

The Board dispensed with the reading of the Treasurer's report and it was approved as written. **Motion** by Manager Erickson, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, **Carried**.

Ogaard explained that the USGS proposes to update the statistical analysis of all gaging stations in the Red River Valley. Total costs incurred for the upgrade is estimated to be \$45,000. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has pledged \$13,300 to assist in funding this effort. A funding request of \$13,300 was received by the RRWMB for a one-year proposal to compile data. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize the project to move forward by pledging \$13,300, **Seconded** by Manager Nelson, **Carried**. A **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Nelson, **Seconded** by Manager Younggren, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

District Reports;

- The Red Lake WD reported that the Board approved the repair of State Ditch 83, therefore, the project will be moving forward. Bids were opened for the cleaning of the Thief River Falls reservoir but, since the Board felt they were too high, they were rejected. The engineer will review this project and proceed with the bid process again.
- The Wild Rice WD reported that farmers in the southwest corner of Norman County were once again looking at thousands of acres of flooded farmland due to recent excess rains in the Wild Rice Watershed District. For many, the situation was much worse than the flood of 1997, with thousands of acres planted and ruined from flooding caused by excessive rainfall in recent weeks. Local farmers organized a public meeting to learn what could be done to find solutions to flooding problems in their area on Tuesday, May 26, at the Community Hall in Perley. The meeting received a great deal of publicity and the District is providing the article published by the Norman County Index of the Perley landowner meeting.
- The Buffalo-Red River WD reported that the City of Moorhead is proposing to reroute about 2.5 miles of the Otter Tail Valley Railroad in south Moorhead. The reroute will allow the completion of the street connection between Highway 10 and Interstate 94 via a new railroad overpass. Landowners just south of Moorhead are concerned about agricultural and drainage impacts. The District is on alert to address any issues relating to their rules and regulations.
- The Two Rivers WD reported that the District has teamed up with the Minnesota conservation Corps to perform a culvert inventory in one of the subwatersheds within the District. This inventory will identify culvert locations, flow line elevations, direction of flow, natural ground and road overtop elevations, and size, type, and dimensions of each culvert. A crew of three people from the MCC along with the District staff are currently performing the fieldwork. Culverts are being located using global positioning systems and all of the data collected will be entered into a geographic information system. This inventory will help the Board of Managers and others to make sound management decisions regarding water resources.
- The Roseau River WD reported that specs were mailed to area contractors for quotes on the Phil Johnson ring dike. A request to amend the District's Flood Damage Reduction Grant Agreement was made to the State. The Board is requesting additional funds to construct the remaining ring dikes which have been approved.

- The Sand Hill River WD reported that the advisory committee will present the petitions to the County board today at their monthly meeting requesting transferring authority for all the county ditches within the Sand Hill WD to the District for maintenance. The petitions were circulated throughout the District by the Sand Hill Advisory Committee members to obtain signatures. An informational news release was published in local newspapers in an effort to update the public on the issue. After the petitions have been presented to the County board, a date will be scheduled to conduct a public hearing.
- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that a "draft" Flood Control Plan was developed and presented to the County boards within the District on June 10, 1998 at a meeting facilitated by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources in Herman, MN. Ron Harnack of BWSR let the meeting with Don Ogaard giving a brief history of the RRWMB and the District going through the Flood Control Plan. Numerous questions, comments and concerns were fielded by the panel as well as some frustration from the attendees that the legislation was passed without their support.
- The Joe River WD reported that designs on several ring dikes have been completed and are awaiting review by the District's design engineer. Bids will be advertised soon with construction to begin mid to late summer.
- The Middle River-Snake River WD reported that the District is working with the City of Warren and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop flood control works on the Snake River under Public Law 566. The project includes an off-channel impoundment which will control approximately 57 square miles (33%) of the area above Warren and a diversion around the City of Warren. The total estimated cost of the impoundment is approximately 4 million dollars and the estimated cost of the diversion is approximately 3 million dollars. As soon as the basic details for the impoundment have been determined, the District plans to request funds from the Red River Watershed Management Board for a portion of the local cost of the impoundment. This is expected to be within the next two months.

