

# 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 Robert Wright-Felton Curtis Nelson-Barnesville Jerome Deal-Wheaton Don Ogaard, Executive Director-Ada

## RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

July 20, 1999

Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, July 20, 1999, at the Wild Rice Watershed District Office, Ada, Minnesota.

Chairman Ron Osowski called the meeting to order.

Members present were: Daniel Wilkens                      Vernon Johnson  
Jerome Deal    John Finney  
Rudee Anderson                                      Curtis Nelson  
Farrell Erickson                                      Robert Wright

Others present were: Don Ogaard, Executive Director  
Naomi Jagol, Administrative Assistant, Sand Hill River WD  
George Dailey, Red Lake WD  
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Middle River-Snake River WD  
Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD  
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator  
Brent Johnson, Engineer, Houston Engineering  
Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office  
Erik Jones, Houston Engineering

Ogaard requested that additional items be included in the Executive Director Report. These items included an MPCA update, a letter forwarded from Congressman Peterson's office, a report on the LCMR tour that was cancelled due to Representative Willard Mungar's death, and participation in the MPCA water planning process.

The minutes of the June 15, 1999 meeting were read and approved with minor corrections. Ogaard referred to a motion passed at the previous meeting relative to the Step #1 submittal for the Public Law 566 Project of the Middle River-Snake River WD. Ogaard stated that the motion was moved by Chairman Osowski and explained that although the policy manual does not preclude the Chairman from making a motion, that in order for the Chairman to make a motion, the meeting must first be turned over to the Vice President. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to reintroduce the Step #1 submittal for the Public Law 566 Project for discussion, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**. Chairman Osowski turned the meeting over to Vice President Finney who opened the floor for discussion. **Motion** by Manager Osowski to approve the Step #1 submittal for the PL 566 Project, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**. Manager Finney returned the chair to Chairman Osowski.

Ogaard also stated that Manager Nelson had noted his concern regarding a motion that was included in the draft minutes regarding the funding of projects dealing with lake levels. Nelson stated that at the previous monthly meeting, discussion had occurred regarding the potential of the RRWMB to fund projects related to lake levels.

Nelson explained that only discussion had occurred at the previous board meeting and that no motion had been made as was included in the draft minutes. Nelson further added that it was his understanding that at the present time there would be no funds forthcoming from the RRWMB for the Turtle Lake project, however, should further developments arise, he requested that the RRWMB reconsider the situation. **Motion** by Manager Johnson to eliminate the motion included in the June 15, 1999 draft version of the minutes regarding the funding of lake levels by the RRWMB, **Seconded** by Rudee Anderson, **Carried**. Manager Wilkens added that the RRWMB is in the process of rewriting the Project Evaluation Manual which could include developing a budget and identifying priority areas in order to use the limited funding capabilities of the RRWMB in the most judicious manner.

**Motion** to approve the minutes as written by Manager Deal, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, **Carried**.

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

Ogaard reviewed the monthly bills received. A **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Johnson, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

#### **"New Generation" Watershed District Overall Plans**

Ogaard stated that overall plan updates for the watershed districts in the Red River basin were agreed to in the mediation agreement. He added that he had been contacted by Ron Harnack of the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) regarding the funding percentage authorized by the RRWMB relative to the cost share percentage of the updates.

Manager Deal noted that when the funding request from the Wild Rice WD was authorized at the February 16, 1999 meeting, the cost share percentage authorized was the following: 50% State, 25% RRWMB, and 25% local watershed district. He added that it was his understanding that the intent of the Board with this motion was to apply the same cost share percentage to the overall plan updates for each watershed district as was authorized for the Wild Rice WD.

After discussion, the board recommended to apportion the cost share percentage as follows: 50% State, 25% RRWMB, 25% local watershed district.

**Motion** by Manager Wilkens that the overall plan updates cost share percentage be apportioned as follows: 50% State, 25% RRWMB, and 25% local watershed district and be inclusive to all watershed districts within the RRWMB, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

#### **Mediation Technical Panel**

Ogaard discussed the RRWMB's technical participation in the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC) developed for the mediation process. He noted that St. Germain and Anderson were the primary engineers involved in the TSAC. He added that as the mediation work group continues to meet on a semi-regular basis, there is a need for their continued involvement.

