

# Red River Watershed Management Board

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

## Board of Managers

John Finney-Humboldt Farrell Erickson-Badger Harley Younggren. Secretary-Hallock Ron Osowski. Chairman-Oslo Vernon Johnson-Clearbrook Daniel Wilkens. Treasurer-Fertile Robert Wright-Felton Curtis Nelson-Barnesville Jerome Deal-Wheaton Don Ogaard. Executive Director-Ada

## RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

October 29, 1998

Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Thursday, October 29, 1998, at the Wild Rice Watershed District Office, Ada, Minnesota.

Chairman Ron Osowski called the meeting to order.

Members present were: John Finney                      Curtis Nelson  
Daniel Wilkens                      Nathan Redland  
Vernon Johnson                      Jerome Deal  
Farrell Erickson                      Harley Younggren

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  
Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering  
Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD  
Mark Brigham, USGS  
Bob Beduhn, Engineer, HDR Engineering  
Jerry Bennett, Administrator, Wild Rice WD

Additional items were added to the agenda. Vernon Johnson requested to update the Board on the MAWD Annual Meeting scheduled for December 3-5, 1998. Jon Roeschlein requested to discuss the Lake Traverse task force convened by the Red River Basin Board.

Minutes of the September 21, 1998, meeting were read and approved. **Motion** to approve the minutes by Manager Johnson, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. **Motion** by Manager Nelson, **Seconded** by Manager Finney, **Carried**.

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

## **USGS "Mercury Report" - Mark Brigham**

Brigham referred to a letter forwarded to the RRWMB requesting additional funding for the Mercury Study. He explained that the study is comprised of two phases.

- ◆ Phase 1 - Good Lake: He stated that this new reservoir in the Red Lake WD is sampled frequently. He noted that the reservoir is sampled monthly to determine the inflow and outflow of the pool area. Three reference lakes were identified to offer comparisons to Good Lake and they are sampled on a quarterly basis. The main focus of the study is analyzing the significant build up of methyl mercury concentrations in the summer of 1997. During the seasonal cold spell in August of 1997, levels of methyl mercury decreased to normal levels. However, during the winter of 1997 -98, a build up of levels occurred and in February of 1998, concentrations were the highest ever seen. Later in the spring, the levels decreased to normal levels and had a summer peak but not as high as in the winter. He stated that there are significant contributions in inflow as sites are tested down the system. He noted that outflow is typically higher which indicates that something is going on inside the reservoir. He explained that when compared to the reference lakes, the references are exceptionally normal, with a .3 or .4 nanogram liter range.

Ogaard inquired whether the primary source of mercury could be attributed to plant decomposition. Brigham responded that a portion of the mercury could be attributed to this factor, but also the drainage from wetlands was a factor as well. Ogaard noted that this study is quite important to this organization and could be viewed as an addendum to the EIS. Brigham explained that the ultimate source of mercury is atmospheric composition, especially coal burning. He further added it could be converted to methyl mercury, the most toxic form.

Ogaard questioned whether an impoundment magnifies or multiplies the mercury concentration. Brigham responded that it does exacerbate the levels and it is generally presumed that three years following the construction of an impoundment, the degradation is the highest. As the impoundment ages, there is less carbon activity and, therefore, less methyl mercury,

- ◆ Phase 2 - Three types:
  1. Permanent pool
  2. Natural lakes
  3. Dry dam

Brigham stated that the first two types are sampled four times a year, three in the summer and one in late winter. He noted that at this point, the data is being collected and there does not seem to be a consistent difference between the permanent pools and natural lakes. He added that there was some overlap, with some having low levels while others were high. The dry dams were analyzed not with a refined view, but for a high flow site with the dam full. He stated that shortly after a large runoff event, the levels exiting out of the outflow were lower than what was entering the area. Although there was some retention, there was not much leaving soon after the runoff event. He explained that if the reservoir retained water long enough, then the methyl levels built up, and perhaps even doubled. At the Henry Dam after a runoff event, a decrease in dissolved oxygen levels occurred with a corresponding increase in levels two miles above the dam. He noted that if methyl mercury is a concern, to keep water in for only two days avoids a build up.