Discussion on Guideline Paper

The handout prepared by Don Ogaard to generate discussion on the present and future workload of the RRWMB and the TAC was discussed. Some managers stated that their board had reviewed the guideline paper at their regular monthly meeting, while other managers noted that their boards would schedule a special meeting to discuss the handout. Ogaard requested a written summary of responses from each district so that a composite could be prepared for review by the RRWMB.

Tax Levy Rate Discussion

Ogaard encouraged the managers to discuss with their respective boards the tax levy rate determination that will be set at the next monthly meeting of the RRWMB.

A handout was distributed by Al Kean summarizing the start-up overview of a Flood Storage Easement Pilot Program. Kean proceeded to highlight the components of the program. He stated that an appropriation of \$250,000 was received by BWSR under the RIM and PWP Conservation Easements programs. The purpose of the program is to provide for flood storage easements that allow haying, grazing, or other activities approved by the board, and for the cost of constructing related dikes and other structures necessary to maintain flood water storage in easement areas. BWSR will select at least two local governmental units (LGUs) for participation in the pilot program, based on the potential and need for flood water storage in the local area. The conservation easements must be for at least ten years and BWSR or the LGU must make the following payments to the landowner for the conservation easement and agreement:

- a) up to 75% of the total eligible cost to establish conservation practices required by the easement, not to exceed an average of 475 per acre;
- b) 25% of the payment rate for 20-yr. easements acquired under Minnesota Statutes, Section 103F.515; or
- c) an alternative payment system for easements as may be determined by the board, in consultation with the commissioner of natural resources.

A report will be given to the senate environment and agriculture budget division and the house agriculture finance committee on the acquisition of easements under this program by January 15, 2000. The report will include an analysis of the benefit for expansion of the program in other areas of the state that are prone to flooding and on the adequacy of payments under the pilot program. Kean explained the program start-up issues and considerations include 1) selection of participating LGUs, 2) definition of who should be involved, roles, expectations, and how to organize for efficient implementation, 3) definition of critical implementation issues, and 4) funding.

Ogaard inquired whether crop production is allowed on the property on which easements are obtained. Kean responded that crop production is allowed. Kean further stated that it is the intent of BWSR to seek the most workable solution and to also make the program compatible with other existing programs.

Kean inquired on how BWSR and watershed districts could work together to identify the LGUs that could participate in this program. Kean stated a letter of intent was received from the Red Lake WD, who was instrumental in securing this appropriation. Interest has also been expressed by the Roseau River WD and the Wild Rice WD. Kean added the importance of keeping the participants to a maximum of two, in order to keep this a viable pilot with adequate funds to operate. The goal is to have a consensus on the participants selected between BWSR, the DNR, and watershed districts.

Enerson added that in the Red Lake WD, the land east of Highway #59 is not eligible for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The Red Lake WD Board of Managers authorized the District to pursue finding a program for ineligible CRP land. Enerson stated that the District has been working with the FSA office for one-year developing the concept of flood storage easements. Enerson noted that Dan Glickman had indicated that there is a good chance of receiving FSA participation in the program. It is the intention to continue this program into the future should the pilot program operate as anticipated.

Kean explained the reasons BWSR would like to cooperate with the watershed districts in this pilot program. He stated that encouraging grass roots involvement from the watershed districts would assist in developing a workable solution. He added that if input is received at the local level, it provides for ownership in the program. And finally, Kean noted that due to the numerous easements programs currently being administered, BWSR would welcome other agencies to share in the workload requirements.

Roeschlein requested that the Board keep in mind that this is a pilot program and it is important to establish a ~ solid foundation in order to ensure the continuance of the program. He encouraged the Board to review the proposal collectively when determining which watersheds to recommend for the program. He added that in making a determination of which watershed districts should participate, the participants should be selected based on their ability to successfully implement the program.

Kean stated that it is not critical to have a project with a large amount of land versus a program that's saleable. However, he did add that landowner willingness and participation is crucial. Kean requested each manager discuss pursuing this concept with their respective boards.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to endorse the selection of the Red Lake WD, the Roseau River WD, and the Wild Rice WD for application to the Flood Storage Easement Pilot Program, with a recommendation that two watershed districts be selected, **Seconded** by Manager Finney, **Carried**.

