

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

January 18, 2000

Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, January 18, 2000, at the Red Lake Watershed District Office, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

Chairman Ron Osowski called the meeting to order.

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

Others present were: Don Ogaard, Executive Director
Naomi Jagol, Administrative Assistant, Sand Hill River WD
Chuck Fritz, Administrator, Red Lake WD
Richard Nelson, Financial Coordinator
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Brent Johnson, Engineer, Houston Engineering
Loren Sanderson, Engineer, Red Lake WD
Dennis Nikolayson, Red Lake WD

Manager Johnson requested that Loren Sanderson, Engineer-RLWD, be added to the agenda to discuss the Farmstead Ring Dike program. Don Ogaard noted that there would be an additional item included in the Executive Director report.

The minutes of the December 10, 1999 meeting were read and approved with minor corrections. **Motion** to approve the minutes as written by Manager Erickson, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. Manager Johnson inquired about the amount of funds earmarked for projects currently authorized by the RRWMB. Ogaard responded that he is working in conjunction with Manager Wilkens to develop a summary of tax levy income for the RRWMB in order to determine the future funding capacity. Manager Nelson noted that the new mileage rate for 2000 was changed to .33 per mile. **Motion** by Manager Nelson, **Seconded** by Manager Younggren, **Carried**.

Ogaard reviewed the monthly bills received. Wilkens distributed a one-page handout of monthly bills to be approved. Wilkens explained that the new accounting program has an option to enter the bills received prior to monthly meetings. The program can produce a report listing the bills entered for approval, and once the bills have been approved, checks can be printed from the previous information entered. Wilkens noted that some bills are still forwarded to the Executive Director which would need to be changed in order to best utilize this

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

Annual Board Organization

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

Manager Osowski asked for nominations for Vice President of the Board. Manager Nelson nominated Manager Finney for Vice President. Nominations were called for three times by Manager Osowski. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for John Finney for Vice President by Manager Wilkens, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Manager Osowski asked for nominations for Secretary of the Board. Manager Finney nominated Manager Younggren for Secretary. Nominations were called for three times by Manager Osowski. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Harley Younggren for Secretary by Manager Erickson, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

Manager Osowski asked for nominations for Treasurer of the Board. Manager Erickson nominated Manager Wilkens for Treasurer. Nominations were called for three times by Manager Osowski. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Daniel Wilkens for Treasurer by Manager Finney, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Resolution Authorizing the Regular Monthly Meeting Date and Time

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the designation of the regular monthly meeting date and time at the regular board meeting held in Thief River Falls, MN, on Tuesday, January 18, 2000.

On a **motion** by Manager Wilkens, **seconded** by Manager Erickson, and on a vote of 8 for and 0 against, the motion passed to designate the third Tuesday of each month at 9:30 AM as the regular monthly meeting date and time for the Red River Watershed Management Board.

Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Per Diem/Mileage to Managers

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the authorization of payment of per diem/mileage to Managers at the regular board meeting held in Thief River Falls, MN, on Tuesday, January 18, 2000.

On a **motion** by Manager Nelson, **seconded** by Manager Wilkens, and on a vote of 8 for and 0 against, the motion passed to allow the maximum per diem by state law which is currently \$55.00 per day and the maximum IRS limit for mileage which is currently .325 per mile unless a change occurs.

Resolution Authorizing Deposit/Investment of Funds

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the authorization of deposit/investment of funds at the regular board meeting held in Thief River Falls, MN, on Tuesday, January 18, 2000.

On a **motion** by Manager Nelson, **seconded** by Manager Finney, and on a vote of 8 for and 0 against, the motion passed to authorize the Red River Watershed Management Board to reaffirm the adoption of the Treasurer's Manual originally adopted on 4/19/91 and amended on 8/08/95.

Resolution Authorizing Legal Counsel

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the authorization of legal counsel at the regular board meeting held in Thief River Falls, MN, on Tuesday, January 18, 2000.