Ogaard commented on the equation for methyl mercury discharge versus agricultural fields. He noted that when a wetland area takes the early part of a rain, only if the rain is extended does it flush out the wetland. Brigham added that prime conditions for methyl mercury formations occur in sulfate reducing conditions.

Ogaard stated that the EIS alleged that temporary storage increased methyl mercury and it was assumed that this increase could be associated with the drainage of agricultural land. Brigham noted that agricultural sites are selected based on the low carbon storage present compared to that of a pristine prairie site.

Brigham gave a brief summary of the present status of the study. He stated that the additional funding request could be divided into three areas:

1. The addition of another round of permanent sampling - an increase of \$12,600 to the funding for the current fiscal year.
2. The amount of time and travel to collect data samples was underestimated - an increase of \$13,500 would cover expenses incurred in 1999 as well.
3. Long-term monitoring tool of Good Lake in response to the aging reservoir - an increase of \$5,800 to the budget. A total of 16 composite fish samples to do both methyl and total mercury testing. The goal is to obtain a baseline of species in reference to the lakes sampled.

Thul stated that Brigham had discussed the status of the mercury study with the TAC earlier today. He noted that the TAC is supportive of the first item of the additional funding request and added that the TAC is interested to see whether late winter build up occurs. Thul commented that the second item of the additional funding request would be at the discretion of the Board. Regarding the third item of the additional funding request, Thul explained that the TAC is interested in obtaining the ages of the fish sampled since a correlation has been identified between age and mercury content. Thul noted that regarding the three components of the additional funding request, the TAC would be most scientifically interested in items 1 & 3. He recommended regarding item 2, the RRWMB could consider a matching fund basis. Brigham stated that a meeting had been scheduled with Nolan Baratono of MPCA to discuss the possibility of obtaining funds on a cost share basis.

Ogaard referred to a letter received from the Red Lake Band of Chippewa regarding their continued support of the study. Brigham explained that the Red Lake Band of Chippewa has been extremely supportive of the mercury study. The support has not been of a financial nature, but rather significant in-kind services such as access to reference sites through the use of special vehicles.

A Motion by Manager Wilkens to approve the funding request of \$31,900 contingent upon the receipt of matching funds from USGS in addition to the investigation of possible funds from MPCA, Seconded by Manager Johnson, Carried.

Redland inquired whether the report of the original mercury study was contingent on the receipt of the additional funding request. Brigham responded that a report would be prepared on the data obtained regardless of the receipt of additional funds. He noted that the scope of the report would be broader and more inclusive should the data sampling be increased due to the additional funds received.

Erickson noted the importance of determining the value to the RRWMB of funding the additional sampling sites. Finney added that it could be beneficial for the RRWMB to assist in researching issues that have been a basis of past discussions.

#### Lake Traverse Task Force Update - Jon Roeschlein

Roeschlein explained that he was co-chair of the Lake Traverse task force appointed by the RRBB. The task force was developed to identify and prioritize issues for the lake. He stated that in September the task force agreed to recommend to the RRBB to request the COE to review the following three areas:

1. The feasibility of adding more storage to the Mud Lake/Lake Traverse complex.
2. Installing an additional structure at White Rock, MN.
3. Request the COE to investigate and identify potential impoundments in the Lake Traverse drainage basins.

Roeschlein noted his concern that those projects identified by COE as not feasible to construct under COE criteria, would be considered by the residents of the BdSWD as not feasible to construct under any circumstances. He stated that he encouraged the task force to not pursue COE involvement but was overruled. He explained that should the COE determine that installing an additional structure at White Rock be feasible, then financial and political support would be lost downstream. He noted that he would prefer to explore the possibilities of constructing projects upstream, prior to constructing an additional structure at White Rock.