Manager Wilkens added that TSAC did a great deal of work in the mediation process and provided vital information to the work group which allowed the environmental interest groups to progress throughout the process. He noted the importance of having technical representation available when needed for the work group.

Manager Deal concurred with Wilkens. He stated that the technical representatives should be available to address issues as the need arises.

**Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize technical representation from the RRWMB for the mediation work group as determined by the TAC, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**.

Ogaard discussed the Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) task force of the Red River Basin Board (RRBB). He explained that as chairman of the taskforce, the group is making good progress but has identified a need for mapping information. He stated that Rick St. Germain has the best information available to develop the mapping requirements needed. He inquired about the potential for the RRWMB to provide for technical representation for the task force.

Manager Nelson inquired whether the RRBB would be funding the cost of the technical representation from the RRWMB. Ogaard responded that all agencies provide individuals to participate on committees, and that no remuneration is available to committee members since they are already receiving compensation from their respective agencies.

Ogaard further explained that the FDR task force is developing information regarding the flooded areas within the Red River basin. He added that Manitoba and North Dakota are furnishing information from their areas, and the RRWMB should be responsible for providing the information for Minnesota since the USACE does not have access to this information.

**Motion** by Manager Erickson to fund up to \$5000 for technical assistance for the RRBB's task forces, **Seconded** by Rudee Anderson, **Carried**.

### **District Reports**

- The Joe River WD reported that there is renewed interest in the Highway 171 road-raising project near the City of St. Vincent. Officials from Kittson County met with the Board to discuss permitting the project. The Board has received several comments, both pro and con, concerning its position on this issue.
- The Roseau River WD reported that the Board authorized Chairman Steve Erickson to sign the letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requesting a Section 206 feasibility study on the Hay Creek Project.
- The Middle River-Snake River WD reported that the "Notice of Award" has been delivered to the contractor, Strom Construction of Moorhead regarding the Angus Oslo Site #4 Project. The contract has been signed, however, due to a defect in the Performance Bond and the Payment Bond these have been returned to the contractor for correction. The "corrected" bonds should be received this week. The contract will be delivered and the "Notice to Proceed" will be issued as soon as the "Payment Bonds" and the "Performance Bonds" have been received.

- The Wild Rice WD reported on the Dalen Coulee Project which is located in the western portion of Norman and Clay counties, and is oriented in a north-south direction, which ultimately drains into the Wild Rice River. Landowners originally expressed concern to the Wild Rice WD about the frequency of crop loss adjacent to the coulee in the 1980's. Through a process of working with numerous water management agencies, the landowners selected a project option that balances flood protection along with natural resource issues along the DNR protected waterway. The cost estimate on the project is just over \$1.1 million, however, a number of funding sources will help local landowners fund the flood reduction project. The District hopes to have the funding package in place to begin construction in the year 2000.
- The Buffalo-Red River WD reported that the District declared an emergency project in accordance with Minnesota State Statutes regarding the high water levels on Turtle Lake. Soil borings have been completed and due to the nature of the soils and groundwater levels, a siphon system was designed. A hearing was held July 6, 1999 to discuss the final project design, the water quality assessment, and other project concerns. Bids were opened July 7, 1999 and the contract was awarded to William Nichol Excavating. Construction began July 9, 1999.

The first project team meeting of the District was held on July 15, 1999. A bus tour of portions of the Whisky Creek Basin and the Deerhorn Creek Levee Project area was conducted. The next meeting is scheduled for mid to late August.

- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that the North Ottawa Project Team met on July 19, 1999. A review of a draft Preliminary Engineer's Report and Draft North Ottawa Sub-Watershed Plan was conducted. Discussion occurred regarding a proposal submitted by Ducks Unlimited representative, Jon Schneider. Schneider proposed that an immediate impoundment could be built and still be compatible, with the 10 to 15 square mile concept proposed a few years earlier by the USFWS. At the time the USFWS would be ready to establish a refuge, the operation of the 4 square mile area would change to fit the multi-purpose wildlife/flood control scheme. A draft Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) was reviewed by Don Buckhout, DNR, with requests that the project team assist with the completion of the document. Buckhout indicated that the decision-makers for the project team should move forward and be prepared to make decisions about the enhancements that should be included in the project and how these would be funded.

