

Red River Watershed Management Board

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Board of Managers

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RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

February 20, 2001

Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, February 20, 2001, at the Red Lake Watershed District Office, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

Chairman Ron Osowski called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

John Finney	Farrell Erickson
Keith Cummins	Vernon Johnson
Daniel Wilkens	Robert Wright
Curtis Nelson	Jerome Deal

Others present were:

- Don Ogaard, Executive Director
- Dick Nelson, Financial Coordinator
- Naomi Jagol, Administrative Assistant, Sand Hill River WD
- Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
- Rick St. Germain, Engineer, Houston Engineering
- Ron Adrian, Administrator, Middle River-Snake River WD
- Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering
- Brent Johnson, Engineer, Houston Engineering
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
- Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Jerry Bennett, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
- Dave Lanning, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Ryan Odenbach, Red Lake WD
- Angela Whitney, Red River Basin Board
- Chuck Fritz, Program Manager, Red River Basin Board

Ogaard stated that additional items had been added to item nos. 7 and 9 on the final agenda.

Motion by Manager Erickson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the January 16, 2001 meeting, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**. **Motion** by Manager Erickson to approve the minutes as written with minor corrections, **Seconded** by Manager Finney, **Carried**.

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. **Motion** by Manager Nelson to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Manager Finney, **Carried**. A one-page handout of monthly bills to be approved was distributed. **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Deal, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Water Quality Study Report

Ryan Odenbach, water quality technician for the Red Lake WD, reported on water quality studies conducted on Cross Lake and Turtle Lake that were cooperatively funded by the Red Lake WD and the RRWMB.

Odenbach explained that Cross Lake is located in Polk County. The combined watershed for Cross Lake and Turtle Lake is approximately 25 – 27 square miles. He noted that watershed district staff performed the data collection and reports, while Houston Engineering provided hydrologic development.

Odenbach stated that the lakes have a history of public concern regarding water quality from the turn of the century. Issues addressed in the studies included whether the lakes should be managed for fisheries or waterfowl, as well as how water flows through the lakes. The first phase of the studies has been completed and provides baseline and water quality information on the lakes.

The studies established 6 in-lake water-monitoring sites which were monitored for total phosphorus, chlorophyll, and dissolved oxygen. The studies also tried to determine how habitable the lakes were for fish and established 7 flow monitoring sites which were set up between the connection lakes. The sites are controlled by weir structures and maintained by the DNR. The surface water inflows and outflows were monitored and it was determined that both Cross Lake and Turtle Lake should be classified as eutrophic due to significant algae growth. He noted that although no independent lake stage data was obtained, the change in lake storage was zero. He added that automatic rain gages on site were needed and should be included in future studies in the WD.

Odenbach recommended that a lake association be developed, similar to the Clearwater Lake Association. He added that a group interested in improving water quality could assist by monitoring the lakes to identify trends.

Ogaard inquired whether the studies included efforts to find point sources of pollution to determine where nutrient loading is coming from. Odenbach responded that the studies were phase 1 which includes obtaining baseline data. He further noted that a phase 2 study would develop a nutrient balance which could identify point source pollution.

Ogaard inquired about the involvement of the Red Lake WD in the studies and whether the studies were conducted in cooperation with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Manager Johnson responded that the Red Lake WD is supporting the effort in order to meet the water quality initiatives outlined in their overall watershed management plan. Odenbach added that certain aspects of the studies were coordinated with MPCA.

Odenbach discussed the Beaver Pond Water Quality Study Report which was conducted downstream of the Moose River Impoundment located in Beltrami County. This study was funded in cooperation with the Red Lake WD and the RRWMB in order to determine the effects of manmade impoundments on water quality. Analysis of the water quality samples were performed at the University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC) lab by WD staff and compared upstream and downstream measurements through a statistical key test. The test was conducted to compare the upstream and downstream measurements to determine their differences. The results showed only slight differences between the upstream and downstream measurements. He noted that, on the average, the downstream areas had larger concentrations of phosphorus. Lanning added that phosphorus could be occurring naturally in the soils or in the plants with the water absorbing it from there since phosphorus is more soluble in water than in soil.