Ogaard added that the COE has not proceeded with water retention projects for the last 50 years and noted that they have been known to conduct studies with no authorized implementation of a plan. He noted that regarding upland retention possibilities, the Mud Lake site probably could not be utilized since this area is under the jurisdiction of the USFWS and they do not advocate storage.

Roeschlein stated that he has attended tours with Jerome Deal and Roland Young to investigate possible water retention sites. He added that he would not have a problem with the COE determining that a particular project should be constructed by the watershed district. However, he would have a problem with the COE determining that a project was not feasible to construct.

Wilkens inquired whether the task force is straying from its original purpose. Roeschlein stated that he has tried to direct the committee to identify concerns and discuss these concerns with the RRBB. Ogaard added that an outgrowth of the mediation process is the development of an organization like the RRBB. Wilkens noted that task forces should have an educational purpose and may need to be redirected.

John Finney added that he is a member of the Pembina River task force appointed by the RRBB. He explained that the members of this task force are very enthusiastic and have volunteered to bring information for proposed projects for the group to discuss. He noted that the task force is trying to utilize a watershed approach to develop an overall plan.

### District Reports

- The Middle River-Snake River WD reported that relative to the Public Law 566 Project, a meeting was conducted on September 29, 1998 with representatives of the Natural Resources Conservation Service regarding the "Draft Watershed Plan and Environmental Impact Statement" for the Snake River Watershed. It appears from the meeting and subsequent discussions that the District will be able to install a gated off-channel impoundment. The off-channel impoundment will store approximately 7,000 acre-feet of water in the 100-year runoff event. Approximately 3,000 acre-feet of this amount will be gate controlled. The impoundment will partially control runoff from approximately 57 square miles (33%) of the area above Warren. The total estimated cost of the project including the diversion is 10.4 million dollars. The estimated cost of the impoundment is 4 million dollars and the estimated cost of the diversion is 6 million dollars. The estimated non-federal cost of the project is 2.7 million dollars.

- The Red Lake WD reported that due to the wet month of October, impoundments are filling with water and drawdowns are being conducted.

The District has been investigating the possibility of constructing two new impoundments. A meeting was conducted with the DNR regarding one impoundment and the second impoundment will be reviewed in the near future.

- The Buffalo-Red River WD reported that construction has begun and is progressing nicely on a number of ditch repairs in Clay and Wilkin Counties. The District has received three petitions for laterals to existing systems in Clay County. These laterals are relatively small (less than 2 miles in length). The proceedings for these laterals will be held through the winter and spring months.
- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that the District has conducted the initial field visits on five potential, private flood control projects. At the last monthly meeting, the Board authorized the review and investigation of projects of this nature and ordered the initial cost estimates to be prepared. These projects involve the creation or restoration of wetland areas in which landowners are interested in enhancing flood control benefits. The District is reviewing the implementation of a permanent easement program for the projects.
- The Sand Hill River WD reported that investigations were conducted at the Beltrami Highway #9 bridge. Severe erosion is occurring along the Sand Hill Ditch within 40 feet of a farmstead in Beltrami. The District engineer has determined that the dirt should be pulled back and the berm reshaped. Prior to construction, a geo-technical report will be prepared that would involve soil borings, conducting tests on the soils to determine the source of failure and estimates of the sheer strength, which would be used to calculate the forces involved in the bank failure. The Board determined that construction for this type of project this late in the season would not be recommended since the site surface would not have an adequate cover for the spring flood event.
- The Joe River WD reported that four, cost-share ring dikes are virtually complete. Due to the excellent weather conditions, the structures were completed quite rapidly. The District is currently prioritizing other sites for additional ring dikes.
- The Roseau River WD reported that hydrographs were distributed to Board members showing how a 100-year flood flows at several gaging sites and the affects of constructing the proposed projects at Norland and/or Palmville. This information was obtained from the District's working model.

