

Red River Watershed Management Board

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Board of Managers

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RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

October 22, 1996

Sand Hill River Watershed District Office, Fertile, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, October 22, 1996, at the Sand Hill River Watershed District Office, Fertile, Minnesota.

Chairman Ron Osowski called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

Ron Osowski	Daniel Wilkens
Ralph Christensen	Curtis Nelson
Farrell Erickson	Sanford Moen
Gerhard Ross	John Finney
Harley Younggren	

Others present were:

Don Ogaard, Executive Director
Naomi Jagol, Administrative Assistant, Sand Hill River WD
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Julie Goehring, TIC
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Middle River-Snake River WD
Lowell Enerson, Administrator, Red Lake WD
Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD
Charles Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering
Rick St. Germain, Engineer, Houston Engineering
Jay Leitch, Professor-NDSU
Rob Sip, Graduate student-NDSU
Bob Wright, Wild Rice WD

Minutes of the September 24, 1996, meeting were read and approved. The Board discussed hiring Naomi Jagol, Administrative Assistant of the Sand Hill River WD, to take, publish, and distribute the meeting minutes of the RRWMB. **Motion** to approve the minutes and also to hire Naomi Jagol by Manager Ross, **Seconded** by Manager Finney, **Carried**.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Manager Wilkens and it was approved as read. **Motion** by Manager Finney, **Seconded** by Manager Nelson, **Carried**.

A **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Christensen, **Seconded** by Manager Moen, **Carried**.

District Reports:

- The Sand Hill River WD reported that presentations had been given by the viewers on both Project #11 - Beltrami Flood Control & Diversion and Project #13 - Reis-Scandia Township Ditch. The District is still awaiting a response from Judge Anderson concerning the Project #12 - Co. Ditches 98 & 148 litigation.
- The Boise de Sioux WD reported that the District has been busy processing permit applications for resident of the district. Wilkin County Ditch #20 is near completion, with seeding possibly taking place yet this fall but more than likely next Spring. Staff are in the process of working on the Lake Traverse Improvement Project Report. A "draft report" is hoped to be completed by the first part of November.
- The Buffalo-Red River WD reported that right-of-way easements are being negotiated with the landowners along the Hawley Diversion Project. Construction is close to completion on Clay County Ditch No. 55. An informational hearing was held on Clay County Ditch No. 16 ditch system near Hawley. Clay County has relinquished jurisdiction of the ditch to the District. A final hearing was held on Phase 1 of the Deerhorn Creek Levees project. A handout was also distributed concerning the ED A Flood Mitigation Projects listing the total estimated cost, the cost share breakdown including the RRWMB's commitment, and a schedule indicating when financing would likely be required.
- The Roseau River WD reported that the Flood Control Committee had recently met and determined that regarding the flood reduction grant, an overall plan would be developed for the entire district in an effort to address flooding problems. It was noted that Paul Swenson of the DNR had been in attendance and was very encouraging regarding the plans discussed.
- The Wild Rice WD reported that the Board of Managers had been informed that the Norman-Polk ditch system erosion control project has been completed. The Board of Managers approved payment in the amount of \$38,539 for work done on Project No. 30, Hadler State Ditch/County Ditch No. 68 which was a FEMA funded repair project. Work on the ten mile Judicial Ditch No. 53 drainage system is essentially complete. Permit activity was up during the month of October, and the Board of Managers is also working to bring into compliance four landowner projects that are in violation of the District rules.
- The Red Lake WD reported that Ditch Improvement Project No. 117, the Kenneth Johnson Petition, is almost complete. Construction has started on Project No. 119, Polk County Ditch Improvement No.s 104, 61, 47, and 94 and Project No. 123, Scott Baatz Petition. Project No. 97, Red Lake River East Bank, is being delayed until next spring due to the high water on the Red Lake River because of the drawdown of Upper and Lower Red Lakes. The Parnell Impoundment plans are being drafted and they hope to be advertising for bids and beginning construction in early spring of 1997.
- The Joe River WD reported that informational meetings were held on raising the road from the junction of Highway #75 and MN #171 from Pembina to the Red River bridge.
- The Two Rivers WD reported that the work on Nereson Impoundment is progressing. The outlet structure has not been started yet and a decision needs to be made whether it can be completed before spring flooding. FEMA will consider funding requests for next year, but as of yet no funding has been obtained this fall.

- The Middle River-Snake River WD reported that the District has received notification from the Natural Resources Conservation Service that the preliminary investigation shows that the flood control project on the Snake River developed previously under Public Law-566 is feasible. A meeting has been scheduled for November 13, 1996 to discuss the project and application procedures. Regarding the status of the Angus Oslo Site #4 Project, a land purchase/land exchange is underway and is expected to be completed in approximately 6 weeks. The Engineer is in the process of preparing the Step Submittal to the Red River Watershed Management Board.