Red Lake WD Challenge Grant Application

Odenbach distributed copies of a challenge grant application prepared by the Red Lake WD to develop a water quality model on Clearwater Lake. The model would assess the technical feasibility of various nutrient reductions and their effect on lake water quality, therefore, enhancing lake management planning by the Clearwater Lake Area Association and partners.

Odenbach stated that both the Red Lake WD and the RRWMB have contributed \$25,000 to complete the study needed in order to develop the water quality model. He noted that he discussed the issue of obtaining a letter of support from the RRWMB with Don Ogaard with regard to the challenge grant application.

Ogaard noted that he received a request for a letter of support from the Red Lake WD to the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR). He explained that a letter could be forwarded which states that the application is in accordance with previous activities of the RRWMB.

Motion by Manager Johnson to draft a letter of support to BWSR for the Red Lake WD challenge grant application, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, discussion followed.

Manager Erickson noted that other WD's are competing for challenge grants. Manager Johnson stated that significant funds are available through the challenge grant program this year.

Lanning explained that the letter would actually be reaffirming that the RRWMB is a partner in the effort of the Red Lake WD rather than a letter of support. Odenbach added that other grant applications are being submitted by the Red Lake WD, however, letters of support are not being requested for these initiatives since the RRWMB is not considered a partner in funding.

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

Annual Review of News & Views Newsletter

The newsletter published for the RRWMB was discussed. Ogaard distributed a handout listing the feature articles published for the previous year. He explained that the contract was awarded three years ago to Naomi Jagol, d.b.a. Desktop Documents. He explained that two years 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 it was agreed at that time that the newsletter would be evaluated on an annual basis.

A handout outlining the price structure for the newsletter was also distributed. Ogaard stated that an increase for the publication is being proposed due to the increase in the cost of postage and also the additional names that have been added to the mailing list.

Motion by Manager Deal to renew the newsletter contract and approve an increase of \$120.00 per month for the publication for a total monthly cost of \$1,992.50, **Seconded** by Manger Finney, **Carried.**

Financial Coordinator Report

D. Nelson reported that he attended a meeting on January 22, 2001 along with Don Ogaard, Kent Lokkesmoe, Ron Harnack, Ray Bohn and John Curry (MCEA) to discuss ring dike funding with Senators of the basin and their staff. The possibility of ring dike funding of approximately \$1.5 million for the next biennium and either \$12 million in bonding for the next two years, or \$6 million per year over the next 15 years was discussed. Since the meeting, the funding request changed to asking for the full deficit left to fund the four projects in a

bonding bill, should there be a bonding bill, in addition to a general fund appropriation. The Governor is supporting a bonding bill with no session next year, which both houses oppose.

D. Nelson discussed the issue of other organizations requesting his assistance in lobbying efforts. He noted that his response has been that he is employed by the RRWMB and receives direction only from the board. Ogaard noted that should individual WD's request legislative assistance, approval must be received from the RRWMB prior to Dick Nelson pursuing the initiative.

D. Nelson stated that he and Ron Harnack, Executive Director-Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR), attended the International Flood Mitigation Initiative (IFMI) report to the Congressional leaders from Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota in Washington, D.C. He explained that he and Harnack were authorized to attend the meeting by the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (RRBFDRWG). Other meetings in Washington, D.C. included visits with high-level U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) officials regarding further USACE involvement in the Red River basin relative to receiving additional federal funding. He noted that a concern exists relative to how the IFMI report will be implemented since the initiative has been completed. He added that he also visited with DNR Commissioner Garber while in Washington and is arranging another meeting in St. Paul with Garber, Don Ogaard, other DNR representatives and Governor's staff to further discuss long-term strategy and future needs of the Red River basin.