The Board approved a release form titled, "License to Enter Upon Lands and Permit for Removal of Trees and Vegetation." The form will be used to obtain permission from landowners when their property needs to be accessed for clearing along the Roseau River and ditch systems within the District's authority. Contractors are required to file the form with the District prior to any work commencing.

- The Two Rivers WD reported that work is nearing completion on the preliminary Engineer's report for the Polonia Ditch petition. The ditch as petitioned would cover 12 miles through Barto and Polonia townships in Roseau County. The adequacy of the ditch outlet is being reviewed and will be addressed in the Engineer's report. Upon completion of the preliminary report, the District will meet with petitioners to discuss the project.

### Red River Basin Water Quality Plan (MPCA^)- Don Ogaard

Ogaard distributed a map depicting the problem rivers in the Red River basin. He explained that a planning process has been developed by MPCA in response to a letter issued by the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the establishment of "Total Maximum Daily Loads" (TMDL) for all waterways in the state. The initiative developed by MPCA to address this concern in the Red River basin is under the direction of Nolan Baratono. Ogaard added that it is essential for watersheds to be involved in the process and advised obtaining the expertise of a highly technical person to be involved in the meetings.

A letter was distributed from Mark Deutschman-Houston Engineering, Inc. Deutschman explained in the letter that during the past several weeks, he had discussed the need for participation in the MPCA Red River Basin planning effort with the Wild Rice WD and the Red Lake WD. In response to the interest received from watershed districts, Deutschman offered to provide the primary technical support to the member districts of the RRWMB relative to participation in the planning process. Based on the schedule of meetings for the planning process, an estimate of twenty meetings would be required. Assuming twenty meetings and one day per meeting (20 days x 8 hours =160 hours), time needed for coordination with member Districts (40 hours) and two presentations to the RRWMB to update the Board on the planning process (24 hours) and expenses, the approximate cost for these services would be \$24,000. The proposed services would be on an hourly basis due to the uncertainty of the planning process.

Johnson stated that the planning initiative was an excellent idea and recommended the RRWMB participate in the study. Wilkens added that he was impressed with the approach of PCA to discuss the issues at a local level.

Ogaard explained that he discussed the study with Baratono who indicated that the study would develop according to the direction of the local participants. He inquired whether the individual districts had the available staff on hand to participate or whether the RRWMB should contract to provide this service to each individual district.

Bennett explained that watershed districts are charged with both water quantity and quality efforts. He stated that he believed this initiative was an opportunity for watershed districts to assist in the direction of the process. He noted that in order for programs to be successful, they must be implemented at the local level. He added that Deutschman would be an excellent participant in the planning process.

Motion by Manager Johnson to obtain the services of Mark Deutschman-Houston Engineering, Inc. on an hourly basis, Seconded by Manager Wilkens, Carried.

Thul urged the individual districts' participation in the planning process since Deutschman would not be accepted as a full participant on behalf of the districts. Bennett agreed and noted that Deutschman would be used as a resource for local initiatives.

### Red River Coordinator/TAC Report - Dan Thul

Minutes of the TAC meetings conducted on 8/18 and 8/24 were distributed.

Thul explained that the Mark Brigham discussed the mercury study with the TAC earlier this morning. Brigham

obtaining funding from EPA regarding an analysis of dry dams. The TAC suggested that testing from Good Lake could be conducted for two or three years. Thul explained that studies in Canada have revealed that a high methyl mercury compilation is present during the first ten years following the construction of an impoundment. The TAC recommended the development of a long term funding proposal in order to extend the study beyond the ten-year time period.