#### **Red River Coordinator/TAC Report** – Dan Thul

Thul stated that regarding the project teams developed in response to the mediation process, there is a direct link with the commissioner's office relative to the DNR's role in coordinating the project teams.

Thul discussed the priority list of flood damage reduction projects for the DNR. He explained that the flood damage reduction projects would be funded from the general fund, however, no specific commitments have been made to date.

#### **International Joint Commission Report** – John Finney

Manager Finney distributed a handout regarding the IJC meeting with governmental representatives he had attended on Tuesday, June 15, 1999 in Winnipeg, MB. The meeting was convened by the IJC to discuss organizational structures in the Red River Basin, to identify various objectives and needs and to consider the relevant issues. It was part of the reference from the United States and Canadian governments to the IJC to examine the possibility of establishing international watershed boards.

Finney stated that a great deal of the discussion centered on the establishment of an international watershed board including the size and membership of the board. He explained that another meeting has been scheduled for October following the reorganization of the IJC board. He added that Morris Lanning, Mayor of Moorhead, reported on why the Red River Basin Board (RRBB) should be selected as the international watershed board.

Wilkins stated that discussions have taken place regarding the RRBB assuming the position of the international watershed board and that, with some minor restructuring, this could be a possibility. He noted that a problem does exist with this concept, however, since the RRBB lacks statutory authority.

Oowski inquired as to the type of authority of the RRBB. Ogaard explained that the RRBB was structured as a "pipeline" for funding a watershed management plan for the entire Red River basin.

Finney added that funding was discussed for the proposed international watershed board and the IJC had indicated that when the new board is identified, the board would coordinate with the affected government entities.

Johnson noted that Minnesota is ahead of other jurisdictions with regard to recognizing watershed boundaries. Finney concurred with Johnson and added that outside of Minnesota, most individuals do not understand the watershed concept. Johnson suggested that Ray Bohn of MAWD could coordinate a presentation on watersheds for the IJC or other interested organizations.

**Executive Director Report** – Don Ogaard

Ogaard distributed a letter received from Congressman Peterson's office that stated that Maynard Pick was designated as water resource specialist. The letter requested that Pick be kept informed of all activity and/or meetings conducted by the RRWMB.

Ogaard referred to the RRWMB obtaining the services of Mark Deutschman, Houston Engineering, Inc. to provide the primary technical support to the RRWMB regarding the Red River Basin Water Quality Plan sponsored by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. He stated that Deutschman had attended a few of the meetings at an average cost of \$1,200 per meeting. He recommended discontinuing Deutschman's participation since the meetings are usually attended by himself, as well as other RRWMB representatives. He added that the meetings have included discussion relative to obtaining a governmental entity to administer the plan by disbursing the funds received in conjunction with the plan developed. He noted that members of the committee have discussed whether the RRWMB should administer the funds and inquired whether the Board would support this concept.

Ogaard added that Nolan Baratono, MPCA Detroit Lakes, who has been responsible for coordinating the water plan has indicated that he will be transferring from the Detroit Lakes office to the Rainy River Watershed in northern Minnesota.

Wilkins inquired whether the Joint Powers Board (JPB) was considered for administering the plan. Ogaard responded that the JPB was considered, however, it does not have the staffing in place to fulfill the responsibilities associated with administering the plan.

**Motion** by Manager Wilkins for the RRWMB to be available to accept proposals to administer the water quality plan developed by MPCA, **Seconded** by Manager Finney, **Carried**.

Ogaard distributed an agenda for the December retreat for watershed district managers. He explained that the format of the retreat would include a broad range of questions to be discussed by four separate groups that would rotate for over a two-day session. He added that the questions would include the background and history of the RRWMB and also the various agencies that the RRWMB is involved with. He stated that the mediation process would also be discussed at length in order to insure a basic understanding by all watershed district managers.

Manager Wilkens stated that he agreed with the proposed format. Ogaard noted that the goal is for all participants to have attended each session. Manager Johnson suggested that local talent be utilized for a program following the evening meal. Ogaard added that he would like to encourage managers from the RRWMB to participate in the retreat.

