

Red River Watershed Management Board

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Board of Managers

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RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

June 20, 2000

Roseau River Watershed District, Roseau, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, June 20, 2000, at the Roseau River Watershed District Office, Roseau, Minnesota.

Chairman Ron Osowski called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

John Finney	Farrell Erickson
Harlan Solberg	Vernon Johnson
Daniel Wilkens	Nathan Redland
Curtis Nelson	Jerome Deal

Others present were:

- Don Ogaard, Executive Director
- Naomi Jagol, Administrative Assistant, Sand Hill River WD
- Chuck Fritz, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Brian Dwight, BWSR
- Dick Nelson, Financial Coordinator
- Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
- Brent Johnson, Engineer, Houston Engineering
- Ron Adrian, Administrator, Middle River-Snake River WD
- Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering
- Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Dan Money, Administrator, Two Rivers WD
- Jerry Bennett, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering

Ogaard stated that the tour of the Two Rivers WD Ross 32 Project would occur following lunch. Manager Johnson requested that a funding request regarding the Parnell Impoundment be considered under item no. 12 on the agenda. Ogaard added that a report regarding the status of funding for the project teams would be included under item no. 13 on the agenda.

The minutes of the May 23, 2000 meeting were read and approved with minor corrections. **Motion** to approve the minutes as written by Manager Deal, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**.

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. **Motion** by Manager Finney, **Seconded** by Manager Nelson, **Carried**. Nathan Redland inquired about the Financial Coordinator position. Manager Wilkens stated that Dick Nelson receives a monthly salary of \$5,000 per month plus expenses for the position of Financial Coordinator. Manager Johnson inquired about the HACA funds received by the RRWMB. Manager Wilkens explained that the levy depends upon the property valuation of each watershed district.

Manager Wilkens reviewed the monthly bills received. A one-page handout of monthly bills to be approved was distributed. **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Deal, **Seconded** by Manager Solberg, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

2001 RRWMB Tax Levy Rate

Manager Osowski explained that during recent visits with state legislators, the issue of increasing the RRWMB levy was discussed. He stated that in order to qualify for state funds in the future, the maximum amount of funding that can be obtained locally must first be obtained.

Manager Nelson inquired whether the funds approved for the Red River Basin Board (RRBB) would be included in the regular levy. Manager Wilkens responded that the amount approved for the RRBB would be part of the regular levy.

Manager Erickson stated that should the RRWMB not serve as the entity to collect the Minnesota portion of funds for distribution to the RRBB, another process would have to be developed. Manager Deal noted that he had visited with several county representatives who had indicated that they would be supportive of the RRWMB collecting the Minnesota funding portion.

Fritz added that the majority of commissioners would like to see the administration levy limit raised and their multiplier reduced. Manager Wilkens stated that legislation regarding this issue could be submitted for consideration during the next legislative session.

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported that Farrell Erickson-Chairman, Rob Sando-Administrator, and County Commissioner Foldesi attended a meeting in Winnipeg, MB with the Manitoba Minister of Natural Resources and the Canadian delegation to discuss the newly formed "Roseau River International Watershed." The Canadian delegation is seeking administrative funding from the Province of Manitoba and also funding for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) hydrologic modeling project for the Canadian drainage – Roseau River Watershed.
- The Two Rivers WD reported that information was received from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) that construction of the Nereson Sub-impoundment will be fully funded under the Flood Damage Reduction program. The MnDNR will pay 50% of the costs, with the remaining 50% coming from local sources. The District determined that construction delays over the past 10 years due to extremely wet conditions created a cost overrun of \$350,000 for the project. Local cost share funds for the project have been provided by the Two Rivers WD and the Red River Watershed Management Board. The District plans to complete construction of the project this summer weather permitting.
- The Middle River-Snake River WD reported on the progress of the Public Law 566 Project. The preparation of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) and the appraiser's report are underway. The final plans by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are also progressing. A Step II Submittal is being prepared to submit to the RRWMB in the near future.

- The Sand Hill River WD reported that the project team is scheduled to meet on June 28-29, 2000 to conduct an in depth survey of possible flood damage reduction sites in the Maple Creek area.

Gordon Sonsteli was appointed to replace Jim Krogstad who chose not to seek a third term. Harold Vig was re-appointed for a third term.

- The Wild Rice WD reported that land acquisition is progressing for the Pilot Ice Control Project on the Wild Rice River near Twin Valley, MN. The project will be located upstream of Heiberg Dam. The District plans to proceed with construction in the near future. A wetland replacement site has been identified for mitigation on the Milo Haaland property in Section 36, Green Meadow Township.
- The Buffalo-Red River WD reported that construction contracts for the Deerhorn Creek Levees Project will be signed with Doboszenki and Sons, Inc. at the 6/26/00 board meeting. The USACE Section 404 permit application is currently available for review and public comment. Construction of the project is expected to begin on 8/15/00. A landowner information meeting is scheduled for 6/29/00 to discuss easement signing, compensation rates, possible Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Reinvestment in Minnesota (RIM) easements and construction methods.
- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that the court granted a temporary injunction to Lee's Construction of Alexandria which forced the Board of Managers to award the contract for the repair of Traverse County Ditch #27 to them or re-bid the project. Lee's attorney visited with the Board via speakerphone at the last board meeting and agreed to cover any subsequent legal costs of the District if the contract was awarded to Lee's. The Board agreed to award the contract to Lee's, the low bidder, and also to change their bidding procedure to include language that makes it perfectly clear to all future bidders that anything less than the required bond will result in an immediate rejection of the bid.

