a 50-50 cost share with the counties to provide local interagency coordination between County, SWCD, and WSD basin-wide. This position could be tied directly to the Board of Water and Soil Resources and could carry on the process of the County Water Planning effort. Motion by Manager Ward, seconded by Manager Wilkins, to allow Don to meet with 15 County Board to propose and discuss options for a joint effort.

The Red Lake Watershed District offered to share their office space and secretarial services for a LRRWMB office if needed. Costs would need to be worked out.

Dave Green and Jim Marks, from Black Horse Services, were present to discuss their services. They are specialists in industrial spraying of herbicides. They do only ground application and are looking into expanding operations into Wisconsin and Minnesota.

A revised Joint Powers Agreement to allow the Bois De Sioux Watershed District to join the Lower Red River Watershed Management Board was passed out for review. Don Ogaard brought to the Board's attention that present laws are worded such that the Bois De Sioux could not join without a change in legislation. A motion by Manager Wilkins, and seconded by Manager Bowen, was approved to send a letter to Senator Moe to introduce legislation to change the wording of the law so that the Bois De Sioux can join. The letter will also request that the word "Lower" be dropped from the title of the Lower Red River Watershed Management Board.

Don had received a letter from the Minnesota Future Resources Committee asking for the Board¹'s input on identifying and prioritizing future water resource issues in the State and Red River Valley. Don had drafted a response letter identifying three major issues. The discussion suggested that each Watershed District Board insert additional issues and priorities and send back to Don to draft a joint letter from the Board. Motion by Manager Bowen, and seconded by Manager Wilkins, to send the letter "as is" (with acceptable changes as reported back to Don by member districts).

Completion of the Basin Study through a "Drainage System Analysis" was discussed. Agreement was reached that the analysis is needed and should be completed, however, specifics would have to be define through the Technical Committee.

The following District reports were given:

Roseau River: Proposed site for impounding flood waters on a trout stream was identified recently.

Red Lake: Five projects going presently, two of which are under construction - Elm Lake Restoration and Burnham Creek. Numerous small projects underway.

Sand Hill: EIS adequacy statement issued by DNR on the Winger Dam.

Middle River-Snake River: The Board passed a resolution that would recommend and encourage the LRRWMB to require a revenue pool account for maintenance and repair of future impoundment projects.

Joe River: Interest expressed on local level to cooperate on construction of Ring Dikes to protect homesteads. The Joe River Watershed District would like to get State cost share dollars as did the Middle River-Snake River Watershed District

Buffalo-Red River:

held and received fairly good support. Stinking Lake Project the board has met with DNR and Fish and Wildlife Service. Local landowners support for increased wildlife benefits.

Wild Rice: Project #37 - finalizing land rights and soil borings. Project #11 - includes seven dams; easements are being pursued. The watershed district has set up semi-annual report system for all ditch systems so as to provide documentation on the annual maintenance of the systems.

The following pay requests were approved:

Moose River Impoundment (Final)

LRRWMB share - \$3,989.14

State of Minnesota share - \$4,953.70

Motion by Manager Bowen, seconded by Manager Person, to reimburse the Red Lake Watershed for expenses incurred and to request State cost share reimbursement, passed.

Elm Lake Restoration (pay request #1)

LRRWMB share - \$29,093.81

State FDR share - \$43,641.15

Motion by Manager Quern, seconded by Manager Person, to reimburse the Red Lake Watershed District for expenses incurred and to request State (Flood Damage Reduction) cost share reimbursement, passed.

The idea of setting up a maintenance fund to cover "major catastrophes" and/or major dam repair and maintenance was discussed. The resolution by Middle River-Snake River Watershed District stated the fund would be for all future projects whereas the Wild Rice Watershed District resolution stated the fund would be for all previous projects as well. The LRRWMB members should be prepared for resolution of this issue at the next board meeting.

A retreat for all Watershed Board Members to discuss issues and problems was discussed. It was agreed that Don would set up such a retreat before spring work (early April).

The annual Reports were distributed.

Upon motion, second and duly passed the following bills were ordered paid:

Business Agency	\$2,117.00
Northland Lodge	93.94
Norman County Index - Annual Reports	599.95

RLWD - Moose River Impoundment - Final Pay Request	
State Share	\$ 4,953.70
LRRWMB	3,989.14
RLWD - Elm Lake Restoration - Pay Request #1	
State Share	\$43,641.15
LRRWMB	29,093.81

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Harley Younggren, Secretary