Ogaard distributed a new logo design prepared for the RRWMB. He explained that some problems have been experienced with the current logo used on the stationary since it only includes the office the Executive Director in Ada, while the financial records and bookkeeping for the RRWMB is conducted in Fertile. He noted that the current logo which highlights the counties in the RRWMB is also outdated due to the addition of the new counties included in the Bois de Sioux WD. The new logo design would be used for letters and envelopes forwarded only out of the Fertile office to avoid correspondence being inadvertently forwarded to Ada.

Osowski inquired whether both addresses in Ada and Fertile could be included with the logo design in order to avoid confusion. Following discussion, the board agreed that the inclusion of both addresses and the logo design were two separate issues with the primary concern at this point focusing on the logo itself.

Naomi Jagol discussed problems she has had in the past with various banks when forwarding correspondence with regard to investments for the RRWMB. The current stationary lists Ada as the address for the RRWMB while all the record keeping is conducted in Fertile. She also noted the urgency of selecting a logo design for the RRWMB as it would need to be included on the checks ordered to be used in conjunction with the new accounting system.

Following discussion, the board determined that a committee should be developed to review different design options for the logo. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to designate the following individuals to participate on the committee: Thul, Finney, Wilkens, and Jagol. **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Ogaard discussed the funding recommendations determined at the June mediation meeting. Manager Wilkens noted that with regard to the funds obtained, they would need to be spent this year or they would be lost.

Ogaard stated that the division of the funds discussed at the meeting provided for \$800,000 for Angus Oslo and inquired whether these funds should be forwarded entirely to the district, or divided proportionately according to the agreed upon funding percentage authorized by the RRWMB. He noted that his recommendation would be to distribute the funds on a proportionate basis between the RRWMB and the individual watershed district.

Manager Nelson referred to the commitment from the RRWMB to the Deerhorn Creek project in the Buffalo-Red River WD. Ogaard stated that the original commitment included an upstream storage component which is not included in the current project. Ogaard noted that when the specifications of a project are altered following the original approval by the RRWMB, the watershed district is supposed to come back before the RRWMB for reconsideration.

Adrian inquired whether the funds designated through the mediation proceeding would require a local match. Ogaard responded that a grant system is being developed which would not require a local match.

**Motion** by Manager Wilkens to divide up the state funds on a proportionate basis according to the original RRWMB commitment, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**.

### **2000 RRWMB Tax Levy Rate**

The Board discussed the tax levy rate determination. Osowski stated that the RRWMB is currently at 75% of the legal limit which involves a rate of .0003627 times the taxable market value on all taxable property within the respective districts.

Manager Johnson stated that the Red Lake WD discussed this issue and recommends that the RRWMB levy remain at 75% due to the poor farm economy.

Manager Erickson stated that it was his understanding that the legislators had indicated that future state funds would be limited should the RRWMB not levy the maximum amount. Manager Wilkens requested Ogaard to explain what had been discussed in the legislature.

Ogaard stated that this was an issue when he presented the mediation agreement to the legislature and requested state funds for flood damage reduction and natural resource enhancements. He explained that the legislators had indicated that if the RRWMB does not levy the full amount, state funds would not be provided in the future.

Manager Wilkens added that should the RRWMB levy at the maximum capacity and the need for flood damage reduction and natural resource enhancements was greater, the state would consider funding assistance. He further noted that once construction begins under the terms of the mediation agreement, the treasury of the RRWMB would be depleted in a short time period.

Manager Nelson referred to letter forwarded from the Buffalo-Red River WD to each manager of the watershed districts within the RRWMB requesting them to consider keeping the levy at the current rate of .0003627 or 75% of the maximum capacity.

Manager Osowski stated that the Middle River-Snake River WD could definitely use the additional money provided by increasing the levy amount. Manager Johnson inquired on the amount levied by the MRSRWD for administration. Adrian responded that just under \$125,000 is levied for administration in the MRSRWD. Manager Wilkens added that funds levied for administration can't be used for the construction of projects.

Manager Nelson inquired whether projects are supposed to pay for themselves through the assessment process. Manager Wilkens responded that only ditch projects can pay for themselves through assessments and that flood control projects are paid for through the construction levy or with the assistance of the RRWMB.

