

# Red River Watershed Management Board

705 Fifth Street West Ada, MN 56510 Phone: (218)784-4156, Fax: (218)784-2015

## Board of Managers

John Finnev-Humboldt Farrell Erickson-Badger Harley Younggren. Secretary-Hallock Ron Osowski. Chairman-Oslo Gerhard Ross-Crookston Daniel Wilkens. Treasurer-Fertile Sanford Moen-Garv Curtis Nelson-Bamesville Ralph Christensen-Campbell Don Ogaard. Executive Director-Ada

## RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

November 19, 1996

Wild Rice Watershed District Office, Ada, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, November 19, 1996, at the Wild Rice Watershed District Office, Ada, Minnesota.

Chairman Ron Osowski called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

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

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  
Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD  
Charles Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering  
Rick St. Germain, Engineer, Houston Engineering  
Vernon Johnson, Red Lake WD

Minutes of the October 22, 1996, meeting were read and approved with minor corrections. **Motion** to approve the minutes by Manager Christenson, **Seconded** by Manager Finney, **Carried**.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Manager Wilkens and it was approved as read. **Motion** by Manager Nelson, **Seconded** by Manager Younggren, **Carried**. Manager Nelson inquired about the status of the Red River Valley Winter Shows' debenture relative to the recent publicity concerning the canceling of the Annual Winter Shows. Wilkens explained that the Board of Directors for the Winter Shows received revenue from the sale of land to both McDonald's and AmericInn and would be using these funds to pay down the debenture leaving a balance of approximately \$250,000. Wilkens stated that some improvements are needed to the Winter Shows building and that a rural development loan is available to finance these costs.

A **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Younggren, **Seconded** by Manager Ross, **Carried**.

## District Reports:

- The Bois de Sioux WD reported on the results of the recent election relative to the areas representation in the state senate. With regard to the Wetland Restoration Program, a presentation has been given to the District by the Natural Resource Conservation Service explaining the types of lease programs available within the North Ottawa Project area. The payments are quite attractive at approximately \$1,200.00 per acre. Charlie Anderson commented that this opportunity should be kept in mind by any interested watershed district since it is a financially attractive program. Anderson also stated that in addition to easements, money is available for site development work as well. The District is also exploring the "Storm Water Utility Fee" funding mechanism added to the Watershed Act in 1996. Doug Thomas and Pete Waller from BWSR will be discussing this program with the BdSWD Board on 11/21/96.
- The Red Lake WD reported that construction on ditch improvement projects continue to progress, however, due to the onset of winter will be shut down for the season. Five board members attended the TIC annual conference and they are also looking forward to the MAWD annual meeting in December.
- The Two Rivers WD reported that the contractor at Nereson is done for the year with dike work. Approval of funding was obtained from FEMA regarding the outlet structure. The Board has to consider alternatives regarding the outlet structure if it is threatened by high water during the spring run-off.

Charlie Anderson explained correspondence received by the RRWMB from JOR Engineering, Inc. concerning a numerical error that resulted in over-billing. He apologized for the discrepancy and noted that due to the over-billing, more state funds are available for reimbursement. He stated that additional work has been completed and that JOR will submit these bills. The Board agreed to credit the Two Rivers WD with the overbilling of \$16,860 until additional bills have been received.

- The Joe River WD reported that lateral ditch cleaning had just begun before freeze up.
- The Wild Rice WD reported that the watershed Managers addressed numerous complaints concerning work without permits at its November regular meeting. Much of the activity was a result of good fall weather conditions, resulting in a lot of dirt being moved, much of it without a permit. Managers discussed some options to improve compliance adopted in other watershed districts, including charging violators with a penalty and recovering legal and engineering costs. With regard to the Marsh Creek Detention, Site No. 6, it as reported that the COE will likely require hydrologic modeling of the entire watershed to show how the proposed project will affect flood stages on the Wild Rice River. Managers were informed that the COE levee repairs on the Upper Reaches of the Wild Rice River is proceeding with 75 percent of the work completed last week. The cost estimate on the repair project is \$213,000 with funding assistance through the residential flood disaster program of the COE.
- The Sand Hill River WD reported that public hearings were held on November 12, 1996, for both Project #11 - Beltrami Flood Control & Diversion, and Project #13 - Reis-Scandia Township Ditch. The Board voted to appeal Judge Anderson's decision regarding Project #12 - Co. Ditches 98 & 148 at the last regular meeting. Regarding the request for legal assistance from the RRWMB on Project #12, Don Ogaard stated that Dorsey & Whitney had been notified to file a friend of the court brief on behalf of the RRWMB. Ogaard voted that judges are treating cases such as this as plea bargaining rather than deciding in favor of one particular party.