On a **motion** by Manager Finney, **seconded** by Manager Wilkens, and on a vote of 8 for and 0 against, the motion passed to designate Dorsey & Whitney as the official legal counsel of the Red River Watershed Management Board.

Annual Review of News & Views Contract

The contract relative to publishing the "News & Views" newsletter of the RRWMB was discussed. Ogaard distributed a handout listing the feature articles published for the previous year. He explained that the contract was awarded two years ago to Naomi Jagol, d.b.a. Desktop Documents. He explained that one year ago, the Board determined that the contract would remain in effect until "an intent to discontinue" notification was received from either party giving a 30-day notice. He stated that the newsletter would be evaluated on an annual basis.

Ogaard stated that the intent of the newsletter is to inform individuals not directly involved with the RRWMB on issues relative to water management. He noted that several positive comments have been received regarding the newsletter.

Manager Erickson added that the newsletter is providing positive information regarding watershed districts which is improving public relations for the districts. He noted that the local newspaper in Roseau publishes portions of the newsletter each month.

Manager Finney noted that he also receives comments regarding the newsletter which means that individuals are reading the articles.

Jagol stated that she had been contacted by Ray Bohn of MAWD with a request that the newsletter be emailed directly to MAWD in order to be posted on their website. She added that other potential sources are being explored to be included in the monthly publication.

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported that Rob Sando was hired as the new District Administrator as of December 3, 1999.

Annual organization of the board was conducted at the January 4, 2000 meeting. The appointments were as follows: Chairperson-Farrell Erickson, Vice Chair-Raymond Moser, Secretary/Treasurer-Allison Frislie.

- The Middle River-Snake River WD reported that the first public hearing for the Public Law 566 Project has been scheduled for January 26, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. The affected area is extensive including approximately 3,700 parcels. The first portion of the construction plan is expected to be completed by April 1st.
- The Red Lake WD reported that Chuck Fritz, Loren Sanderson, and Vernon Johnson attended the International Coalition annual summit conference in Winnipeg on January 11-13, 2000.

A new Geographical Information System (GIS) has been incorporated at the district office. The tremendous mapping capabilities will be of great help to the staff.

- The Sand Hill River WD reported that at the regular meeting conducted on January 4, 2000, Christi Stonecipher-City of Grand Forks and Gary Sanders-City of East Grand Forks conducted a presentation regarding the Flood Protection Project proposed for GF/EGF. The project will consist of a series of levees and flood walls that virtually surround Grand Forks and completely surround EGF in two separate segments. The levees will be approximately 30 miles in length. The project will also include two coulee diversions.

The project is estimated to cost \$350 million, with approximately \$174 million coming from the federal government. The remaining \$176 million of project costs must be paid for by the two cities as the local sponsors, and both states will be assisting in the local costs.

- The Buffalo-Red River WD reported that the Long Lake siphon system has to be re-primed four to five times per week using a portable vacuum pump. A permanent pump will be installed in early February, 2000. Both Turtle Lake and Long Lake are currently 1.69 feet above their OHW elevations. A meeting with the MPCA is scheduled for 1/25/00 to discuss the winter operation water quality monitoring program. Since starting this phase of the water quality monitoring on December 15, 1999, no detrimental readings have been recorded.

Bruce Albright and Robert Kloubec participated with the First Annual Water Festival sponsored by River Keepers on 11/15/99 at the Cardinal Muench Seminary, Fargo, ND. During the day, over 400 students from 15 classes attended the presentations and exhibits. Albright gave a classroom presentation regarding watersheds. An enviroscape model was used to demonstrate how activities within a watershed affect the entire basin. Plans are already underway to conduct another festival this fall.

Governing Documents: Joint Powers Agreement/Policy, Project Evaluation, & Treasurer's Manual

Ogaard stated that at the previous monthly meeting, Manager Wilkens inquired whether the title on the revised draft document should be changed from "Policy Manual," since the Policy Manual is actually one of the documents in the compilation, not the title of all the combined documents. He suggested that the title of the compilation of the documents be "*Governing Documents of the Red River Watershed Management Board.*"

The Board discussed various wording changes to the compilation of documents. **Motion** by Manager Erickson to accept the changes to the documents as discussed, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**.