**Motion** by Manager Nelson to adopt the current rate of .0003627 for the 2000 levy, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson. Discussion followed.

Manager Deal stated that although he personally supports the rationale to increase the levy to 100% in order that state funds could be obtained in the future, the Bois de Sioux WD would support keeping the current levy rate the same and increasing the rate for the year 2001.

Ogaard stated that discussion needs to occur regarding funding needed from the RRWMB for various projects within the individual watershed districts within the next year. Thul suggested that perhaps the RRWMB could consider increasing the levy from 75% to 100% within a five-year period.

Manager Erickson inquired about how much could be levied by increasing to the maximum capacity. Ogaard responded that by increasing the levy to 100%, just under \$1,000,000 could be levied in the individual districts with the same amount levied for the RRWMB.

As there was no further discussion, a vote was taken. Those voting in favor of the motion included: Johnson, Deal, Finney, Anderson, and Nelson. Opposed included: Wright, Erickson, and Wilkens. Motion **Carried**.

### **Turtle Lake Update**

An update on the emergency situation of Turtle Lake was presented by Erik Jones of Houston Engineering, Inc. He explained that Turtle Lake is a 200-acre lake located on the Clay and Becker county line, 4 miles northeast of Rollag, MN. The lake has been rising since 1993, with 14 homes currently flooded since the beginning of June. He stated that 36 homes are currently protected by sand bags, however, if water doesn't come down before next spring the dikes will be compromised. He added that the DNR had established the ordinary high water (OHW) elevation at 1361.6 feet but has been re-evaluated to 1362.7 feet.

Jones discussed the progression of events which led up to the current status of the project. The history of the project included the following dates:

- 4/12/99 – Landowners notified the BRRWD.
- 4/17/99 – Meeting at Turtle Lake public access.
- 4/26/99 – Preliminary engineers report given, emergency declaration.
- Work group meetings – 5/06, 5/20, 6/03, and 6/24/99.
- 7/06/99 – Preliminary hearing.
- 7/07/99 – BRRWD ordered project.
- 7/09/99 – Construction began.

Jones referred to Statute 103D.615, emergency subdivision. He explained that the project design considerations included how to get the water out of the lake (route) and what to use for discharging the water (siphon or open pipe). He added that three routes were considered for the outlet.

The alternatives considered included open channels, gravity pipe outlets, pumping, siphons, relocations, or “do nothing.” Jones stated that downstream improvement plans would include improving three crossings, which are currently undersized. He noted that the siphon alternative was determined to be the best method to get the water out of Turtle Lake due to the unstable soils.

Jones explained that one-foot would be siphoned from Long Lake and the wetland and would be accomplished prior to reducing the level of Turtle Lake.

Manager Osowski inquired whether Long Lake is too high also. Jones responded that there is about one foot of difference between the two lakes and that Long Lake is currently above the OHW mark.

Adrian inquired whether Turtle Lake would be drawn down to the OHW mark. Jones responded that the goal would be to reduce Turtle Lake to the OHW mark, however, this would be dependent on the difference between the two lake levels.

Jones stated that the plan is to begin lowering the lake level this fall. He noted that the siphon would not be operated during the months of February through May, and would never be operated when flooding problems exist on the Red River. He added that the total project costs are estimated at \$539,485.00. Manager Nelson added that the date of completion is scheduled for August 20, 1999.

Manager Wilkens inquired whether there were any downstream landowner concerns. Jones responded that residents on Lake Fifteen had water quality concerns regarding the water that would be siphoned down to them from Turtle Lake. Jones stated that sampling was conducted to determine the effects of the outlet on Lake Fifteen and the changes were found to be insignificant.

Adrian inquired how the siphon for Turtle Lake would be started. Jones responded that the siphon would be filled from the bottom, with water pumped around the valve. Jones stated that once the water is coming out of the top, the siphon would be primed and ready.

Manager Finney inquired about how far in the ground would the siphon be placed. Jones responded that the siphon would be installed down in the ground an average of 7 feet.

Roeschlein inquired about the establishment of a maintenance plan. Manager Nelson responded that maintenance of the siphon would be the responsibility of the property owners on the lake. Nelson added that the assessment was based on 25% of the property value, and if the property was in danger of being flooded, an additional 25% was assessed to the property.

