

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 1994
ERSKINE, MINNESOTA

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, February 15, 1994 at 9:30 a.m. at the Garden Valley Telephone Company office, Erskine, Minnesota.

Chairman Ron Osowski called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

Dan Wilkens	Sanford Moen
Gerhard Ross	Farrell Erickson
Curtis Nelson	John Finney
Ron Osowski	Harley Younggren

Others present were:

Don Ogaard, Executive Director
Kelman Kvien, Roseau River Watershed District
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Middle River - Snake River W.D.
Omar Rood, J.O.R. Engineering
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Rick St. Germain, Houston Engineering
Steve Mikkleson, T.I.C.
Julie Goehring, T.I.C.
Roland Gullekson, Sand Hill Watershed District
Brian Dwight, B.W.S.R.
Lowell Enerson, Administrator, Red Lake Watershed District
Robert Wright, Wild Rice Watershed District
Vernon Johnson, Red Lake Watershed District

Minutes of the January 12, 1994 meeting were read and approved with minor corrections. Motion by Manager Nelson. Seconded by Manager Erickson, carried.

The Treasurers report was approved as read. Motion by Manager Finney, seconded by Manager Ross. Carried.

On motion by Manager Ross, seconded by Manager Moen, to review and pay bills, duly carried.

Bills submitted for payment:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
	Noon Meal	\$
Ness Cafe Erskine		115.00
State of Minnesota	Computer Upgrade	100.00
Postmaster	4 rolls of stamps	116.00
John Finney	Meetings and Mileage	109.43
Farrell Erickson	Meetings and Mileage	97.88
Harley Younggren	Meetings and Mileage and Misc.	220.18
Ron Osowski	Meetings and Mileage	95.18
Gerhard Ross	Meetings and Mileage	109.40
Daniel Wilkens	Meetings and Mileage and Misc.	1,038.31
Sanford Moen	Meetings and Mileage	50.58
Curtis Nelson	Meetings and Mileage	125.35
Donald Ogaard	E.D. and Mileage and Misc.	2,174.54
Business Agency Inc.	Position S. Bond and Gen. Liability	2,668.00
Lindquist and Venum	EA invoice #103267	6,889.00
Loyd Gilbert	EA invoice #02027 & 02028	4,481.14
HDR	EA invoice #164-07594	47,949.35
Garden Valley Tele. Co.	Phone Bill	178.00
Mac's Cafe	Noon Meal - Overall Plan	75.00
First State Bank of Fertile	Soc and Mec	465.82

DISTRICT REPORTS

Two Rivers Watershed District

Are clearing and snagging log jams in the Two Rivers.

Sand Hill Watershed District

Are clearing and snagging log jams in the Sand Hill River.

The Board has been meeting with their Advisory Committee. The] have had very good attendance, it seems to be working very well!

The Board reported that Roland Gullekson and Francis Lavoie are leaving the Board - they are looking for replacements.

Red Lake Watershed District

The Board has been notified the Army Corps of Engineers will proceed with construction, as soon as road restrictions are lifted, on the Red Lake River Bank Stabilization Project, Cemetery Site, St. Hilare.

The Board completed the Joint Powers Agreement for beaver damage control with the six counties (Beltrami, Clearwater, Marshall, Pennington, Polk, and Red Lake). They will pursue funding from the state to assist in the beaver damage control in the amount of \$70,000. Proposed cost share would include:

State 70%	-	\$70,000
WSD 10%	-	\$10,000
County 10%	-	\$10,000
Township 10%	-	\$10,000

The Board eliminated the Engineer's position in a staff reduction effort to reduce engineering costs of the District. Brent Johnson will be acting Engineer for a six month period.

Buffalo - Red River Watershed District

Landowners have filed an improvement petition regarding Clay County Ditch No. 2. Field work is done and preliminary plan is being prepared.

Preliminary engineers report is being written on Deerhorn Creek.

There are 30-40 relatively large log jams from the outlet of the Buffalo River to Hawley, Minnesota. SCS awarded the District approximately \$150,000 for this work. Work for Reach No. 1 will begin this month. Reach Nos. 2, 3, and 4 will be bid this week.

A petition was filed for improvement work on Clay County Ditch No. 55. A preliminary report was ordered prepared by the managers.

Roseau River Watershed District

Presented a Step I submittal on the Norland Project. After discussion, a motion by Manager Ross, seconded by Manager Wilkens to accept the Step I submittal from the Roseau River Watershed District on the Norland Project, duly carried.

