

workload associated with the RRWMB, the position has developed into a full-time position. In order to advance the position to a fully benefited status, in addition to providing the technical equipment needed to adequately complete the duties associated with the position, the Sand Hill River WD requested the RRWMB to increase the rate of remuneration from 1.3 to 2.5 times Naomi JagoFs wages. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to increase the remuneration rate to 2.5 times Naomi Jagol's wages, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

District Reports:

- The Sand Hill River WD reported that regarding Project #12, Co. Ditches 98 & 148, the township has completed the acquisition of the right of way on the north/south portion. The contractor is finishing leveling the road and anticipates finishing the week of July 13th. Otter Tail Power is scheduled to move the pole sometime in August.

A delegation from the Union Lake-Sarah Improvement Association and several property owners met with the board to discuss the options available to relieve the high water situation. It was agreed to further investigate potential routes going west from Union Lake. Once a route is determined, further exploration will be done to construct a solution.

- The Joe River WD reported that the annual operation and maintenance tour was conducted on July 13th. The channels and structures were in good operating condition and the maintenance requirements will include brush removal, cattail control, and sediment removal.
- The Buffalo-Red River WD reported that the District has received unusually high amounts of precipitation in late June and July. The Red River in Moorhead has crested six times this year (a record). District lake levels are also very high. Crop damage is apparent. Due to the summer rains, construction has slowed to a snails pace.
- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that the Board of Managers are proceeding with refinement of the Flood Control Plan. The first meeting was conducted on Monday, July 13, 1998 at Herman, MN. The purpose was to organize a committee and establish procedures for identifying potential flood control activities. The District has applied to BWSR for a Challenge Grant to assist in funding the development.
- The Roseau River WD reported that Mr. La Verne Voll was appointed interim Manager. He will fill the unexpired term of Kelman Kvien who resigned in April.
- The Two Rivers WD reported that the District is investigating a number of possible impoundment locations that could be constructed in conjunction with a recent ditch petition received. The possible impoundments would alter the amount of flow to the new ditch system, which could allow the ditch to be designed for a smaller rainfall event, which in turn would save on construction costs of the ditch system. The District is currently working with landowners in designated areas and also is investigating the possibility of using some DNR land to store water on.
- The Middle River-Snake River WD reported that no change has occurred in the status of the Public Law 566 project on the Snake River. The District continues to work with the City of Warren and the Natural Resources 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 project is 10 million dollars with the estimated cost of the impoundment at approximately 4 million dollars and the estimated cost of the diversion at approximately 6 million dollars. The estimated local cost of the project 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.

- The Wild Rice WD reported that the District has been spending a great amount of time on permit applications, complaints and rule violations. The Managers processed thirty-one permit applications in July. The Board is currently working on a number of active permit violations with eight new investigations authorized during the past month. The Board of Managers established a \$100 penalty for work performed without a permit and will also be assessing violators with fees and expenses for bringing work done without a permit into compliance.

All townships and counties within District will be notified of permit requirements and will be sent permit application forms for their use. To provide more public awareness and education about the District's rules and permit program, a press release will be issued in the coming weeks and published in the official newspapers of each county located within the boundaries of the WRWD.

- The Red LakeWD reported that construction on impoundments has been progressing quite rapidly as the weather permits.

Bids were rejected on the cleaning of the Thief River Falls reservoir, since they were higher than allowed. The project will be re-bid in July.

Discussion on Guideline Paper

Ogaard requested a written summary of responses from each district so that a composite could be prepared for review by the RRWMB. He noted the importance of receiving responses from the Districts, relative to the mediation process.

1999 RRWMB Tax Levy Rate

The Board discussed the tax levy rate determination. The current ad valorem tax is at a rate of .0003627 times the taxable market value on all taxable property within the respective districts. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to adopt the current rate of .0003627 for the 1999 levy, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**.

Manager Nelson inquired on a review of the funding policies for the RRWMB. He noted that the policies have not been revisited since 1991. Manager Johnson concurred that a review would be worthwhile in order to ensure proper guidance on funding procedures.

