

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 1992
NORTHLAND INN, CROOKSTON, MINNESOTA

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, December 15, 1992, at 12:10 p.m. at the Northland Inn, Crookston, Minnesota.

Chairman Don Ogaard called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

Dan Wilkens	Ron Osowski
Don Ogaard	Roger Ward
Gerhard Ross	Robert Severson
Curtis Nelson	Rudee Anderson

Others present were:

Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Steve Mikkleson, The International Coalition
Richard Kuzel, Middle River - Snake River Watershed District
Roland Gullekson, Sand Hill Watershed District
Gene Ueland, Wild Rice Watershed District
Rick St. Germain, Houston Engineering
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Middle River - Snake River W.D.
Omar Rood, J.O.R. Engineering

Minutes of the November 16, 1992 meeting were read and approved with minor changes. Motion by Manager Osowski, seconded by Manager Ward, carried.

The Treasurer's report was approved as read. Motion by Manager Ward, seconded by Manager Severson, carried.

Dan Wilkens discussed the "New Simplified Federal Tax Deposit Rules." He also discussed a discrepancy in the Pay Request received from the Red Lake WSD for the Good Lake Project. \$894 had been previously double-billed and the request had to be adjusted to account for this.

	<u>Request</u>	<u>Adjusted payment</u>
RRWMB	\$141,931	\$141,334.00
State of Minnesota	\$137,908	\$137,460.50

Dan Wilkens discussed the Annual Audit. He has contacted the previous Auditor and one other firm - Charles Bailey. Motion by Manager Nelson, seconded by Manager Osowski to stay with the present Auditor and to keep the audit at the present level of effort, carried.

Motion by Manager Ward, seconded by Manager Osowski to provide the same format and use the same publisher for the 1992 Annual Report. Dan Thul will prepare the Draft.

T.I.C. Report - Steve Mikkleson

Folders were passed out which included the "Local Strategies" effort by T.I.C. Four chapters outline the GIS, Wetlands, Problem Solving, and Publications initiatives undertaken by T.I.C. for the RRWMB.

The Special Focus meeting on January 20 was discussed. It was changed from the 19th because of conflicts. The Buffalo Red River WSD requested that the emphasis of the meeting be on Corps, of Engineers' permits and the Programatic EIS. It was agreed that these were important issues which may warrant a special meeting of all Managers. However, since the Special Focus meeting for the 20th has an equally important agenda and because the meeting with the North Dakota Joint Board will be addressing these issues, it was decided to keep the agenda as set with the addition of a 30 minute report on the permit and EIS issues from 2:00 - 2:30.

Don reported that the Corps, is looking at a "Comprehensive Environmental Assessment" rather than a "Programatic Environmental Impact Statement." This would be a milder version requiring less time and effort. Don has requested information from the Corps, as to the rules which would trigger and guide this process.

There was discussion as to whether the Board should have legal council at future meetings. It was agreed that it is premature at this time since the Board's focus is primarily on funding.

The "ethical leadership" training workshop is scheduled for the afternoon of January 11th after the Joint Powers Board meeting at the Courthouse in Ada.

Steve Mikkleson presented a proposal to continue the same Publication package by T.I.C. which includes the "Messenger", the "Grass Roots Update" (formerly the "Manager"), and utilization of the media through press releases. The proposal was to provide this total package for the next 12 months at a cost of \$40,000. Motion to proceed and approve as presented by Manager Wilkens, seconded by Manager Ross and carried on a 5 to 2 vote.

Motion by Manager Ross, seconded by Manager Wilkens to include the publication package effort as an agenda item for the Special Focus meeting on the 20th of January, carried.

Dan Thul Report

Dan attended the Groundwater Study update for the 4 county area including Polk, Pennington, Red Lake, and Marshall counties. The RRWMB provided \$20,000 towards this study by the USGS. Dan

felt the project was excellent and proceeding well. There was some other opinions expressed during discussions.

Dan attended the Wetland Conservation Act public information meeting on the 3rd of December in Thief River Falls. The greatest concern seen was the need to be able to utilize created wetlands in the proposed banking guidelines.