Financial Coordinator Report – Dick Nelson

Nelson stated that he had attended a meeting in Roseau regarding the Hay Creek Project. He discussed the Legislative Commission for Minnesota Resources (LCMR) grant process and explained that in order to allow sufficient time to compile the information needed, the process must be started during the legislative session.

Nelson noted that the Governor is scheduled to tour parts of the Red River valley during the week of June 26th. He stated that his itinerary has not yet been finalized.

Nelson advised the RRWMB to be cautious when submitting requests to legislators. He noted that requests should be prioritized since the legislature limits the number of funding requests approved for various regions throughout the State.

Ogaard distributed a letter he received from Ron Harnack-Executive Director of the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) regarding the recently completed legislative session. Ogaard stated that, in the letter, Harnack commended Dick Nelson on his efforts during the session.

Allocation of RRWMB Funds to Projects Funded by Legislative Funds

Ogaard stated that a process should be developed regarding how the RRWMB will allocate legislative funds to the individual watershed districts that have projects that were approved by the state legislature. He added that currently the projects approved by the legislature include: Thief River Subwatershed (Red Lake WD), Hay

Creek (Roseau River WD), the Snake River Flood Damage Reduction-Helgeland Site (Middle River-Snake River WD), and North Ottawa (Bois de Sioux WD).

Ogaard suggested that a committee could be developed to assist the watershed districts that have projects approved for legislative funding. He noted that the committee could include himself, Dick Nelson, and a manager from the respective watershed district.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to authorize a committee to include the Executive Director, the Financial Coordinator, and one manager from the respective watershed district, **Seconded** by Manager Finney, discussion followed.

Manager Osowski discussed the need to identify contacts within the USACE. Manager Erickson concurred with Osowski. Ogaard added that participants of the Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) work group could also influence the process.

As there was no further discussion, a vote was taken. **Motion carried.**

Funding Prioritization/Allocation Method for Ring Dike Requests

Ogaard distributed a handout regarding a proposed allocation method for FY 2000 ring dike funding requests. The handout listed the funds available from the legislature of \$300,000 (50%). The historic funding percentage of the RRWMB of \$150,000 (25%). The historic member watershed district/landowner portion of \$150,000 (25%). For a total fund availability of \$600,000.

Ogaard explained that each watershed district submitted a list of ring dike requests for the upcoming year. Each district had at least one ring dike request with the exception of the Joe River WD and the Bois de Sioux WD. The following two options were considered:

1. Fund each WD for one ring dike. Fund the remaining requests of three ring dikes per district.
2. Fund each WD for one ring dike. Fund 30% of the remaining requests per district.

Manager Wilkens noted that documentation regarding the ring dikes constructed in the Red River basin could be beneficial for obtaining future legislative funds. Nathan Redland concurred that information regarding the ring dikes constructed in the Red River basin should be forwarded to the legislature.

Bennett inquired whether there were any legislative funds remaining from the previous year's allocation that could be used for FY 2000. Manager Osowski noted that Ed Fick-MnDNR could be contacted regarding whether any funds remain from the previous year.

Manager Wilkens noted his support of option no. 2. Managers Solberg and Erickson concurred with Wilkens.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to adopt option no. 2, **Seconded** by Manager Nelson, **Carried.**

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) had met and utilized the Project Prioritization Worksheet to the following four projects: Deerhorn Creek, Ross #32 Impoundment, Lockhart, and Parnell

Project Modification. He distributed handouts of the TAC recommendations regarding the four above-mentioned projects.

Thul inquired whether the RRWMB approved of the type of reporting submitted by the TAC. Manager Osowski responded that the handouts developed by the TAC regarding the Project Prioritization Worksheet would be a very valuable tool for evaluating projects. Thul added that Adrian had developed a spreadsheet to assist with the calculation of the Star Value Method.

Ogaard noted the importance of developing comparative numbers for projects. He added that the project prioritization worksheet should be very helpful for individual watershed districts regarding the potential for obtaining future funding from the RRWMB. Manager Wilkens noted that the TAC should utilize the project prioritization worksheet for each project submitted by individual watershed districts prior to requesting funding from the RRWMB.

Executive Director Report – Don Ogaard

A) Project Prioritization Worksheet

Ogaard referred to the comments received from the TAC on the Project Prioritization Worksheet. He stated that he had discussed the possibility of using a weighted method for issue included in the worksheet. Thul noted that the TAC had compared the number value system to the weighted value system and determined that there was not a significant difference between the two methods. Ogaard commended the TAC for evaluating the worksheet.

