

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 16, 1993  
WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT OFFICE, ADA, MINNESOTA

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, February 16, 1993 at 9:30 a.m. at the Wild Rice Watershed District office in Ada, Minnesota.

Chairman Don Ogaard called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

Don Ogaard	John Finney
Harley Younggren	Gerhard Ross
Dan Wilkens	Curtis Nelson
Ron Osowski	Robert Severson

Others present were:

Steve Mikkleson, T.I.C.  
George Orning, T.I.C.  
Richard Kuzel, Middle River - Snake River W.S.D.  
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Middle River - Snake River W.D.  
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator  
Roland Gullekson, Sand Hill Watershed District  
Omar Rood, J.O.R. Engineering  
Rick St. Germain, Houston Engineering  
Lowell Enerson, Administrator, Red Lake W.D.  
Gene Ueland, Wild Rice Watershed District  
Mark Deutschman, HDR Engineering Consultants  
Marilyn Englund, T.I.C.  
Rudee Anderson, The Two Rivers W.S.D.  
Kelman Kvien, Roseau River W.S.D.  
Mark Wollschlager, HDR Engineering Consultants

Minutes of the January 11, 1993 meeting were read and approved with minor changes.

The Treasurer's report was approved as read. Upon motion by Manager Ross, seconded by Manager Nelson, the Treasurer is allowed to make investments for up to a two year period, duly passed.

Lowell Enerson discussed the planned Legislative Breakfast hosted by the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts to be held on March 24 and 25 at the Kelly Inn in St. Paul. The purpose of the Breakfast is to informally meet with legislators and make them aware of the Watershed District's perspective on a number of key issues before them this year; including government reorganization, tax levy issues, wetland rules and other important issues to Districts. Local Districts will be responsible for paying for their own Senators and Representatives at \$10.00 per person. Local Senators and Representatives were assigned to the various Watershed Districts for personal invitations.

The March conference will be held on March 19 and 20, 1993 at the Best Western Inn, Thief River Falls, Minnesota. On motion by Manager Wilkens, seconded by Manager Finney to adopt the format for the meeting as presented, duly carried.

#### T.I.C. Report

Steve Mikkleson handed out a Legislative update flyer which discusses the U.S. Army Corps, of Engineers decision to put Red River Valley Flood Retention Projects on hold. He gave updates on all the publications funded by the RRWMB, Problem Solving Initiative, and the Wetlands Task Force.

Marilyn Englund reported on the GIS work: The users group is going well, they have completed two sessions in a series of four on EPPL 7 training (she's disappointed in turnout), the Watershed project to define political boundaries on the GIS, and other misc. projects.

George Orning gave a land use update - they are processing land use files to the State and getting them back in EPPL 7 format. He also reported that the National Wetlands Inventory, the road systems, and the minor watershed are all being digitized and will be available at a latter date. There was concern that the minor Watersheds data has not been field checked or reviewed by local interests who would be familiar with details based on ditch system impacts and changes to drainage patterns.

#### District Reports

##### Wild Rice Watershed District

They have recently remodeled their office. A video was shown on the Project #35 after major rainfalls last July and August. Don reported that "created" wetlands presently are not allowed to be used as mitigation under the Wetland Conservation Act proposed rules. However, with negotiations he expects they will be allowed at a lesser value - half the value. Don reported they are in the process of mapping their legal ditch systems with respective assessment areas.

##### Middle River - Snake River Watershed District

Requested RRWMB participation in funding the Construction of the Corps, of Engineers ring dike around the City of Alvarado. The MR-SRWSD has committed to provide up to \$25,000 if the RRWMB provide up to \$25,000 and if the City of Alvarado match both amounts.

The proposed local funds needed is expected to be short \$80,000 to \$100,000. However, the exact amount will not be known until project completion.

Upon motion by Manager Osowski, seconded by Manager Ross and duly passed, the RRWMB agrees to fund one quarter of the shortfall of the local share up to \$25,000. It is understood that all the conditions outlined in a letter to Mr. Jerome Erickson, Mayor of Alvarado from Ron Adrian, Engineer for the MRSR WSD dated January 22, 1993 are also the same conditions under which the Board makes this funding commitment.

