

# Red River Watershed Management Board

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## Board of Managers

John Finney-Humboldt Farrell Erickson-Badger Harley Younggren. Secretary-Hallock Ron Osowski. Chairman-Oslo Vernon Johnson-Clearbrook Daniel Wilkens, Treasurer-Fertile Sanford Moen-Garv Curtis Nelson-Bamesville Ralph Christensen-Campbell Don Ogaard. Executive Director-Ada

## RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

January 21, 1997

Red Lake Watershed District Office, Thief River Falls, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, January 21, 1997, at the Red Lake Watershed District Office, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

Chairman Ron Osowski called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

Ron Osowski	Vernon Johnson
John Finney	Curtis Nelson
Harley Younggren	Ralph Christensen
Sanford Moen	Kelman Kvien

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  
Lowell Enerson, Administrator, Red Lake WD  
Brent Johnson, Engineer, Red Lake WD  
Paul Suomola, TIC  
Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD

Minutes of the December 23, 1996, meeting were read and approved with minor corrections. **Motion** to approve the minutes by Manager Johnson, **Seconded** by Kelman Kvien, **Carried**.

The Treasurer's report was presented and approved with minor corrections. Naomi Jagol inquired on the possibility of excluding the breakdown of the time spent as Treasurer in the Treasurer's Report since this is also documented on Manager Wilkens' voucher. **Motion** to approve the Treasurer's Report and to exclude the page documenting Manager Wilkens' time by Manager Nelson, **Seconded** by Manager Finney, **Carried**.

A **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Christensen, **Seconded** by Manager Moen, **Carried**. For further reference, a copy of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

## Oggard Report- Don Ogaard

Don stated that he had been contacted by HDR Engineering, Inc. regarding the EIS records that are currently on file. Originally, Mark Deutschman had indicated these files would be physically removed from the office prior to his departure. Upon further investigation, Mark was informed that HDR Engineering was advised by their legal counsel to retain the original records and to make available copies of this information to the RRWMB at their expense which was estimated to be \$3,000 (20,000 sheets @ .15 per sheet). Discussion was held on the possibility of scanning this information on a disk that could be more readily accessed by individual watershed districts seeking this information. Don noted that he will investigate possible alternatives for reproducing this data.

The Managers were asked if their individual watershed districts had reviewed the Policy Manual. They responded that reviews would be completed and recommendations would be presented to the RRWMB at the next monthly meeting.

A paper prepared by Lawrence Woodbury, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc., was distributed regarding flood frequency based design. Woodbury highlighted such areas as flood frequency concepts, why engineers design for a specified frequency, and design frequency versus peak flow versus stage.

Don commented on the Legislative meeting scheduled for January 28, 1997, in St. Paul and said that all representatives had been invited and that three Senators are expected to attend. Topics of discussion would include drainage law, conclusions of the EIS with emphasis on thresholds referred to, and also the Bois de Sioux Watershed District's updated resolution. Those attending will include Don Ogaard, Jon Roeschlein plus one Board member from BdSWD, Ron Osowski, Vernon Johnson, Kelman Kvien, and Harley Younggren. Don noted that he will prepare and distribute an agenda prior to this meeting.

Copies of a memo were distributed outlining nation-wide COE permit changes. Individual watershed districts were encouraged to furnish copies of this memo to their attorneys and engineers.

Don stated that regarding the Flood Damage Assessment Initiative, HDR Engineering, Inc., and Houston Engineering, Inc. are dividing up responsibilities and are progressing toward getting the necessary information from agencies and counties.

A handout was distributed commenting on the Mississippi 1993 flood.

Upcoming meetings of interest to the RRWMB were discussed. These would include TIC meeting with the COE, BRRWD meeting in Detroit Lakes with the USFWS, and also a presentation to the Pelican River WD by Don Ogaard on the possibilities of joining the RRWMB.

Don suggested recognizing Gerhard Ross for his years of service to the RRWMB. It was noted that a continuing motion had been made for retiring members to receive a plaque plus \$50.00. Manager Younggren agreed to research this issue, and Don Ogaard will have a plaque prepared for presentation at the next monthly meeting.

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

The newly established RRWMB/DNR Joint Committee was discussed. RRWMB representation will include John Finney, Don Ogaard, and Charlie Anderson. Staff from DNR will include Paul Swenson, Kent Lokkesmoe (alternate Jerry Paul), and Roger Holmes (alternate Paul Stolen). The first meeting should be held in February

Dan informed the Board that the DNR commissioner is recommending mediation for the Marsh Creek law suit. This would involve hiring a professional mediator with participation from the Wild Rice WD, DNR, COE, and other interested parties. This would be an alternative to a legal solution.

Regarding the Roseau Flood Control Committee, Dan stated that Paul Swenson is very enthusiastic about the progress being made and is encouraging DNR involvement. A hydrologic model is being prepared with information provided by the GIS.

The Red River Coordinator position was discussed. The DNR-Division of Waters is interested in renewing this position for one or possibly two years to allow current issues to be resolved. In the future, DNR may be interested in defining a new position that would involve a combination of Division of Waters and Division of Fish and Wildlife involvement.

### **TIC Report** - Paul Suomola

Since the TIC conference in Winnipeg, much time has been spent preparing a draft of the bylaws for the newly formed Red River Basin Board. Numerous meetings have taken place in an effort to obtain a diversity of representation from various civic and government officials on the RRBB. A primary goal of this Board is to be a champion of the people for the respective jurisdictions represented.

The financial position of TIC for the year 1996 was discussed. Income of \$249,000 was generated with expenses incurred of \$232,000. Of the check received from the RRWMB for the 1996 operating year, none has been spent and it is the intention of TIC to use these funds towards the development of the RRBB along with the \$17,000 realized gain. As of year end, TIC has no outstanding obligations that have not been fulfilled.