Ogaard distributed copies of the resolution passed for the 1999 tax levy rate to the Board. Notices will be forwarded to the member watershed districts of the RRWMB certifying the compliance of Board action relative to setting the levy for 1999.

"Mediation" Committee Report/Tour of Wild Rice WD

Ogaard explained that a tour was conducted of the Wild Rice WD with the mediation panelists. The tour highlighted several points of interest including the Dalen Coulee, ring dikes, stream bank erosion, the Green Meadow Dam, Olson-Agassiz Flood Control Project, Lake Ida Dam, Heiberg Dam, Moccasin Creek Dam, Marsh Creek Site No. 6, and the North & South Becker Dams. The morning portion of tour focused on the sedimentation issue of the Dalen Coulee. The noon lunch break was to include discussion on what the participants had seen thus far, however, the facilitators noted that certain individuals had indicated the tour was too intensive and recommended allowing the participants to absorb the scenery individually rather than pointing out specific points of interest. Ogaard noted his disappointment with the reaction of the participants to the tour, and added that he believes a large percentage of the participants could not be influenced by reviewing certain landscapes.

Johnson noted the severe sedimentation issue facing the Wild Rice WD and added that agricultural production in the downstream areas could be greatly affected unless the problem is corrected.

Ogaard stated that the environmental group representatives on the tour were apparently not interested in attempting to understand the issues associated with the area. Other participants concurred that the environmental groups were very disruptive to the mediation process.

The RRWMB mediation representatives met prior to the regular monthly board meeting to discuss procedures for proceeding with the mediation process. Ogaard stated that the panelists did agree to continue the process but agreed that a strategy needs to be developed in order to address the environmental groups. Deal noted his disappointment with the facilitators regarding how they handled the disruption of the bus tour. The RRWMB mediation representatives agreed on the importance of compiling technical data and to maintain a focus on the facts and issues involved in the process.

Ogaard stated that the next meeting of the mediation panel is scheduled for July 16-17, 1998 at the Northland Inn, Crookston, MN.

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

Ron Adrian updated the Board on the status of the proposed project. He stated that several meetings have been conducted, with one in particular having over 100 people in attendance. In order to obtain federal assistance for the project, the District must adopt the "AC" plan which requires 5 acres of mitigation. No recommendation has been received thus far from the NRCS.

Red River Coordinator Report - Dan Thul

Thul stated that the TAC had reviewed a proposal received from USGS. The proposal includes a funding request of \$8,689 to assist in the continuation of a study. The study was initiated to evaluate contaminant loading to the Red River and also the affects of the contributions to the aquatic community. The general consensus of the TAC was that the study seemed to be worthwhile, however, numerous questions were posed

regarding the proposal. The TAC recommended inviting a representative from USGS to attend the next RRWMB meeting in order to clarify the issues discussed.

The TAC discussed the report on the 1997 flood developed by Brent Johnson. Johnson stated that additional work is needed before a final draft copy can be distributed. Johnson noted that new gages have been installed and this data should be included in the report.

Thul explained that a TAC meeting is scheduled for July 15, 1998 at Houston Engineering in Fargo with Greg Wiche, USGS, to review the USFWS modeling proposal.

Charlie Anderson updated the TAC on the development of the wetland restoration guidelines. The TAC requested Anderson to develop a set of guidelines that would present the STAR value method in a more understandable form. Ogaard added that with regard to flood damage reduction, wetland restoration is a significant issue in the mediation process. Thul noted that BWSR and the SWCD's are very interested in the development of the guidelines.

Thul stated that the TAC reviewed the issues paper distributed previously by Ogaard. A written recommendation by the TAC on each issue will be prepared for distribution to the Board for review.

Charlie Anderson discussed developing an overall plan. Thul explained that the TAC discussed developing a proposal for the RRWMB that would involve measures to control both spring and summer flood events. Manager Johnson encouraged the TAC to solicit agency involvement so that they would buy-in to the plan once it's developed. Rick St. Germain concurred with this recommendation and noted the importance of obtaining the goals and strategies of the DNR and environmental groups.