The Middle River - Snake River WSD requested that the Secretary forward State Cost Share funds received from the State for the District's Ring Dike construction. The amount is \$15,522.09 and as per previous agreement needed to be passed through to the MRSR WSD.

#### Roseau River Watershed District

Omar Rood on behalf of the District discussed the Lost River Project located on a tributary of the Roseau River below the City of Roseau. The project has a drainage area of 37 square miles and is designed to provide Flood Water Retention benefits as well as having potential for Wetland restoration.

#### Buffalo Red River Watershed District

A preliminary hearing has been scheduled in March for Clay County Ditch No. 65. The Engineers continue to work on the Deerhorn Creek Detention Project. The Plans and Specs, for the Buffalo River Erosion protection demonstration project have been received and permits are being applied for.

#### Sand Hill Watershed District

Rolland Gullekson passed out a letter he received from the Water Program Director, Don Gray, of the Environmental and Energy Study Institute which basically supports the Watershed District Concept.

The Board has started their river cleanup utilizing CCC crews. They feel they have a very poor working crew and are dissatisfied with the program. Other WSDs also commented on their dissatisfaction with the work effort they have received.

Rolland Gullekson reported on the Environmental Learning Center proposed at Fertile, Minnesota. The Center would be residential facility. There are only four other centers in the State. The Sand Hill WSD committed \$1,000 to develop a curriculum and have received a request for \$10,000 for implementation.

Corps, of Engineers Basin Environmental Assessment

A meeting is scheduled for February 23, 1993 in St. Paul District Corps, of Engineers as a pre-project meeting on the proposed Environmental Assessment of flood Control impoundments.

Discussion took place with Mark Deutschman and Mark Wollschlager of HDR consulting firm. They recommended an EIS over the proposed EA with State participation. They recommended the Board develop a pro-active action plan to bring before the Corps. George Oirning provided discussion on the EA/EIS process which would encourage the benefactors of the Flood damage reduction activities to become the advocates for the RRWMB activities. He felt this is important to develop a level playing field for which to proceed. He felt the Board should broaden the perspectives and interests and tie the issue to the "Sustainable Development" concept promoted by the Governor. Sustainable Development requires a process of analyzing decisions in order to find a balance among economic activity, environmental requirements and social needs of people.

Don Ogaard expressed the goal of the process should be to "develop an acceptable management plan for the Basin." A motion by Manager Osowski, seconded by Manager Wilkens and passed for the Board to fund one member and one technical representative from each WSD to attend the Corps. EA meeting on the 23rd in St. Paul.

The question of legal and technical representative for the EA/EIS process was discussed. Don recommended that a number of consultants could be invited to the meeting and the Board would then entertain proposals for services. Motion by Manager Nelson, seconded by Manager Osowski, and passed directing Chairman Ogaard to invite up to three consultants to attend the Corps, meeting on our behalf.

A letter was signed by the Board members which supported legislation to allow the Bois de Sioux WSD to join the RRWMB. The letter was addressed to Senator Roger Moe, Senator Keith Langseth, and Senator LeRoy Stumph.

The following bills were reviewed and approved for payment:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Northern State Bank-Gonvick	Purchase CD	\$96,000.00
Bob's Cafe - Ada	Noon Meal	127.00
John Finney	Meetings and Mileage	116.58
Robert Severson	Meetings and Mileage	125.38
Harley Younggren	Meetings and Mileage and Misc.	291.19
Ron Osowski	Meetings and Mileage	103.93
Gerhard Ross	Meetings and Mileage	66.25
Daniel Wilkens	Meetings and Mileage and Misc.	1,077.75
Donald Ogaard	Meetings and Mileage and Misc.	502.10
Curtis Nelson	Meetings and Mileage	73.68
Garden Valley Telephone Co.	Phone Bill	113.93
Middle River - Snake River WD	State Share of Ring Dike	15,023.88

Motion by Manager Ross, seconded by Manager Osowski for the next meeting to be held in the morning at 9:30 a.m. before the March Conference on March 19, 1993 at the Best Western in Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

Respectfully submitted,

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E. Harley Younggren