

Red River Watershed Management Board

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Board of Managers

John Flinney-Humboldt Farrell Erickson-Badger Harley Younggren, Secretary-Hallock Ron Osowsld, Chairman-Oslo Gerhard Ross-Crookston Daniel Wilkens, Treasurer-Fertile Sanford Moen-Gary Curtis Nelson-Barnesville Ralph Christensen-Campbell Don Ogaard, Executive Director-Ada

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

December 23, 1996

Wild Rice Watershed District Office, Ada, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, December 23, 1996, at the Wild Rice Watershed District Office, Ada, Minnesota.

Chairman Ron Osowski called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

Ron Osowski	Harley Younggren
Gerhard Ross	Daniel Wilkens
Curtis Nelson	Farrell Erickson

Others present were:

Don Ogaard, Executive Director
Naomi Jagol, Administrative Assistant, Sand Hill River WD
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Middle River-Snake River WD
Rick St. Germain, Engineer, Houston Engineering
Kelman Kvien, Roseau River WD
Bob Wright, Wild Rice WD
Jerry Bennett, Wild Rice WD

Minutes of the November 12, 1996, meeting were read and approved with minor corrections. **Motion** to approve the minutes by Manager Erickson, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **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 Wilkens commented on an error that was detected in the October Treasurer's Report. He noted that all corrections have been made and the accounts reconcile. For further detail, please refer to the November Treasurer's Report.

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

Ogaard Report - Don Ogaard

Don commented on reviewing the Policy Manual. He stated that he had been in collaboration with Dan Thul regarding editing and updating the manual, addressing non-impoundment type projects, and identifying specific programs, studies, and initiatives the RRWMB should be involved with. Don asked the Managers to have their individual watershed districts review the manual and to present their recommendations to the RRWMB at the January meeting.

Don discussed the progress on the Red River Basin Board and stated the need to elect an alternate to the Board. A **Motion** to nominate Manager Wilkens as the alternate by Manager Younggren, **Seconded** by Manager Nelson, **Carried**.

With regard to funding the RRBB, Don noted that LCMR has granted funding for an initiative of MPCA. TIC would receive \$100,000 to fund the RRBB for one year. Don inquired about the possibility of the RRWMB funding Minnesota's one year portion on behalf of the Minnesota counties which would be \$50,000. He stated that agencies rely heavily on the fact that the RRBB has an overall plan as a whole. Manager Nelson inquired about North Dakota's contribution to the RRBB in comparison to Minnesota's share of funding. Ogaard responded that an equal amount is being requested from North Dakota as is from Minnesota. As far as funding from Canada, Don stated that there is no organization at the local level. With regard to future funding of the RRBB, Don said that once the Board has been developed and a plan has been established, there won't be a need for extensive funding. Future methods of funding could include an ad valorem tax.

Don addressed suggestions for the 1997 Newsletter. He noted that he had been in contact with Paul Suomola of TIC, and they discussed discontinuing funding the newsletter distributed by TIC. Don stated the need to focus on publishing proactive news releases. He suggested engaging Loyd Gilbert to promote public relations in lieu of financing the TIC newsletter. Don noted that in prior years, the RRWMB has financed TIC for \$40,000. Don pointed out that this proposal was initiated with the consent of Paul Suomola. A **Motion** to fund the RRBB through TIC for \$50,000 and also to accept the proposal of Loyd Gilbert for \$49,550 to promote public relations by Manager Wilkens, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**.

Don discussed Mark Deutschman's relationship with HDR Engineering, Inc., and stated that it will be severed in January of 1997. He is going to help Houston Engineering, Inc., establish an office in the Twin Cities. Don noted that all of the RRWMB's records with regard to the EIS that are currently on file with HDR Engineering, Inc., would be physically removed from their office prior to Mark's departure.

Don reported that Colonel Wonsik, St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, had been given a one day tour of the Wild Rice WD and specifically the proposed Project 11, Site 6 (Marsh Creek) flood control project. The District's topographic wall map was used to outline the watershed of the project and its relationship to the district as a whole, with existing wildlife (wetland) management areas of the DNR and USFWS highlighted. The Colonel expressed his appreciation for the tour and explanation of the features of the area. A major emphasis was given during the tour on the geophysical nature of the WRWD and its relationship with the rest of the Red River Basin during the tour.

Kelman Kvien addressed the RRWMB and stated his concern regarding the bad publicity the Roseau River WD is receiving regarding the measures they are pursuing in an effort to reduce flooding.

Don commented on the possibility of meeting with the Pelican River WD Board of Managers to discuss the potential of their District joining the RRWMB. He stated that they are located at the upper end of the lake region with the river draining into the Otter Tail. Don noted that their primary concern is water quality rather than flood control. A **Motion** to have Don Ogaard proceed with a presentation to the Pelican River WD by Manager Wilkens, **Seconded** by Manager Ross, **Carried**.

Red River Coordinator Report - Dan Thul

Dan commented on the memo from Mark Deutschman addressed to Donald Ogaard regarding the Status of Flood Damage Assessment Project. He conferred with Joe Gibson and stated that if the information obtained is credible that the DNR would accept it as accurate. Dan also suggested the Board consider a joint effort with the COE through their Section 22 program to assure the data collected is accepted. Ogaard added that he could write a letter to the Colonel further explaining this situation.

Dan stated that the DNR is establishing a Red River Issues Team. This group would involve DNR staff from both Bemidji and St. Paul and would address such specific issues as Marsh Creek, Tier II, Roseau Flood Committee, and RRWMB/DNR coordination efforts to name only a few. The purpose of this group would be to identify issues, define DNR positions, recommend solutions, and resolve conflicts.