Kean added that once the participants have been identified, a work group will be established between BWSR and the LGUs selected to participate in a steering committee for the program.

Red River Coordinator Report - Dan Thul

The minutes from the TAC meeting conducted on May 19th were distributed and reviewed by Thul.

Thul stated that an open house is scheduled in Bemidji from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. with Department of Natural Resources-Division of Waters personnel to solicit input for developing a strategic plan. He invited any interested individuals to attend.

Thul added that he attended a meeting at the Energy and Environmental Research Center (EERC) in Grand Forks, ND with Paul Swenson regarding the "waffle" flood-water storage "concept." Gerald Groenwald, Director of EERC, scheduled a meeting with Paul Swenson in an effort to obtain funding for the concept. Thul explained that the EERC is a research facility that solicits studies and projects on a worldwide basis. The EERC proposal includes collecting data and creating a model to answer questions on how such a system might store water. The proposal would involve a 4-year time period and cost approximately \$4,000,000. The cost estimates to implement a plan range from \$10,000,000 - \$20,000,000.

The TAC reviewed the "waffle" concept and determined that the proposal does have some merit. Charlie Anderson stated that he is currently working with the Roseau River WD and the Two Rivers WD to analyze culvert sizing in relation to flood storage capabilities. The TAC determined that a mainstem system should be analyzed. The TAC also concluded that for short-term storage, this concept could be feasible. But for long-term storage, structural problems with the road systems were a concern. Thul stated that the TAC recommended organizing a meeting with MnDOT and County engineers to discuss the feasibility of applying this concept within the basin. Al Kean, BWSR, added that in southwestern Minnesota, a joint powers board has been implementing road retention projects in Lyon County and suggested the TAC could coordinate with this agency in analyzing dry dams, down-sizing culverts, or replacing bridges.

A draft paper prepared by Brent Johnson, of the TAC, regarding the flood of 1997 was discussed. Thul stated that once the TAC has reviewed the paper, a response will be prepared on behalf of the committee.

The meeting between the USFWS and USGS on May 27th was discussed. Thul stated that discussion included a modeling proposal that evaluated land use and wetland impacts on flooding. Input was solicited from those attending on what types of modeling efforts should be conducted. The proposal focused on how much runoff different land uses such as a wetland produces. Thul stated that a more detailed proposal is scheduled to be distributed by July 15th and the TAC will review and submit a summary to the RRWMB once completed. The TAC noted the importance of this issue and recommends the Board direct the TAC to monitor this proposal.

Thul added that Pete Waller and Al Kean of BWSR will re-schedule a meeting to discuss wetland guidelines with the TAC.

Thul stated that the TAC will review the Guideline Paper prepared by Don Ogaard and provide a technical perspective on this issues presented.

"Mediation" Committee Report

A summary of the mediation proceedings prepared by Naomi Jagol were distributed to the Board. John Genereux, consultant to the RRWMB, also prepared recommendations to the Board regarding the mediation proceedings.

Ogaard explained that the participants established a process advisory committee comprised of Don Buckhout-DNR, Don Araosti-Audubon Society, and Don Ogaard-RRWMB to work in conjunction with the facilitators to prepare the agenda for upcoming meetings. The initial meeting attempted to lay the groundwork on which to proceed and also served as a way of getting the participants acquainted with each other.

The establishment of a Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC) was discussed by the participants. The facilitators explained that the mediation participants need to develop a method for allowing technical consultants to convey pertinent data in a non-restrictive manner. Ogaard stated that he recommended Charlie Anderson and Rick St. Germain to participate on this committee and they have agreed to do so. The Board discussed funding the participation of the engineers on the TSAC. Motion by Manager Wilkens to fund the participation of the technical panelists, Seconded by Manager Younggren, Carried. Ogaard noted that the extent of technical participation will be discussed at the next meeting.

A handout summarizing the definition of a "flood" was distributed by Ogaard. Minor wording suggestions were given by Thul, Wilkens, Anderson, and Adrian. The mediation panelists will be discussing this topic at the next meeting in order to make a determination on the basis for pursuing the mediation process.