Thul stated that the TAC discussed a basin-wide modeling effort. He noted that significant interest has been shown by the Red River Basin Board and the International Joint Commission regarding the development of a basin model. He added that the TAC suggested that the RRWMB develop a sub-committee to meet with the TAC to review the modeling process in order to determine the modeling criteria. Ogaard commented that during modeling presentations conducted in the mediation process, he has observed that individuals are not very knowledgeable about models and they expect the model can provide greater detail than is possible. Thul noted that questions should be developed regarding items the model is capable of answering and added that the effort could take a variety of directions.

Thul noted that Brent Johnson indicated that a draft summary of the 1997 flood routing model would be available by November 23, 1998 with the final report and model prepared by December 23, 1998.

The TAC met earlier this morning and reviewed the updated USGS proposal to study wetlands and different land use effects on flooding. Thul reviewed the highlights of the proposal. He explained that individuals from several agencies met in Fargo last May. Following the meeting, Greg Wiche and Kevin Vining of the USGS met with members of the TAC to review the proposal. The TAC recommended focusing the study on more of a research initiative rather than developing a basin model. The USGS then modified the study to include a more detailed monitoring of small watersheds. A meeting was held on September 30, 1998 with individuals from agencies that are potential funding sources for the proposal.

Thul noted that Brent Johnson attended the meeting on September 30, 1998 in Fargo with individuals from the USGS and other interested agencies in order to discuss the revised proposal for hydrologic modeling and the impacts on flooding. The base proposal is for \$190,000 a year for 4 years which would include monitoring 4 small watersheds in the Red River Basin in order to determine land use changes and downstream impacts. Thul explained that Johnson proposed selecting two sites in which an existing wetland would be drained, monitored and restored to its previous condition and then reverse the situation. Johnson noted that the agencies' seemed to be receptive to the idea. Thul stated that the USGS noted they would approach both MN and ND for funding assistance and would not propose funding to the RRWMB until these presentations have been made.

Thul added that Charlie Anderson updated the TAC on the developments of the TSAC. Anderson explained the papers prepared by the TSAC include such topics as flood bounce, setback levees, impoundments, and on-farm wetlands. Finney inquired about the size of small, on-farm wetlands included in the study. Anderson responded that a small wetland would be considered approximately 32-acres. He added that two feet of bounce would be accepted. He stated that if this approach were applied to a few thousand acres it would be very effective, although expensive.

#### "Mediation" Committee Report - Don Ogaard

Ogaard stated that the final meeting of the mediation panel has been scheduled for December 9, 1998. A major topic of discussion during the previous month involved restructuring the annual March Conference of the RRWMB. The new format would involve bringing all the agencies and interest groups to the conference in

order for the individual watershed districts to bring forth their basic agenda for the upcoming year to solicit responses. The mediation panelists noted the need for a balanced presentation that would involve all stakeholders. The annual conference would also be included as a step in the DNR permitting process developed through the mediation process. Ogaard explained that this change in format is at the discretion of the RRWMB and their member districts, but noted that this suggestion was supported by the individuals representing the watershed districts on the mediation panel. This new process would allow for representatives from agencies to be assigned to a team that would then be assigned to specific watershed districts and would offer guidance throughout the entire permitting process.

Ogaard explained that the DNR is extremely committed to making this proposed process succeed. Thul added that meetings have been conducted throughout the DNR and, at the regional level, there is a buy-in to this process.

A handout was distributed of the *Draft Project Review and Permitting Process*. Ogaard reviewed the flow chart on the last page of the handout depicting the progression of a permit through the newly proposed process. He explained that the procedural steps proposed by the RRWMB were adopted by the mediation panel 100%. The new process demands that agency and environmental interests get involved early in the process. Johnson added that as a permit progresses through the new process, the chance of it being denied becomes less and less likely. Wilkens added that the proposal for the annual March Conference would involve watershed districts discussing problems within their district rather than specific projects. Ogaard noted that the initial conferences would include discussion of early stages of projects since several are currently on the drawing board. Deal stated that the process would be a transitional one.