Dan discussed dam safety on the Nereson structure replacement. He stated that Omar Rood has been working on a redesign of the structure since the washout that occurred last spring. Dan noted that it will be a two stage, gated structure and will provide better flood control and wildlife benefits than the original SCS design.

With regard to Flood Damage Reduction requests, Dan stated that he has been working with Charlie Anderson to get a new contract on Nereson and they are looking at providing additional FDR funds to finish construction.

Dan noted that the DNR has received a FDR application for \$15,000 from the Roseau Flood Control Committee on behalf of the Roseau River WD to develop a model to address their basin planning process.

Dan stated that the COE in Fargo is currently doing a low-flow study. They requested an inventory of all the dams on the Minnesota side. Dan sent them the inventory completed by the H & H work group during development of the EIS.

District Reports:

- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that the Board of Managers had its first After-The-Fact-Permit Fee of \$100.00 challenged by the applicant. The Board will work with the applicant to bring them into compliance. BWSR Staff Doug Thomas and Pete Waller were present at the November Board meeting to explain the water management district/storm water utility fee system to the Board as a possible funding source for the North Ottawa Project. Information has also been assembled regarding potential RRWMB Legislative changes to include the entire Bois de Sioux WD.
- The Two Rivers WD reported that a recent meeting of the advisory committee was held.
- The Wild Rice WD reported that in response to landowners, the WRWD along with Norman and Clay County have proceeded with a study to address management of natural watercourses. An Interagency Task Force, made up of agencies responsible for resource management and wetland protection, have been appointed, along with a Policy Committee made up of local government to provide direction for the study. A primary goal of the project has been to assess and prioritize economical and scientifically sound solutions to problems associated with maintenance and long term resource management of natural waterways.

- The Red Lake WD reported that all construction is shut down for the season except for two small construction projects. One being riprap on the Black River and the other on the Elm Lake Project. The big kick-off meeting for an MPCA loan program at the Clearbrook Community Hall was held on December 16. A grant application was also submitted to BWSR to record Clearwater County's drainage inventory. Vernon Johnson was reappointed to the Board from Clearwater County for another three year term. West Polk County has also appointed Wally Jorgenson to replace Gerhard Ross, who chose not to seek reappointment. Mr. Jorgenson is a former Polk County Commissioner. The beaver damage control program continues to operate smoothly with all counties participating except for Hubbard County.
- The Sand Hill River WD reported that at the conclusion of the public hearings on November 12, 1996, for Project #11 - Beltrami Flood Control & Diversion, and Project #13 - Reis-Scandia Township Ditch, it was brought to the attention of the Board that the City of Beltrami had not been given notice. The Board, therefore, recessed the public hearings to reconvene at the following City Council meeting in Beltrami to discuss these Projects in detail. The City Council questioned the benefiting area as specified in the map prepared from the viewer's report and requested the viewers reevaluate the benefiting area to possibly include contributing water. These hearings will be rescheduled for January 7, 1997. Regarding Project #12, Co. Ditches 98 & 148, the Board voted to appeal Judge Anderson's decision. The services of Dorsey and Whitney were engaged to handle the appeal with financial assistance provided by the RRWMB.
- The Buffalo-Red River WD reported that regarding the ED A grant, the Corps of Engineer's is reviewing information concerning wetland impacts and a mitigation plan. Land owner negotiations are continuing on the Hawley project. The District has initiated a project to clear five log jams on the Buffalo River near Georgetown at an estimated cost of \$16,000. Landowner negotiations for right-of-way are continuing concerning the Deerhorn Creek Levees. The District is considering a resolution with respect to USFWS Wetland Restorations to present to the counties in the District and the Minnesota Land Exchange Board. The District office has moved. It is now located across the hall in the same building as the old office.
- The Roseau River WD reported that work with the Roseau Flood Control Committee continues. The need for improving public relations was discussed.
- The Middle River-Snake River WD reported that the annual meeting with the advisory council was held in November. The District along with the City of Warren are in the process of meeting with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the County Boards of Marshall, Polk and Pennington Counties concerning the application for assistance to the Natural Resources Conservation Service for assistance in constructing works to control flooding on the Snake River in Warren. The repair work on Judicial Ditch #75 has been halted for the 1996 season with approximately 25 % of the work completed. The viewers report on Watershed Ditch #5/ Watershed Ditch #6 has been completed. The hearing on these two projects has been tentatively scheduled for February 13, 1997. There has been no change in the status of Angus Oslo Site #4. The land exchange/land purchase is underway and is expected to be completed the first week in January 1997.

District's Funding Requests:

The Red Lake WD requested funding for a ring dike on a farmstead north of East Grand Forks on the Red River of the North. The estimated cost is approximately \$25,000, with 50% requested from the RRWMB. The request was denied since the RRWMB has not funded ring dikes in the past. Dan Thul suggested that the Red Lake WD should pursue funding through either the Hazard Mitigation Program through FEMA or possibly a FDR grant.

The Roseau River WD requested funds of \$10,000 to acquire a hydrologic model and improve public relations in order to develop a basin plan through the efforts of the Roseau Flood Control Committee. Proposed funding:

State FDR:	\$15,000
RRWMB:	\$10,000
Roseau WD:	<u>\$ 5.000</u>
Total	<u>\$30.000</u>

Motion to approve funding for the model by Manager Erickson, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

TIC Report - Julie Goehring

Due to inclement weather, no representation from TIC was available at this meeting.

The annual North Dakota Water Resources Joint Board and Red River Watershed Management Board meeting will be held in Grand Forks, North Dakota on January 15, 1997.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Harley Younggren
Secretary

Naomi L. Jagol
Administrative Assistant