Ogaard inquired whether the TAC would be prepared to do an analysis of the drainage network in relation to flooding. He noted the need for such an analysis in order to substantiate future discussions relative to the proposed changes in the drainage law. Thul responded that time is the only consideration since individuals on the TAC have other commitments. The Board directed the TAC to develop a proposal to address this issue. Anderson recommended including representatives from the DNR, the COE, and the MPCA as well in the discussion.

Flood Storage Easement Program/ BWSR - Vernon Johnson

Manager Johnson inquired whether there were any new developments regarding the Flood Storage Easement Program administered by BWSR. Manager Erickson responded that the Roseau River WD decided not to apply for participation in the program this year. Due to the limited funding available for this year's program, the Board determined it would be more advantageous to limit participation in the program to two applicants in order to ensure a worthwhile project to increase the possibility for future funding.

Executive Director Report - Don Ogaard

Ogaard stated that the 1998 Local Water Planners Conference is scheduled for July 21-23, 1998, at the University of Minnesota, Crookston, MN. On July 23rd he will give a presentation that will include slides

emphasizing me KKWJYLB and highlight various issues outlined in the McCombs/Knutson Report. Dan Thul and Dan Money will participate in a panel discussion following the slide presentation to answer questions from the audience. A bus tour, sponsored by the RRWMB, will be conducted on Wednesday, July 22, 1998. The tour will begin in Crookston and travel through East Grand Forks, Alvarado, Oslo, Warren, and Thief River Falls viewing various flooded areas and several water control structures. Finally, on Thursday, July 23, 1998, Ogaard will give a presentation titled, "To Drain or Not To Drain, Is that really the Question?"

Ogaard reported on the meeting conducted in St. Cloud with the committee established to address the proposed changes to the drainage law. He explained that the meeting was very preliminary in nature and that the next meeting will include a presentation by Kurt Deter discussing the issues related to the drainage law.

A report submitted by John Genereux, consultant to the RRWMB for the mediation proceedings, indicated that the mediation panelists represent the RRWMB and individual watershed districts quite well. Ogaard stated that the mediation panelists for the RRWMB recommended to continue the services provided by Genereux.

The next meeting of the Red River Basin Board (RRBB) is scheduled for August 6, 1998, in Grand Forks, ND. Ogaard explained that the ongoing relationship between TIC and the RRBB continues to be a very contentious issue. He did note, however, that the planning process is progressing as scheduled despite the learning curve associated with the first year of operation. Several task forces have been established to address particular issues and attendance on these committees has been quite well.

District's Funding Requests:

1. Buffalo-Red River WD - Economic Development Administration (EPA) Grant (Moorhead, Dilworth, and Hawley Projects): 9th partial request. Allocation by breakdown as follows:

Project No. 32, Hawley Flood Control Diversion	\$ 6,673.38
Project No. 33, Clay County Ditch No. 50	71.96
Project No. 34, Clay County Ditch No. 41	207.56
Project No. 36, Clay County Ditch No. 41 - Lateral No. 2	1,034.12
Project No. 37, Clay County Ditch No. 41 - Lateral No. 1	<u>1,238.00</u>
Total:	<u>\$ 9,225.02</u>

Previously authorized for payment in project funding request approval.

2. Red Lake WD - Louisville/Parnell Impoundment Project, Project No. 121, request for payment \$35,734.99.

Total expenditures to June 30, 1998	\$ 226,149.01
Percentage of cost share for RRWMB	<u> x33%</u>
RRWMB's share	74,629.17
Less Payment request No. 1	<u>35,739.01</u>
	38,890.16

Pay request No. 2 **\$ 35,734.99**

Previously authorized for payment in project funding request approval.

3. Red Lake WD - Farnell Impoundment, Project No. 81, request for payment \$298,885.63.

Total expenditures to June 30, 1998	\$ 2,150,133.92
Percentage of cost share for RRWMB	<u> x 85%</u>
RRWMB's share	1,827,613.83
Less Payment request No. 1 - 6	<u>- 1,528,728.20</u>
Pay request No. 7	<u>= 298,885.63</u>

Previously authorized for payment in project funding request approval.

The next meeting will be on August 18, 1998, at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Lake WD office in Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Harley Younggren
Secretary

Naomi L. Jagol
Administrative Assistant