St. Germain inquired whether the DNR would have project teams in place by the annual March Conference. Ogaard responded that the DNR has indicated that the teams would be developed by March. Thul noted the need for the teams to include federal and environmental representation. Deal noted that due to funding requirements, several projects would not involve environmental group participation. Ogaard explained that the mediation panel has determined that amenities identified in proposed projects should be funded by the public. Deal added that the environmental groups buy-in to this process and suggested seeking legislative appropriations to fund such projects.

Ogaard inquired about the support from the RRWMB as a whole for this proposed concept. He added that a meeting would be scheduled in January among watershed districts and other agency representatives in order to fully explain the annual March Conference.

Johnson stated that a panel of mediation participants is scheduled for Saturday, December 5, 1998 at the MA WE annual meeting to discuss the outcomes of the process. The panel will include Don Ogaard, Ron Harnack, Ron Nargang, Cheryl Miller, Mark Ten Eyck, and a COE representative.

Ogaard suggested that as a means to relay the information from the mediation proceedings to individual districts, he and one or two other mediation representatives could be added to the agenda for the upcoming monthly meeting of each watershed district. This could allow for the individual watershed districts to be updated prior to discussing the mediation proceedings in a large group setting at the MAWD conference.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to adopt newly proposed annual March Conference format, Seconded by Manager Younggren, Carried.

Ogaard requested each manager to forward copies of the Draft Project Review and Permitting Process to each individual watershed district office for distribution at the upcoming board meetings. Johnson requested Ogaard to forward a letter to each watershed district to discuss updating the districts on the mediation proceedings.

Ogaard commented on the request from the TAC to establish a committee to meet with TAC to discuss potential modeling efforts. The following individuals volunteered to meet with the TAC: Ogaard, Wilkens, and Deal. **Motion** by Manager Erickson to authorize the committee, **Seconded** by Manager Younggren, **Carried**.

#### **Executive Director Report** - Don Ogaard

Ogaard stated that the City of Grand Forks will be hosting a special presentation by the St. Paul District Corps of Engineers regarding upstream water management in the Red River Basin area. The presentation will take place on Thursday, November 5, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. in the Grand Forks Civic Auditorium. Dave Loss, the Corps' technical advisor to the International Joint Commission's Red River Basin task force, will present information on previous Corps studies regarding this issue and proposed new studies by the IJC. Terry Zien, a hydrologist for the Corps, will also be in attendance.

Ogaard stated that no response has been received from MnDOT regarding the installation of signs designating the various watershed districts in the Red River basin.

Ogaard explained that MCEA was not pleased regarding the decision by the mediation panel to not forward the modeling information to their technical representatives.. The mediation panel determined that this information was available to the TSAC for use at Houston Engineering, Inc. in Fargo and did not feel it was necessary to provide this information on an individual basis. He stated that an appeal was filed by MCEA in response to the Wild Rice WD litigation on Marsh Creek, Site No. 6, however, the Minnesota Supreme Court denied the appeal. Ogaard noted that the RRWMB has spent in excess of \$40,000 to fight and win this case.

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

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

#### **Red Lake WD's Parnell and Louisville/Parnell - Final Cost Presentation** - Bob Beduhn

Bob Beduhn-HDR Engineering, engineer for the Red Lake WD explained that an overrun occurred with the construction costs associated with the Parnell Flood Control Impoundment and the Louisville/Parnell Impoundment.

#### **Parnell Flood Control Impoundment**

Beduhn explained that funding was obtained proportionately as follows: RLWD - 15%, and RRWMB - 85%. A decision was made to increase the storage capacity of this project which, in turn, increased the construction costs. Beduhn noted that the RLWD will be requesting cost share from the RRWMB on the additional costs associated with the increased storage benefits.