The Norland Project is proposed for drained peatlands in Unorganized Norland Township; Roseau County, Minnesota. During floods, the project will temporarily bounce water on those lands thereby decreasing downstream flood flows. In non-flood conditions, the project will keep the peatlands in saturated (or near saturated) conditions, thereby restoring these wetlands that were drained for agricultural uses. The project has two primary functions; wetland restoration and flood damage reduction. The project will restore approximately two thousand acres to their original Type 2 wetland conditions. Most of the

remnant wetland acres are, or have recently been farmed. The project will provide flood control by bouncing floodwater on these peatlands. The bounce is shallow, to a maximum depth of four feet, with a typical depth of one to two feet. this temporary floodwater storage will significantly reduce floodwater damage caused by the contributing lands.

36.7 square miles contribute some or all of their excess water to the three legal ditches that flow throught the project area. 9.2 square miles have split flow and contribute 50% so the effective drainage area is 32.1 square miles. The operation is that existing ditches will be restricted by installing sheetpile structure with 8" x 32" orifices at ground level. The resulting flood bounce will be contained behind a 5 mile long dike. The proposed project includes weirs at ground level at the outlets thereby blocking the legal ditches and restoring saturated conditions to the peatlands.

Estimated cost is \$1,400,000. It is hoped that \$900,00 can be obtained through sales of wetland credits. The remaining \$500,000 could be funded by the RRWMB (\$400,000) and the Roseau River WSD (\$100,000).

Wild Rice Watershed District

Are clearing and snagging log jams on the Wild Rice River.

\$400,000 available from the Corp. of Engineers for levy rehabilitation. The cost to the Wild Rice Watershed District will be \$100,000 plus rip-rap protection above and beyond the Corps, project.

Are working on the Wetland Banking Program.

Middle River - Snake River Watershed District

Reported that their Overall Plan will be approved.

Dan Thul Report

Dan reported that the Hydrology/Hydraulics work group for the Environmental Impact Statement have finished their draft of the "Existing Conditions" portion of the Report. From here the work group will prepare the "future conditions" portion which will project what the future condition in 50 years will be without the proposed impoundments and also with the proposed impoundments. This will form the basis for the cumulative impact analysis. He reported that this is a slow process.

RRWMB Minutes
Page 5
February 15, 1994

The Minnesota Association of Watershed District's will hold a legislative breakfast at the Kelly Inn in St. Paul, Minnesota on March 10, 1994 from 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. The Districts were given a list of Legislators to contact for the breakfast.

Brian Dwight from BWSR said that new administrative guidelines on the Overall Plan will be presented at the Sand Hill Watershed District office in Fertile, MN on February 16, 1994.

Gerhard Ross representing the Policy Committee presented a draft to the Board for them to read and then comment on at the meeting on March 17, 1994 at Thief River Falls.

The March Conference will be held on March 17 - 18, 1994 at the Best Western Motel in Thief River Falls, MN. Invitations will go to every Manager in each District. If any District wants to invite others they may do so but let Don Ogaard know by March 7, 1994.

Julie Goehring from T.I.C. reported that the information package is on schedule.

Don Ogaard, Executive Director asked about the local newspaper coverage on the press release sent out about the officers recently elected to RRWMB. The managers reported that it varied from complete reporting of the release to no mention of it.

He also reported that the contract with HDR Engineering on the Environmental Assessment is in need of renewal if the Board wishes. On motion by Manager Ross, seconded by Manager Wilkens to extend the contract through August 31, 1994 at a total cost of \$743,200.00 duly carried. Approximately \$375,000 has been expended through January 1994.

He also reported that there would be a meeting with Representative Collin Peterson on Friday, February 18, 1994 at 4:30 p.m. at the U.M.C. Conference Center in room 131, Crookston, Minnesota.

On the investment of funds Manager Wilkens said that he will contact our Auditor for more information, then will report at our next meeting.

Rick St. Germain of Houston Engineering discussed a meeting that was held with U.S.F.W.S. on procedures and permitting of U.S.F.W.S. wetland restoration projects. On motion by Manager Nelson, seconded by Manager Erickson that three Engineers be appointed to meet and set up technical criteria for permits for construction of Wetland Restoration Projects, duly carried. The three engineers appointed were: Rick St. Germain, Ron Adrian, and Omar Rood.

RRWMB Minutes
Page 6
February 15, 1994

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17, 1994 at 9:30
a.m. at the Best Western Motel in Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Harley Younggren