### **District Reports:**

The Red Lake WD reported that they are busy preparing their 1996 annual audit. Some FEMA maintenance has been completed on the Schirrick Dam. Bids will be opened on Project No. 115, Equality/RLWD Ditch 1, Lat. C, and on the riprap project near East Grand Forks, Project No. 108. The lawsuit has been settled on ditch improvement project No. 113, Winsor/Hangaard Clearwater County Petitions. The first public information meeting regarding the Clearwater Nonpoint Study was held and agency meetings will be scheduled soon.

The Joe River WD reported that Arne Anderson of rural Clow township has been appointed to the Board of Managers. The Joe River Board of Managers passed a resolution supporting the efforts of the forthcoming legal challenge of the final EIS. The Board feels that a court challenge is the only practical means of solving the problems associated with the EIS

- The Buffalo-Red River WD reported that landowner negotiations and permitting issues are continuing regarding the EDA grant project. The district has scheduled a meeting with the USFWS in Detroit Lakes to discuss permitting of wetlands and also adopted the resolution pertaining to this issue discussed at the last RRWMB meeting. The district is finishing its first draft of its Overall Plan Update and is expecting to send it to BWSR in February.
- The Roseau River WD reported that the advisory committee had met in January and the meeting went well. In an effort to promote positive public relations, a newspaper column has been established in a question and answer format. Soil surveys from Roseau county are being digitized with a cost share plan available through local SWCD.
- The Sand Hill River WD reported that the rescheduled hearings for Project #11 - Beltrami Flood Control & Diversion, and Project #13 - Reis-Scandia Township Ditch were held on January 7, 1997. Both projects were ordered to proceed by the Board of Managers at the conclusion of these hearings due to the strong support given by affected landowners. Engineer Woodbury is currently seeking financial assistance with FEMA through their Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program to remedy damages that occurred on the Sand Hill Ditch during last spring's flood. The SHRWD is currently working with the RLWD with regard to changing their joint boundary. Hearings will be scheduled with BWSR in order to bring this project to completion.
- The Two Rivers WD reported that more gauges are being installed in an effort to record stream flows and that a meeting is scheduled to review the rules and regulations of the district.
- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that eighty-three permits were processed in 1996. The 1996 audit was completed on January 13, 1997. The BdSWD will be internet capable and on-line by February 1, 1997 with an E-mail address forthcoming. A request for funds will be prepared for the February meeting to facilitate the land payment due on March 15, 1997.
- The Wild Rice WD reported that at the January regular meeting, the WRWD Board of Managers met with the City of Ada and county officials to discuss preparation of an emergency management plan for ice jam/flooding events on the Wild Rice River. The Emergency Response Plan will address emergency measures to be implemented after an ice jam has formed and flooding is imminent or already occurring. Numerous meetings have been held in an effort to develop a Water Quality Management Plan for the Wild Rice/Marsh River Basin. The WRWD will be refining the preliminary work plan for the project in the upcoming months. The district is currently working with the DNR to reverse a decision that would designate a portion of WRWD Project No. 9, the South Branch Felton Ditch, a DNR trout stream. This designation would give the DNR permit authority over that portion of the project.
- The Middle River-Snake River WD reported that the district, along with the City of Warren, is in the process of meeting with the Soil and Water Conservation District's 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 status of repairing Judicial Ditch #75 has not changed. Work has been halted for the 1996 construction season with

completion scheduled for 1997. The hearing for Watershed Ditch #5/Watershed Ditch #6 has been scheduled for February 13th. The land purchase/exchange is still underway for Angus Oslo Site #4 with the engineer preparing the Step Submittal for the RRWMB.

**District's Funding Requests:**

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

Potential projects for 1997 were discussed. Funding requests would include the following:

Bois de Sioux WD:	North Ottawa, Land payment, \$380,000	(February)
Middle River-Snake River WD:	Angus Oslo Site #4, Engineering Costs, \$180,000	(March)
Red Lake WD:	Parnell Impoundment, Land acquisition, \$100,000	(April)

Preparation of the Annual Report was discussed. It was noted that a request be made for completion of the audit within 60 days with payment due upon completion. **Motion** to authorize Dahl, Hatton, Muir & Reese, Ltd. to perform the audit and for publication by the Warroad Pioneer by Manager Younggren, **Seconded** by Manager Christensen, **Carried**.

Annual Organization of the Board was held. President Osowski turned the meeting over to Vice President Finney who asked for nominations for President of the Board. Manager Moen nominated Manager Osowski for President. Nominations were called for three times by Manager Finney. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Ron Osowski for President by Manager Nelson, **Seconded** by Kelman Kvien, **Carried**. Manager Finney returned the chair to President Osowski. Manager Osowski asked for nominations for Vice President of the Board. Manager Nelson nominated Manager Finney for Vice President. Nominations were called for three times by Manager Osowski. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for John Finney for Vice President by Manager Nelson, **Seconded** by Kelman Kvien, **Carried**. Manager Osowski asked for nominations for Secretary of the Board. Manager Finney nominated Manager Younggren for Secretary. Nominations were called for three times by Manager Osowski. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Harley Younggren for Secretary by Kelman Kvien, **Seconded** by Manager Nelson, **Carried**. Manager Osowski asked for nominations for Treasurer of the Board. Manager Moen nominated Manager Wilkens for Treasurer. Nominations were called for three times by Manager Osowski. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Daniel Wilkens for Treasurer by Manager Nelson, **Seconded** by Manager Moen, **Carried**.

The next meeting will be held on February 18, 1997, at 9:30 a.m. at the Northland Lodge in Crookston, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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E. Harley Younggren  
Secretary

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Naomi L. Jagol  
Administrative Assistant