D. Nelson reported on the 2001 MAWD Legislative Breakfast & Day at the Capitol scheduled for March 15-16, 2001 at the Kelly Inn, St. Paul, MN. He stated that Jerry Bennett, Wild Rice WD Administrator, has been assisting with scheduling meetings with legislators from the Red River basin. He recommended that only a couple of significant issues that are common to all the WD's in the RRWMB be discussed with legislators in order to present a unified position among the WD's. He noted that it appears the current legislative year will be difficult to obtain funding. **Motion** by Manager Nelson to authorize Dick Nelson, with assistance by Jerry Bennett, to schedule meetings with legislators for the 2001 MAWD Legislative Breakfast, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Ogaard referred to a handout distributed by D. Nelson regarding proposed legislation to increase the annual administration levy. The current law states that an ad valorem tax levy may not exceed .02418 percent of taxable market value, or \$125,000 (whichever is less). The revised legislation is proposing to adjust the previous maximum levy of \$125,000 to the present value which would be \$345,000. The revision also proposes to change the name "Administrative" to "General" in order that the funds would not be limited to administrative or clerical expense.

Manager Johnson stated that MAWD had discussed increasing the levy to \$200,000. Lanning noted that this issue had also been discussed at the Association of District Administrators (ADA) meeting and it was agreed that the maximum levy of \$125,000 should be adjusted to its present value since the original legislation was passed in 1982.

Ogaard stated that the proposal to change the "Administrative" fund to "General" relates to legislation passed in the metro area which allows Water Management Organizations (WMO's) to levy based on the entire district rather than only a benefited area. D. Nelson added that should this proposal be adopted it would allow the WD's more discretion when expending funds.

Motion by Manager Nelson to support an increase in the administrative levy, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Bennett stated that he discussed another option for providing project implementation funds with Ray Bohn, Executive Director-MAWD. He referred to the Wild Rice WD and noted that when the District is considering implementing a major project, the local funding is provided by taxing only the benefited area. He added that MAWD is proposing legislation that would allow additional funding to be obtained by assessing the contributing area of the project in addition to the benefited area.

Manager Deal noted the importance of adjusting the maximum allowed for the Administrative levy to its present value. D. Nelson stated that for the 2001 levy the RRWMB increased their levy from 75% to 100%. D. Nelson also noted that since the RRWMB agreed to support the proposal to increase the maximum allowed for the Administrative levy, he would caution the RRWMB endorsing a proposal for an additional tax of assessing the contributing area.

Motion by Manager Deal to not support the proposal of allowing assessments on the contributing area of a project, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, discussion followed.

Bennett noted that the proposal of allowing assessments on the contributing area of a project is being pursued by MAWD and suggested that the RRWMB should discuss this issue with Ray Bohn prior to deciding not to endorse this initiative. D. Nelson concurred with Bennett and suggested that the RRWMB not make a formal determination to not support the proposal.

As there was no further discussion, Managers Deal and Johnson withdrew the motion. **Motion withdrawn.**

A proposal for "Project Development Funding" submitted by the Wild Rice WD was discussed. Bennett distributed a request from the Wild Rice WD Board of Managers for the RRWMB to support funding for flood damage reduction (FDR) project research and development (R & D) being implemented as part of the Mediation process.

Bennett requested that the RRWMB consider the following three options:

- To consider supporting \$400,000 for research and development (R & D) out of the \$1 million annual appropriation for the Mediation Process (presently at \$200,000).
- To support an increase in the MNDNR – Flood Damage Reduction Program from the present \$1 million to \$1.5 million.
- To consider providing a program to cost share R & D on new projects being proposed by member WD's.

Ogaard stated that the Governor's administration has instructed agencies to reduce their budgets and noted that the \$1 million annual appropriation could possibly be reduced to \$850,000. He added that he has discussed this issue with Kent Lokkesmoe-DNR who indicated that the mediation process has caused additional expense to agencies as well relative to personnel costs.

Ogaard further noted that \$600,000 out of the \$1 million appropriation is to be utilized for preliminary and final engineering costs, as well as project team alternative analysis. He stated that in addition to the increased cost of funding DNR personnel for the individual project teams, another reason the funding is being reduced is that the RRBFDROWG did not expend the entire \$1 million in the previous year.

Bennett noted his concern that there are no funds available for project development without obtaining outside funding. Manager Wilkens stated that \$20,000 for preliminary engineering and \$20,000 for final engineering has been earmarked for each project team, however, the funds must be expended prior to receiving reimbursement.