- The Roseau River WD reported that the Flood Control Committee had met on November 18, 1996 and continued discussion of alternative flood control measures. A floodway diversion of the Roseau River from the City of Roseau to Roseau Lake was discussed. This would lower the 100-year flood level in Roseau to a 10-year at the downstream city limit and a 50-year upstream. According to BWSR representative Bryan Dwight, funding assistance for planning may be available through the Comprehensive Local Water Plan.
- The Buffalo-Red River WD reported that the plans and specs were revised at the request of ED A for the Moorhead, Dilworth, and Hawley Projects and also that a wetland replacement plan is being finalized. The Clay County Ditch No. 55 Project is essentially complete with only minor clean-up remaining. Landowner negotiations for right-of-way will continue for the Deerhorn Creek Levees. The District met with Rick Julian, the new Wetland Manager for the USFWS Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District (DLWMD). This agency has restored wetlands in the District in 1996 without receiving permits. Julian agreed to meet again with the District and also the RRWMB along with the Wetland Technical Committee to further discuss these issues.
- The Middle River-Snake River WD reported that on November 13, 1996, a meeting was held with representatives of the NRCS concerning the application for assistance under Public Law 566 to construct works to reduce flood damages in the Snake River WD particularly in Warren. Interest in the project remains high and the District will be working with the City of Warren, the Counties, and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts to develop the project. Work continues on the repair of Judicial Ditch #75 and should be completed by about December 1, 1997. The Engineers "Detailed Survey Report" has been completed and forwarded to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for comment regarding Watershed Ditch #5 and Watershed Ditch #6. Watershed Ditch #5 consists of the establishment of approximately 14 miles of channel with an estimated cost of \$1.7 million. Watershed Ditch #6 consists of the establishment of approximately 15 miles of channel and is estimated to cost \$1.06 million. There has been no change in the status of Angus Oslo Site #4. The land purchase and exchange is expected to be completed within one month.

### **District's Funding Requests:**

There were no funding requests received from the Districts this month.

### **Red River Coordinator Report** - Dan Thul

Dan stated that he attended the TIC conference in Winnipeg and noted that Manitoba will be receiving two additional seats on the new Board evolved from the Interim Planning Group.

Dan discussed the Roseau River Flood Control Committee and stated he is working with Paul Swenson and Joe Gibson and believes that there will be flood damage reduction grant money available.

The status of the Tier II Committee was discussed. Dan stated the establishment of the committee is underway and said that he will try and remain involved in the process.

### **TIC Report** - Julie Goehring

Julie distributed two handouts commenting on the recent TIC Conference in Winnipeg. The articles were published in the Winnipeg Free Press and the Fargo Forum and described the newly formed Red River Basin Board which is a direct outgrowth of The International Coalition's Interim Planning Group.

### **Ogaard Report** - Don Ogaard

Don commented on the recent TIC Conference in Winnipeg. He stated that he had been interviewed by two reporters whose main concern centered around the benefits the Canadians would receive by participating in such a group. Don stated that Canada is unique due to the fact of the independent taxing authority wherein the citizens have no connection to water management agencies. Relative to the newly formed Red River Basin Board, Don noted that the RRWMB must select a representative. **Motion** to nominate Don Ogaard for this position by Manager Wilkens, **Seconded** by Manager Ross. **Carried.**

The Audubon Society's recent meetings in Moorhead and Thief River Falls were discussed. Don attended the Moorhead meeting and said that only three members of the Audubon group were present along with one representative from Environmental Advocacy.

Regarding the status of the Wild Rice WD Project #11, Site #6, Don stated that the Colonel and one representative from the COE will be coming to Ada on November 26, 1996 to meet with WRWD representatives. Discussion will be held concerning the project in an effort to identify the exact flood area without determining a cost/benefit ratio. A decision will be made on whether or not to issue the permit by December 1, 1996.

Correspondence was received from ICS, Inc., regarding the level of performance bond insurance coverage on each Board member. The current standing is as follows: \$100,000 Chairman, \$100,000 Treasurer, and \$1,000 for each Board member. It was noted that additional coverage for Board members of \$25,000 each could be obtained for an extra \$200 premium per year. It was decided that since all decisions regarding the RRWMB are of a collective nature rather than individual, the Board would continue with the current coverage.

Don indicated that according to both HDR and Houston Engineering, the flood damage assessment figures obtained for the 1996 flood by the COE were based on 1947 and 1963 data. Don stated that the Chicago office of FEMA apparently has fairly good records of this area and is willing to make this data available. Don inquired of Dan Thul as to whether the DNR would authenticate the data. Dan responded that if the methods used were accurate and verifiable he would see no reason why not.

There was discussion concerning the Annual March Conference. Confirmation dates of March 20 & 21, 1997 at the Best Western in Thief River Falls were agreed on. Possible program topics were discussed. These included; seminar for both viewers and watershed districts to participate in, a review of the McCombs-Knutson Study in an effort to understand the basic flows in the valley, and possibly a brief presentation on the permitting process in order to establish a standard outline for watershed districts to implement. A committee consisting of Sanford Moen, Ralph Christensen, and Farrell Erickson was organized in order to make the final arrangements for the conference.

The Wetland Restoration Guide was reviewed by Charlie Anderson. The guide was developed in order to promote uniform guidelines that could be implemented by individual watershed districts in permitting procedures. Charlie suggested the guide would serve as an incentive for applicants to do restorations that would not detract from flood control. It was discussed whether the Board would adopt the guide and if so, how to approach the users of the guide. It was decided to send out a copy to agencies for review along with an invitation to attend a RRWMB meeting for discussion. **Motion** to accept a revised version of the guide and to send it to appropriate agencies by Manager Wilkens, **Seconded** by Manager Moen. **Carried.**

Don discussed reviewing the Policy Manual in order for corrections or additions to be addressed. It was decided that each watershed district should review and then bring back their suggestions to the RRWMB for discussion.

Don addressed updating the Project Evaluation Manual. It was suggested to either hold a special meeting of the RRWMB or to form a technical committee for recommendations. The last update was in January of 1991 and Don stressed the need for obtaining solid information in order to have a better understanding of the direction and focus of each watershed district.

Jerry Bennett discussed the need for public relations in order to promote the accomplishments of the RRWMB. Don stated that he will try to get input and suggestions and will respond to reactions received.

The next meeting will be held on December 17, 1996, at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Lake WD office, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

E. Harley Younggren  
Secretary

---

Naomi L. Jagol  
Administrative Assistant