District's Funding Requests:

1. **Red Lake WD** - Funding requests were made for the following projects:

Maple Lake Project	\$ 40,600
Good Lake Project	\$ 90,438
Total	<u>SI 31,038</u>

Motion by Manager Nelson to approve Maple Lake funding, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried.**
Motion by Manager Ross to approve Good Lake funding, **Seconded** by Manager Moen, **Carried.**

2. **Sand Hill River WD** - A funding request was presented by Wayne Goeken of the Agassiz Environmental Learning Center to fund a 3 year study for River Watch at \$20,000 per year. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens, **Seconded** by Manager Christensen, **Carried.**

General Funding Requests:

1. **Jay Leitch - Wetland "Social Value" delineation proposal** - This would involve a study of 5 - 10 currently mitigated wetlands in the Red River Basin, and would compare public values of before and after wetland mitigation. Created wetlands would be included in the sampling also. A budget of approximately \$15,000 was presented and the results would be available by December of 1997. The final product of this study would be utilized as a report that could be presented to appropriate state and federal agencies. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to fund the study, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried.**

TIC Report - Julie Goehring

Julie reported that the "Interim Planning Group," is continuing to meet and is developing quite nicely. She also commented on The International Coalition's 14th Annual Red River Basin Land and Water International Summit Conference. This conference will be held on November 13 -15 in Winnipeg, MB and reservations are filling u] fast so please sign up soon if interested.

Red River Coordinator Report

Dan Thul discussed the Roseau River Flood Control Committee and stated there is a strong DNR commitment towards early coordination. He noted that Paul Swenson is very enthusiastic and supportive and is working on securing a cost share plan. Mark Hauve, from U.S.G.S., had been contacted and he is looking to establish joint funding for a telephone line on the Roseau River at the Ross gauging station. Charlie Anderson and Mark Hauve have discussed some options and decided to pursue the installation at Mulung rather than at Ross.

The DNR is concerned about the lawsuit filed with the District Court on behalf of the RRWMB with regard to challenging the FEIS.

Dan stated that representation from the DNR for the TIC conference in November would include Jerry Paul, Bob Merritt, Nate Dalager, Paul Swenson, and himself. He could not comment on the attendance of other DNR divisions.

Dan reported that he had been working with Paul Swenson to continuously develop a strategy to improve the Regional DNR and RRWMB working relationship. The need to overcome the "us" vs. "them" attitude was discussed.

Dan noted that the Tier II committee is re-convening. Joe Gibson has a draft of the data requirements but some revisions are needed.

Ogaard Report -

Don reported that he followed up on the GIS data and discovered that 100% of the information is available from LMIC. A cost estimate was obtained which would include \$95.00 for the first quad, and \$5.00 for each additional quad.

With regard to the current Drainage Law, there is no plan for any major legislative changes. However, the Association of Rural Counties is attempting to organize a legislative study group that would coordinate a rural unit for discussions.

Don noted that the Audubon Society is sponsoring a meeting the evening of October 22, 1996 in Moorhead and also on October 23, 1996 in Thief River Falls. He will attend the Moorhead meeting and report back to the Board.

Previously, the Wild Rice WD volunteered Project #11, Site #6 to be filed in District Court in an effort to legal! challenge the FEIS. Don stated that Dorsey & Whitney is in the process of preparing a response to submit to state and federal agencies documenting the support of the RRWMB in the Wild Rice WD's initiative to challenge the FEIS. Don noted that if individual watershed district's are contacted regarding the legal challenge of the FEIS, it would be advisable to instruct the inquirer to contact the District's attorney for comment.

A flood damage assessment proposal presentation was given by Rick St. Germain. He indicated the proposal would be split into two different phases. Phase I would include: 1. Goals 2. Data Source Development. Phase II would include: 1. Developing a method to gather the data. Rick stated the need for counties to development. procedures for documentation. He indicated that when the COE issued flood damages for the Red River Valle; they used extrapolated information from previous floods and then applied a multiplication factor to determine the flood damages. Rick stressed the urgency to have authentic data on file for future reference. Rick stated that Phase I is essentially complete and questioned whether Phase II should be initiated. **Motion** by Manager Ross move ahead with Phase II, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried.**

Dan Thul discussed the Coordinator position relative to the RRWMB. He stated this position was created in 1979 since LCMR money needed to be monitored through a state agency. The need to keep positive lines of communication open was discussed and the idea of a DNR Fish & Wildlife Division representative was mentioned also. It was decided to invite representatives from the DNR to visit with the Board about possible

Charlie Anderson commented on the Wetland Restoration Guide. He stated his opposition to the earlier version since it was too complicated for smaller projects. He noted the goal was to provide advice for individual watershed districts in permitting systems. A handout was passed out for more in depth discussion at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on November 19, 1996, at 9:30 a.m. at the Wild Rice WD office, Ada, Minnesota

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. Respectfully submitted,

E. Harley Younggren
Secretary

Naomi L. Jagol
Administrative Assistant