Motion by Manager Johnson to authorize Ogaard to obtain 200 printed manuals which would include the various revisions as above-mentioned, **Seconded** by Manager Younggren, **Carried**.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report – Dan Thul

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting. He referred to a wetland and economic report prepared by Jay Leitch and noted that Chuck Fritz would download the report from the Internet for review by the TAC.

Thul added that Brent Johnson updated the TAC on a Watershed Modeling System (WMS) which is a comprehensive environment for hydrologic analysis. He noted that the usefulness of the product remains to be seen and added that the key is to tie in GIS information with the model.

Brent Johnson discussed a process called LIDAR. He explained that the process involves light distancing and radar utilizing a laser and GPS to provide one-foot contours.

Thul noted that the TAC also discussed wetland restorations with regard to applying the STAR value method. He stated that flood control values of wetland restorations without outlets could be tied to the infiltration capacity of the soil. He added that wetland restorations developed on certain soil types could provide significant potential for storage. He stated that the TAC would develop a recommendation to be presented at the next monthly meeting.

Thul noted that restored wetlands that accommodate a high infiltration rate would obtain star value points for storage capabilities. He added that guidelines are being developed in order to provide uniform standards for wetland restorations that have flood storage benefits.

Farmstead Ring Dike Program

Loren Sanderson, Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) Engineer, stated that the RLWD had constructed 15 ring dikes during the 1999 construction season, with 20 additional applicants on file. He noted that 50% funding would try to be obtained for the RLWD ring dike program which would involve approximately \$230,000.00.

Fritz stated that the RLWD continues to receive new requests for ring dikes. He noted that due to the increased interest, a priority system would need to be developed to distribute the limited funds.

Manager Osowski noted that the Middle River-Snake River WD developed a priority system based on those landowners at highest risk of flooding. Ogaard added that he would contact each district to inquire about various prioritization standards developed regarding ring dike funding and report back to the board.

Financial Coordinator Report – Richard Nelson

Nelson stated that he had attended a meeting conducted at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding potential funding sources for the project teams. He noted that it appears with the involvement of environmental groups in the project teams, project costs are increasing considerably. He added that although

the environmental groups are obtaining political support for the projects, no funds have been forwarded from the groups. He noted that legislative funding would be scarce due to the Governor's limited bonding bill. He added that obtaining matching funds for RRWMB funds is of great concern in the future.

Nelson discussed the Snake River Flood Damage Reduction (Helgeland) site of the Middle River-Snake River WD. He stated that original project costs have increased approximately 20% due to the increased 900-acres included in the project area.

Manager Osowski stated that the Audubon Society would like to acquire four sections of land in order to provide for a lower bounce. Ogaard inquired whether funding sources have been identified. Manager Osowski responded that although no funding package has been developed, the district is trying to keep the land acquired on the tax roll.

Nelson discussed the North Ottawa Project of the Bois de Sioux WD. He noted his concern that a USACE proposal for the project has not yet been identified.

Manager Deal stated that Senator Dorgan's office in North Dakota would like to tie in the North Ottawa Project with the Maple River Dam Project. Nelson noted the importance of identifying the project for funding.

Nelson inquired about the status of the Ditch #83 Project of the Red Lake WD. Manager Johnson responded that a tentative verbal agreement has been reached with the DNR regarding the pending lawsuit.

Nelson stated that a meeting has been scheduled with legislators on Monday, January 24, 2000 at 3:00 p.m. at the Capitol in St. Paul, MN. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the current state cost share percentage of 50/50 and the possibility of increasing it to 75/25. He added that there is a concern in the Capitol that individuals are foregoing federal funds to pursue state funds.