Ogaard stated that either the number value or weighted value system should be selected for the worksheet. Manager Wilkens noted that the TAC should recommend the appropriate method.

Charlie Anderson suggested utilizing the original number value system rather than a weighted method. He explained that although the weighted method would have some value, it would be better to keep the numbering system simple. Manager Finney concurred with Anderson.

Redland inquired about the cost of a project being included in the worksheet. Thul responded that the worksheet was not designed to deal with project costs but rather design attributes.

Manager Finney requested the TAC to clarify the Star Value Method. Thul responded that the Star Value calculates the amount of storage a project provides times the number of days it could be stored.

Motion by Manager Erickson to adopt the original number value system with the Project Prioritization Worksheet, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

B) Meetings with Member Districts

Ogaard stated that he has meetings scheduled in July with the Buffalo-Red River WD and the Bois de Sioux WD to review the Governing Documents publication. He requested other member districts to contact him regarding scheduling a meeting to review the documents and discuss other concerns.

C) ND/MN Summer Tour

Ogaard explained that a tour date for the ND/MN Summer Tour could not be scheduled in July. He suggested that a tour date could possibly be scheduled in September. Following discussion, the board determined that Ogaard should try to schedule the tour for Friday, September 15th.

D) Parnell Landowner Meeting Report

Ogaard stated that he attended a meeting including several landowners, county commissioners, and Red Lake WD managers regarding the Parnell Impoundment Project. He explained that the downstream landowners had numerous concerns that were addressed. He added that Charlie Anderson was also in attendance to answer questions. He noted that a letter of recommendation had been forwarded to the Red Lake WD Board of Managers regarding the meeting.

District's Funding Requests:

1. Two Rivers WD / Ross 32 Impoundment Project, Step I Submittal:

A tour of Two Rivers WD Ross 32 Impoundment Project was conducted following lunch. The impoundment will have gated storage of 3,300 acre-feet and ungated storage of 800 acre-feet, which is equivalent to 3.6 and 0.9 inches respectively, of runoff from the drainage area of 17.2 square miles.

Motion by Manager Solberg to approve the Step 1 submittal for the Ross 32 Impoundment Project, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

2. Buffalo-Red River WD / Flood Insurance Restudy, Clay County, Minnesota:

Manager Nelson distributed a funding request for the Flood Insurance Restudy. The total estimated costs are \$16,863. The District proposes that the costs be split equally between the RRWMB, Clay County, and the BRRWD. The funding request submitted to the RRWMB totals \$5,621.00.

Manager Wilkens inquired how the restudy would benefit the RRWMB. Manager Nelson responded that the restudy could prevent buy-outs for individuals who buy within the flood plain and also limit the number of ring dikes needed to protect property.

Dick Nelson noted that, in Marshall County, the county is responsible for these costs and inquired why the BRRWD is involved with obtaining funding for the restudy. Manager Nelson responded that the District became involved due to the limited availability of IJC funds.

Motion by Manager Erickson to contribute \$5,621 for the Flood Insurance Restudy, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**.

3. Red Lake WD / Parnell Project Modification / Step I Submittal:

Ogaard stated that the modifications would substantially improve the effectiveness of the project. Manager Johnson added that the project would be operated in conjunction with the operating plan.

Manager Osowski inquired about the repair amount. Anderson responded that the proposed construction changes to the project are estimated to cost \$160,000.

Motion by Manager Deal that the RRWMB agreed to the terms of the "Parnell Project Operating Plan" as proposed by the RLWD, including the construction changes contained therein. The RRWMB also agreed to fund eighty-five percent (same percentage as original project) of the cost of the proposed construction

changes to the original project which was estimated to cost \$160,000. **Seconded** by Manager Nelson. Motion **Carried**.

4. Wild Rice River WD / Lockhart Township Runoff Storage Project:

Bennett stated that the cost estimate presented in the Step II submittal remains the same, with the only variance depending on the CRP eligibility. He requested that the RRWMB conduct the next monthly meeting in Ada in order to tour the project area.

City of Thief River Falls/Sedimentation Removal

Manager Johnson stated that the Red Lake WD is participating in the removal of sediment from the Thief River. Ogaard stated that he would forward a letter to the Red Lake WD stating that funding assistance from the RRWMB is not available since it is not within their guidelines.

Motion by Manager Solberg to authorize the Executive Director to forward a letter to the Red Lake WD regarding the above-referenced matter, **Seconded** by Nathan Redland, **Carried**.

Alternative meeting dates were discussed in order to avoid a scheduling conflict. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to reschedule the regular monthly meeting of the RRWMB for July 25, 2000, at 9:30 a.m. at the Wild Rice Watershed District office, Ada, Minnesota, **Seconded** by Manager Finney, **Carried**.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Farrell Erickson
Secretary

Naomi L. Jagol
Administrative Assistant