Bennett inquired about the funds available for 2002 for project development. Ogaard responded that \$850,000 would most likely be appropriated. Bennett suggested that the RRWMB should state their opposition to reducing the \$1 million appropriation.

Motion by Manager Johnson for the RRWMB to support the \$1 million appropriation by providing rationale as to how the funds would be utilized, Seconded by Manager Deal, discussion followed.

Ogaard noted that the legislation states that the \$1 million appropriation would be disbursed to the DNR who would then forward the funds as needed to the RRWMB for disbursement. Manager Deal suggested that a similar position statement be forwarded from the RRBFDROWG.

D. Nelson cautioned the RRWMB about supporting the \$1 million appropriation since it could result in the DNR limiting personnel involvement at the project team level. He referred to the meeting discussed earlier that is going to be scheduled St. Paul with Garber, Don Ogaard, other DNR representatives and Governor's staff and added that the legislation appropriation would be further discussed at this meeting.

As there was no further discussion, Managers Johnson and Deal withdrew the motion. **Motion withdrawn.**

Ogaard explained that the funds available to the WD's are a reimbursement for funds expended by the project teams and must be spent within a certain timeframe. He noted that there is potential that should the funds not be sought by the individual project teams they could be reallocated. He added that expenses incurred prior to June 30, 2000 are not eligible. He stated that an attempt has been made to change this requirement and currently the legal advisors of the DNR are reviewing the issue.

Adrian inquired whether two separate applications are needed for the pay requests to receive reimbursement for preliminary engineering and final engineering. Ogaard responded that the expenses should be kept separate, but the funds could be requested on one application.

Ogaard referred to the request submitted by the Wild Rice WD. He explained that rationale is needed in order to substantiate expending state funds. He noted that this could be accounted for by giving a history of projects supported by the RRWMB and would satisfy the third option of considering a cost share program for R & D costs on new projects being proposed by member WD's. He offered to forward a letter to the Wild Rice WD outlining the response of the RRWMB.

Bennett stated that the Wild Rice WD was concerned about obtaining state funds upfront to fund project costs. Manager Wilkens suggested that the third option should utilize state funds for a cost share program for R & D costs.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul distributed a handout outlining TAC and Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC) initiatives for 2001. He stated that he would review the handout during this section of the Executive Director report.

Executive Director Report – Don Ogaard

A) Discussion of "Governing Documents" Policy Papers

Ogaard stated that he compiled the policy papers that were adopted by the RRWMB during the previous year and distributed the handout to the board.

B) Direction of Future TAC/TSAC Initiatives

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) had met earlier and discussed a list of TAC/TSAC initiatives for 2001. He noted that the information obtained from the McCombs-Knutson report could be utilized with the 1997 flood evaluation completed by Brent Johnson to put together an updated presentation for use as a public relations/educational tool.

The TAC discussed the need for a physical based model and reported that several WD's are developing watershed models in conjunction with updating their overall watershed management plans. The TAC discussed coordinating the development of the models in an effort to link them together to obtain a basin-wide model.

Thul noted that an effort is underway within the technical community to develop modeling capabilities utilizing computer GIS which would replace collecting field data. He noted that he is not certain this technology is currently available as it relates to channel capacities. Anderson added that physical based models would become significantly more important in the future.

Ogaard noted that broad agency support is needed with regard to basin technical information needs. Thul suggested that the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC) of the RRBFDROWG could be utilized for this since they are the technical group that represents these broad agency stakeholders.

Thul noted his concern that USACE economic information is outdated and needs to be addressed.

The TAC also discussed monitoring of previously constructed projects to determine whether the goals of the projects had been achieved. The RRBFDROWG is supporting a monitoring effort with regard to water quality issues.

Ogaard stated that a TSAC meeting has been scheduled during the week of February 26th in Alexandria, MN. He noted that the TSAC would discuss how they could be involved in guiding the initiatives of the RRBFDROWG. Thul stated that several members of the TAC would be in attendance at the meeting of the TSAC including Brent Johnson, Charlie Anderson, and Rick St. Germain.