#### **“Liaison/Project Funding” Position**

Ogaard informed the board that the interested individual he was negotiating with had declined the offer for the position. Ogaard noted that it would take a highly specialized individual that would have the broad knowledge needed to fulfill this role.

Manager Johnson inquired whether there are professionals available that could fill this position. Ogaard responded that there are professionals who specialize in grant writing, however, they would lack the knowledge about the operations of watershed districts.

Ogaard added that he would continue the search for an individual to fill the liaison position. Manager Johnson suggested that he could contact Ray Bohn from MAWD regarding a qualified individual to fill this position.

Ogaard stated that a meeting is scheduled for July 22, 1999 in St. Paul regarding the status of the funds obtained for the mediation process. Manager Johnson inquired whether this funding would include reimbursement to the individual watershed districts for the expenses associated with conducting the project team meetings. Ogaard responded that funds would be coming directly from the state to the RRWMB for expenses incurred relative to the project teams.

Manager Wilkens concurred with Johnson and noted that each district is incurring costs associated with the project team meetings. Manager Deal added that the Bois de Sioux WD is keeping track of all the project team costs and will eventually charge these costs back to the project once it is established.

Ogaard referred to the draft agenda that was distributed to the Board of Managers prior to the monthly meeting along with the meeting notice. Ogaard stated that it had been brought to his attention that a draft agenda to be forwarded prior to the monthly meeting was desired by several managers. Ogaard stated that should this be the desire of the board, it could certainly be included with the meeting notice with the final version to be distributed at the monthly meeting. **Motion** by Manager Johnson to forward a “draft” agenda with the meeting notice, **Seconded** by Manager Nelson, **Carried**.

**District's Funding Requests:**

1. **Middle River-Snake River WD - Angus Oslo Site #4 Impoundment Project:** The Board of Managers forwarded a request for an advance on the funding for the construction of the Angus Oslo Site #4 Impoundment Project.

The District has awarded the contract to Strom Construction of Moorhead, MN. The contract amount is for \$1.42 million dollars. The District does not have sufficient funds on hand to make the progress payments as they become due without a portion of the RRWMB's commitment to this project. The District requested an advance of \$500,000 on the project which is approximately 30% of the estimated costs remaining of the project.

Manager Johnson inquired whether advancing construction funds to individual watershed districts had been done in the past. Ogaard responded that the advancing of construction funds was common in the past and is authorized in the Project Evaluation Manual.

Manager Osowski noted that due to several projects currently under construction, a financial burden has been placed on the District. He further stated that a maximum advance of \$500,000 would be needed from the RRWMB, however, these funds could be remitted on a monthly basis as progress payments are made.

**Motion** by Manager Johnson to authorize the advance of construction funds in the amount of \$500,000 on an "as needed" basis, **Seconded** by Manager Finney, **Carried**.

2. **Turtle Lake Project:**

Manager Nelson stated that he was requested by the Board of Managers of the Buffalo-Red River WD to forward a funding request for the Turtle Lake project.

Manager Osowski responded that the Turtle Lake project had been discussed by the Board of Managers of the Middle River-Snake River WD at the board meeting conducted on July 19, 1999. Osowski stated that the board determined that other funding sources exist for projects of this type and that projects such as this should not be funded by the RRWMB since the RRWMB was developed to fund flood retention projects that would offer mainstem benefits to the Red River. Osowski further added that the Turtle Lake project would only recognize local benefits.

Manager Johnson concurred with Osowski and noted his concern should the RRWMB start funding projects that reduce lake levels. Osowski added that the positive publicity received by the Turtle Lake project would be a benefit to all watershed districts.

**Deerhorn Creek Levee Project**

Ogaard stated the prior to the RRWMB authorizing funding for this project, a tour should be conducted of the project area in accordance with the Project Evaluation Manual. Manager Nelson suggested holding the next monthly meeting in the Buffalo-Red River WD in order that a tour could be conducted of the project area.

The next meeting will be on August 17, 1999, at 9:30 AM in Barnesville, Minnesota, and will include a tour of the Deerhorn Creek Project area.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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E. Harley Younggren  
Secretary

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Naomi L. Jagol  
Administrative Assistant