

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
APRIL 20, 1993
AMERICAN BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, BARNESVILLE, MN

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, April 20, 1993 at 9:30 a.m. at the American Bank and Trust Co. meeting room in Barnesville, Minnesota.

Chairman Don Ogaard called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

Dan Wilkens	Ron Osowski
Gerhard Ross	Don Ogaard
Curtis Nelson	Robert Severson

Others present were:

Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Gerald Van Amberg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District
Roger Ellefson, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District
Bruce Albright, Administrator, Buffalo-Red River WSD
Julie Goehring, The International Coalition
Steve Mikkleson, The International Coalition
Sanford Moen, Wild Rice Watershed District
Roland Gullekson, Sand Hill Watershed District
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Middle River - Snake River W.D.
Rick St. Germain, Engineer, Houston Engineering

Minutes of the March 19, 1993 meeting were read and approved.
Motion by Manager Osowski, seconded by Manager Severson, carried.

The Treasurers report was read and approved on motion by manager Nelson and seconded by manager Osowski. Dan Wilkens passed out final treasurer's reports for February 15, 1993 and March 8, 1993.

Don Ogaard reported that he has received a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Fargo Bypass project from the Corps, of Engineers.

A motion was made by Manager Ross, seconded by Manager Severson and passed to appoint a committee to deal with putting together a statewide accounting package for Watershed Districts. Dan Wilkens will carry a strong role in this process.

A motion was made by Manager Osowski, seconded by Manager Nelson, and passed appointing the Committee to plan next year's Watershed conference to be held on the 18th and 19th of March: Gerhard Ross, Curtis Nelson, Rolland Gullekson, and Brian Dwight.

Don noted that a video tape of the conference is available. A copy has been made for Bob Whiting at the Corps.

Dan Thul reported that the Dept. of Natural Resources has issued their conditional permit for the Winger Dam Project.

District Reports

Wild Rice Watershed District - Don Ogaard video taped the flood event this spring.

Sand Hill Watershed District - Rolland Gullekson met with Roger Moe on State cost share commitments on the Winger Dam. The State would like to re-allocate the \$2,500,000. MnDOT still concerned about time table for upgrading Highway 59.

Red Lake Watershed District - Construction continues to progress on the Good Lake Project; MPCA has approved operating plan for Maple Lake Project and a DNR meeting has been scheduled for May 5; and the Board gave the past RRWMB conference high marks and support continuing the conference.

Buffalo-Red River Watershed District - The Board met with the DNR on the Deerhorn Creek Detention - the DNR's opinion was favorable as long as downstream impacts were not significant.

Middle River - Snake River Watershed District - they have put together committee of three counties, three SWCD's, and other agencies to review updated overall plan.

Roseau River Watershed District - they dropped their clearing and snagging grant. Beaver problems remain persistent.

1994 Levy Discussion

The Buffalo-Red River Watershed District submitted a letter to the Board questioning the need to continue the tax levy at the current rate because of the U.S. Army Corps, of Engineers mandated abeyance of flood Control Projects within the Basin. The Buffalo-Red Board requested that the 1994 levy be reduced to 0.01209 percent of the taxable market value (1/2 mill). Most of the Districts have discussed the potential to lower the levy but none have made any commitments to date. No formal action was taken by the RRWMB except to continue discussions in future meetings realizing that this is a very important issue.

T.I,C. Report

Steve Mikkelson updated the Board with handouts which itemized each program and expenditures to date. The second payment is due for the "information package". The agreed to payment schedule is:

Total Package	=	\$	100,000
Paid to date	=	\$	50,000
Balance	=	\$	50,000
Less 10%	=	\$	10,000
Now due	=	\$	40,000

Motion by Manager Ross, seconded by Manager Wilkens, and duly passed to proceed with the second payment of \$40,000 as previously committed.

Obligated RRWMB funding for projects was discussed. Dan Thul agreed to update the list of obligated funding for projects and send it out to member Districts before the next meeting.

Don Ogaard discussed the interest in a tour of the Red River Valley for the environmental organizations involved in the Environmental Assessment Process. A motion by Manager Wilkens, seconded by Manager Osowski, and passed to extend an invitation to environmental organizations to a tour hosted by the RRWMB.

Don Ogaard reported that the attorney will be meeting with the Corps, of Engineers to set up criteria for the first Environmental Assessment Committee meeting. HDR Engineering has submitted a proposal for services and a contract. It is divided into five phases and includes a breakdown in hours, rates, and tasks. It was agreed to sign one phase at a time.

Procedures for HDR to gather information from the Engineers was discussed. Any Engineer's costs for information supplied to HDR will be authorized and paid for by HDR and billed back to the RRWMB.

HDR will use the GIS at LIMIC. Manager Ross emphasized the use of the Souris-Red-Rainy Report.

Public relations as it relates to the Environmental Review Process was discussed. A flyer was passed out which tells citizens that their "voice needs to be heard" and to send their letters to their State and Federal legislators. Don Ogaard distributed a letter from Susan Lloyd Gilbert outlining direction, services, activities and associated costs for her as a public relation consultant. A motion by Manager Wilkens, seconded by Manager Severson, and duly passed to hire Lloyd Gilbert Associates as their public relations consultant with a 10 day notice condition.

A discussion followed on the "Comfort level" of Board members with the recent commitments on expenditures for consultants. The Board agreed to review authority and accountability with the attorney as the EA process develops and better cost projections can be made.

The potential for cooperating in a drained wetland Inventory was discussed. This effort could identify potential restoration sites, feasibility, and costs associated with finding and developing mitigation sites. A motion by Manager Ross, seconded by Manager Nelson, and duly passed to approach the 15 county Board with the offer to entertain a proposal from a willing county. Polk County suggested as a pilot.

Dan Wilkens reminded the Board that there exists a committee to look into the possibility of hiring an Executive Director and establishing a permanent office. There is a need to provide continuity into the future and the need for a central location to focus and coordinate activities. Don Ogaard expressed his desire to fill such a roll or to provide consulting services to the Board after the first of the year. The Board agreed to take back this issue to their respective boards for discussion at future meetings.

A motion was made by Manager Nelson, seconded by Manager Severson, and duly passed to purchase a plaque and a \$50 gift certificate for Roger Ward to express appreciation for the dedicated service Roger has given to the Board.

On motion by Manager Nelson and seconded by Manager Osowski to pay the following bills, duly carried.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
First State Bank of Fertile	Transfer from Fidelity to 1st American	\$ 339,606.96
Best Western of TRF	19th of March Conference Expense	845.52
Internal Revenue Service	Social Security and Medicare	405.32
Eagle Cafe of Barnesville	Noon Meal	80.00
Robert Severson	Meetings and Mileage	149.03
Ron Osowski	Meetings and Mileage	128.68
Gerhard Ross	Meetings	46.18
Daniel Wilkens	Meetings and Mileage and Misc.	880.95
Donald Ogaard	Meetings and Mileage and Misc.	546.45
Curtis Nelson	Meetings and Mileage	51.13
Garden Valley Telephone Co.	Phone Bill	185.54
Conrad Dahl CPA	1992 Audit	809.93
JOR Engineering	Engineering Services - Corps. St. Paul	1,711.05
The International Coalition	Local Strategies Project 2nd Payment	40,000.00

The next meeting will be held on May 18, 1993 at 9:30 a.m. at the Sand Hill Watershed District office in Fertile, Minnesota.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Harley Younggren