Beduhn discussed the following aspects associated with the construction of the project: history, watershed, planning, design, and bidding. He stated that the total estimated cost in 1988 dollars was \$3,584,100. He noted

that the multi-phased project was broken down into several parts. The dry impoundment concept was determined from ditch maps from the USGS. The planning goal was to develop the greatest storage capacity at the lowest per-acre cost. Due to the lack of participation in public meetings, the desires of landowners within the project to install culverts was not made known to the RLWD at the beginning of the project. Therefore, once these requests were made, they significantly contributed to the project costs. In addition, the original design included the outlet along the coulee, however, the District determined the outlet along a township road would be more beneficial. The embankment costs associated with this decision were significant.

Due to the shortage of contractors following the flood of 1997, escalated bid prices were received for the project. The increase in bid prices accounts for 62% of the cost overrun. The following costs were also recognized over the budget estimates:

Land - 7%	Engineering - 7%	Change order - 12%
Interest - 8%	Admin and legal - 2%	

Beduhn explained that the project is currently completed and is storing water. He stated that the RLWD is interested in monitoring the flow regime and recommended that the RRWMB be the management authority for monitoring.

Ogaard inquired on the flow regime of the lateral weir. He commented that this weir restricts the amount of water going south and therefore, the water backflows into the impoundment in the west pool where the embankment is high. In addition, the water level drops in the ditch with a weir in the east pool as well. He explained that this situation was somewhat of a political compromise since the local landowners did not believe the project would work.

Ogaard explained that when the bids were opened, the construction bids were 28% higher than estimated. He stated that this percentage could reach 30% without the legal requirement to be re-bid. He calculated the difference and noted that the project was within this criteria by approximately \$125,000.

Beduhn stated that Lowell Enerson suggested that monitoring this site would serve as a useful demonstration project. He explained that the impoundment will hold 8.9 inches of runoff. A normal spring runoff would fill it half full, with the pipe going west remaining full.

Ogaard inquired on the management plan for the impoundment. Beduhn explained that currently the gate is left open, but a proposed management plan is being developed regarding when the gate should be opened and closed. Ogaard stated that should the RLWD consider the RRWMB as a monitoring entity for the project, the RRWMB should be able to assist with the development of an operating plan. Beduhn agreed that a management plan needs to be developed and included in the final engineer's report.

Ogaard noted that in accordance with the 85% funding agreement from RRWMB, downstream benefits were an expectation of this project and the District is obligated to administer the management of the project to achieve downstream benefits.

Ogaard explained that \$592,300 is the cost overrun of the project. Wilkens inquired whether the RRWMB would be requested to fund this overrun on an 85% cost share basis.

Deal stated that when the original bid was accepted at 24% over the estimate on dirt work, the costs of the project should have been adjusted at that time. He noted that the RRWMB was not made aware of this overrun and deserves to be kept informed on such issues. Johnson added that the bid did fall under the 30% legal

requirement, he further noted that the KLWD anticipated building the project over a number of years and had determined that overrun costs could be absorbed over a period of time.

Louisville/Parnell Impoundment

Beduhn explained that this project has been completed. It includes gated storage with wetlands, water on existing wetlands, water on restored wetlands, and water on created wetlands with banking credits.

He explained that the Flood Storage Easement Program administered by BWSR assisted in the development of the initial concepts of the project. It added another 200 acre-feet of storage, and allowed for closed gates in events greater than the 20-year event

The total storage cost per acre-foot is \$227.87. The original budget was \$341,707, with the expansion costs of \$112,263 incurred. The cost share percentage was 50/50 between the RRWMB and the RLWD. The total cost per acre-foot of the project is \$280.66. The District requests \$56,131.50 from the RRWMB to cover the overruns of this project.

Anderson stated that the drainage area of the project includes 5-7 square miles. Ogaard noted that this type of project in the upper reaches, along with gated projects in the lower reaches are the types of projects desired by the RRWMB.

The next meeting will be on November 17, 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 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

E. Harley Younggren  
Secretary

---

Naomi L. Jagol  
Administrative Assistant