Nelson discussed the farmstead ring dike program. He stated that \$3 million would be submitted for ring dike funds of the \$8 million in the Governor's bonding bill for projects. He noted that these funds would be for a two-year period.

Nelson stated that a hearing has been scheduled on January 26, 2000 regarding the PL566 Project in the Middle River-Snake River WD. Manager Osowski stated that construction is scheduled for 2001, although a Step I submittal has not yet been forwarded to the RRWMB. Nelson stated that the impoundment would include 2,700 acre-feet of gated storage at a cost of \$185.00 per acre-foot.

Executive Director Report – Don Ogaard

A) Report to Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

Ogaard stated that the work group met on Friday, January 14, 2000 at the Northland Inn, Crookston, MN. He stated that the state funding to be distributed to the project teams was discussed. He noted that the funds would be forwarded to the RRWMB for distribution to the project teams according to the original approved funding percentage of the project.

Ogaard added that the Wild Rice WD discussed their concerns with the work group regarding the clarification of the bounce criteria for wetlands. He noted that in order to present an issue to the work group, the project team must first achieve consensus. He added that new language regarding the

clarification was agreed on by the work group and would be forwarded to the individual project teams for review.

B) USGS Request for Funding Assistance

Ogaard explained that a request was received from USGS regarding publishing a report for a study previously funded, in part, by the RRWMB. He noted that the request was for \$7,525.00 in order to publish the study results. He added that the original funding request should have considered the cost of publication.

Motion by Manager Finney to not authorize the funding request of \$7,525.00 from the USGS, **Seconded** by Manager Nelson, **Carried**.

C) Annual Watershed Management Conference Report

Ogaard stated that 54 individuals attended the conference conducted on December 9-10, 2000 at the Best Western Inn, Thief River Falls, MN. He noted that of the 54 attendees, 21 individuals were agency representatives. He added that the new conference format which included four rotating sessions on various topics was well received by the participants.

Ogaard discussed the development of the "Water Plan 2000." He explained that the State Water Plan is a 10-year framework, which includes objectives and targets to measure the results of state and local policies and programs by river basins. He stated that it is prepared under the direction of the Minnesota Planning-Environmental Quality Board. He noted that the next state water plan is titled "Water Plan 2000" and its focus is to provide policy direction for the legislature, identify funding initiatives, give direction to agency efforts, and measure the state's progress in meeting environmental goals. He encouraged each district to participate in the development of the plan to insure that the issue of surface water is addressed.

Manager Deal referred to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) administered by BWSR. He noted that a pilot project is currently being developed for the Red River Basin to determine the benefits of this program.

District's Funding Requests:

1. **Flood Insurance Restudy:** 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 completion of a flood insurance restudy. A handout was distributed regarding the funding request.

Manager Nelson stated that the BRRWD contracted with Houston Engineering, Inc. and Horizons, Inc. for aerial mapping work along the Red River and a Minnesota tributary, Wolverton Coulee. The cost of Phase I data acquisition was \$35,083.00. The breakdown for funding Phase I was as follows: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) grant 50%; BRRWD 25%; and Clay County 25%.

Manager Nelson referred to the cost breakdown on the second page of the handout which listed Minnesota's obligation to complete the study at \$41,863.00. He stated that the BRRWD requests the RRWMB for a one-third cost share of this portion which is \$13,954.33.

Manager Osowski stated that a similar discussion occurred in Marshall county regarding the completion of a UNET study. He noted his concern about supporting this study since it would be setting a precedent for future funding requests of a similar nature.

Dick Nelson inquired whether the BRRWD had discussed this issue with Terry Smith of DEM. He noted that this information could be used for hazard mitigation studies. Manager Nelson responded that the District had been working with Greg Thielman.

Motion by Manager Nelson to approve the funding request of \$13,954.33 for the completion of the Flood Insurance Restudy. The motion died for lack of a second.

The next meeting will be on February 15, 2000, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sand Hill River Watershed District office, Fertile, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Harley Younggren
Secretary

Naomi L. Jagol
Administrative Assistant