Dan updated the Board on the Draft Protected Waters/Dam Safety Permit for the Winger Dam Project. A number of "conditions" are included in the Draft:

- A final operation and maintenance plan.
- A final mitigation plan tied to the Federal review process.
- Dam Safety issues addressed such as final plans and specifications.

Other concerns expressed during review process included whether a supplemental EIS is warranted, economic considerations, and future intent to operate the Project with a permanent pool.

The Sand Hill Watershed District representatives made it clear that they are proposing alternative #2 discussed in the EIS.

District Reports

Two Rivers WSD

The Ditch #10 hearing is held over until February. The Minnesota Conservation Corps, is working in Kittson and Roseau Counties on the stream maintenance program.

The Joe River WSD

They are working on a small project which would change the existing drainage direction and put it through a new culvert in the Railroad grade.

Sand Hill WSD

Minnesota Conservation Corps, is working along the Sand Hill River. Dan Wilkens "chewed" on Dan Thul in regards to a rip-rap permit on the Sand Hill River.

Red Lake Watershed District

Construction is proceeding well on the Good Lake Project due to the nice weather. The Burnham Creek hearing was held this

morning. The District is still waiting for an answer for the DNR regarding the Maple Lake permit - The MPCA's role in Watershed Projects is being questioned in a letter written to Commissioner Williams.

Buffalo-Red River WSD

An informational meeting was held on the Buffalo River Flood Control Site No. 1 where landowners were informed of the "Comprehensive environmental assessment" that may be required and of the buffer strips necessary for the mitigation plan. The District expressed it's concern with the costs of continued project assessment without projects proceeding to completion.

Middle River - Snake River Watershed District

Midwest Testing is doing soil borings on the March Impoundment Project and the Angus #4 Project. A request is proceeding for additional funding for streambank stabilization through the City of Warren. Ron Adrian reported that they receive burning permits to burn brush on the river ice if the ashes are hauled away and properly disposed of.

Roseau River Watershed District

The District has formalized the Last River Project and will be submitting Step 1 in January. Annual tour of the Roseau River by snowmobile is scheduled with Omar Rood tagging along.

Wild Rice WSD

An inventory of all ditches and streams for potential off channel storage sites is progressing. Chainsaw work along the Wild Rice River is underway. The District is involved in a large scale beaver removal program. Late fall is the time to remove beaver dams!

Don Ogaard discussed the Draft Commission on Reform and Efficiency Report. The recommendations are to eliminate special purpose Districts and to centralize local authority to the County governments. This would eliminate Watershed Districts. Motion by Manager Wilkens, seconded by Manager Nelson to direct the chairman to initiate contacts with local legislators to schedule a meeting on the subject, carried.

Motion by Manager Ross, seconded by Manager Ward for the chairman to appoint a committee of three to deal with the County Auditors to develop a uniform form for reporting levy's, carried.

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Motion by Manager Wilkens, seconded by Manager Ward to approve payment of Bills:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
	Noon Meal	90.00
Northland Inn	Meetings and Mileage	95.67
Roger Ward	Meetings and Mileage	105.57
Robert Severson	Meetings and Mileage	90.17
Rudee Anderson	Meetings and Mileage	79.17
Ron Osowski	Meetings	46.17
Gerhard Ross	Meetings and Mileage	
Dan Wilkens	and Misc.	255.62
Don Ogaard	Meetings and Mileage	
	and Misc.	211.47
Curtis Nelson	Meetings and Mileage	69.27
Garden Valley Telephone Co.	Phone Bill	42.36
State of Minnesota	Red River Coordinator	
	Position	9,600.00
Red Lake Watershed District	Pay Request #2 -	
	Good Lake Project	278,794.50

Dan Wilkens informed the Board that he will report to the Board in February on a Uniform Accounting Package for use by all Watershed Districts.

The next meeting will be a joint meeting with the North Dakota Joint Board on January 12, 1993 at 9:00 a.m. at the Westward Ho Motel in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Harley Younggren