Ogaard stated that the next meeting of the mediation panel is scheduled for June 18-19, 1998 at the Northland Inn, Crookston, MN. This meeting will focus on basic issues to include expected outcomes of the mediation process

Executive Director Report- Don Ogaard

The Annual ND/MN Summer Tour is scheduled for June 24, 1998. This year's tour is being sponsored by the North Dakota Joint Water Resource Board and will highlight the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks area. Ogaard stated that it was incorrectly reported last month that Minnesota would be hosting the tour since last year was North Dakota's responsibility and none was conducted. In further discussions with North Dakota, it was decided that North Dakota would be hosting this year's tour since they did not do so last year. Ogaard distributed the edited version of the Flood of '97 videos that were authorized at the previous monthly meeting. He stated that 20 copies were distributed to members of the Red River Basin Board. He suggested Districts promote the video and borrow it out on a library type basis with expectation of return.

The meeting conducted by Ron Harnack of BWSR between the county commissioners and the Bois de Sioux WD was discussed. Ogaard stated he gave a history on the organization of the RRWMB and answered question; of the meeting participants. He noted that the commissioners were not overly supportive of the legislation due to the increase of property tax.

Ogaard distributed several handouts:

- 1) Two copies per district of the Wetland Mitigation Summary prepared by Rob Sip, NDSU graduate student.
- 2) A bar chart depicting the Red River annual high flows at Winnipeg from 1826 through 1997.
- 3) An article from the Tribune.
- 4) A summary of a proposed environmental education program at NDSU entitled, "Red River Watershed Education Program."

District's Funding Requests:

1. Buffalo-Red River WD - Economic Development Administration (EPA) Grant (Moorhead, Dilworth, and Hawley Projects): 8th partial request. Allocation by breakdown as follows:

Project No. 32, Hawley Flood Control Diversion	\$ 6,476.64
Project No. 33, Clay County Ditch No. 50	4,098.37
Project No. 34, Clay County Ditch No. 41	1,406.49
Project No. 36, Clay County Ditch No. 41 - Lateral No. 2	4,907.16
Project No. 37, Clay County Ditch No. 41 - Lateral No. 1	<u>17,261.01</u>
Total:	<u>\$34,149.67</u>

Motion to approve the 8th partial request by Manager Nelson, **Seconded** by Manager Younggren, **Carried**.

2. Red Lake WD - Final phase of Year funding for Water Quality Programs.

Motion to approve the final phase of year funding for Water Quality Programs \$12,500.00 by Manager Johnson, **Seconded** by Manager Younggren, **Carried**.

3. **Red Lake WD** – Parnell Impoundment, Project No. 81, request for payment \$131,150.64

Total expenditures to May 31, 1998	\$ 1,798,503.76
Percentage of cost share for RRWMB	_____ x 85%
RRWMB's share	1,528,728.20
Less Payment request No. 1 - 5	- 1,397,577.56
Pay request No. 6	= <u>131,150.64</u>

Motion to approve Pay Request No. 6 of \$131,150.64 by Manager Johnson, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

4. **Red Lake WD** - Louisville/Parnell Project No. 121, Pay Request No. 1, \$35,739.01.

Total expenditures to May 31, 1998	\$ 108,300.04
Multiplier factor (Total commitment \$71,474)	_____ x 33%
Pay Request No. 1	<u>35,739.01</u>

Motion to approve Pay Request No. 1 of \$35,739.01 by Manager Johnson, **Seconded** by Manager Younggren, **Carried**.

Middle River-Snake River WD/City of Warren/Natnral Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) - PL 566

Manager Osowski updated the Board on the status of the proposed project. Two proposals are being considered differentiated by the on-site mitigation options referred to as "AA" or "AC." The "AA" option requires 30 acres of mitigation, while the "AC" option requires 5 acres of mitigation. The City of Warren and the watershed district disagree on the preferred option. The City of Warren has adopted the "AC" plan. Osowski further added that notice was given to the City of Warren that \$3,500,000 in economic aid may be withheld if the "AC" plan is not adopted.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 21, 1998. Due to the conflict with the 1998 Local Water Planners Conference, several alternative dates were discussed. **Motion** by Manager Johnson to reschedule the regular monthly meeting of the RRWMB for July 14, 1998, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sand Hill River WD office in Fertile, Minnesota, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Harley Younggren
Secretary

Naomi L. Jagol
Administrative Assistant