St. Germain stated that the TSAC has discussed the issue of monitoring. He inquired whether the project teams should determine which projects should be monitored since each project would need to be considered on an individual basis. Thul noted that he would prefer the project teams make this determination rather than the TSAC since they are in a better position to review the projects. D. Nelson added that local involvement is needed, however, the TSAC should provide guidance.

Thul stated that Rick St. Germain and Brent Johnson have considered the acre-feet of storage needed in the basin to help alleviate flooding. He noted that establishing a basin-wide goal is technically very difficult. Anderson stated that goals should be established by the individuals developing policies rather than by engineers.

Wilkins inquired whether 10-year, 24-hour summer storm protection is economically feasible. Ogaard responded that several members of the RRBFDROWG are convinced that this level of protection would greatly assist in alleviating the flooding problems in the basin.

Thul noted that another issue to be considered by the TAC/TSAC involves the method of determining how a proposed project meets the Mediation Agreement goal of accomplishing a natural resource gain for a project. The current method lacks criteria. He suggested that the project teams should rely on the natural resource professionals to make this determination.

Thul stated that the individual watershed districts each have a TAC member participating in the updating of the comprehensive watershed management plans. He suggested that this effort should be coordinated with the TAC/TSAC.

Thul discussed the possibility of coordinating activities on the Minnesota side of the basin with the watershed areas in North Dakota since nearly one-half of the U.S. area in the Red River basin is in North Dakota. This was determined to be essential but the lack of North Dakota interest in understanding of the Minnesota directives makes this very difficult.

C) March Conference

Ogaard distributed a draft agenda for the Third Annual Joint Conference of the RRWMB and the RRBFDROWG scheduled for March 29-30, 2001 at the Northland Inn, Crookston, MN. He stated that the conference invitation and final agenda would be mailed by approximately the first week in March. He suggested that the managers encourage all individual WD Board of Managers and staff to attend.

D) Executive Director Transition

Ogaard stated that the Personnel Committee comprised of Wilkens (Chair), Johnson, Erickson, and Wright had met in December to discuss a strategy for the future personnel requirements of the RRWMB. He noted that the future Executive Director would have to follow the direction of the law and added that the scope of the RRWMB is limited to funding FDR projects. He offered to attend the next meeting of the committee to discuss the duties that are involved with the current position of Executive Director. He noted that following his retirement from Executive Director, he would be available on a consulting basis as long as physically capable.

Manager Wilkens reported that the committee met on December 12, 2000. He stated that Jody Horntvedt was in attendance to offer guidance to the committee. He noted that the next step would be to schedule a meeting with Don Ogaard to discuss the current workload of Executive Director.

E) State Funding (50/50, 75/25)

Ogaard noted that a letter was received from Dave Lanning, Red Lake WD Administrator, regarding the need for upfront funds for individual project teams. He stated that the letter indicated that funds are needed to purchase the necessary land for projects, since state funds are only available after a contract has been signed with the appropriate state agency.

Ogaard explained that the RRBFDROWG tried to apply the 75/25 cost share requirement to the preliminary and final engineering costs, however, it was not approved. The preliminary and final engineering costs are to be shared on a 50/50 cost-share basis with state funds. The 75/25 cost share requirement applies only to the four projects listed in the legislation. He added that in order to consider other projects for the 75/25 cost share requirement, the original language would need to be revised in the legislation.

Ogaard stated that criteria is needed with regard to the four projects that were authorized for 75/25 cost share reimbursement. D. Nelson concurred that criteria is needed regarding the legislative funds. Ogaard noted that he would discuss this issue with the DNR and request that the necessary criteria be forwarded to the WD's with the four projects listed in the legislation prior to the funds being disbursed.

F) Financial Projection

Ogaard distributed a financial projection for the RRWMB that was prepared in collaboration with Dick Nelson and Dan Wilkens. He explained that the Step I requests approved by the RRWMB were reviewed and noted that they all indicated that funds would be requested during the first year. He noted that the

RRWMB should determine which projects are going to progress in order to provide for sufficient funds in reserve for board operation. Thul noted that there are several projects that have received Step I approvals which could be removed from the list since they are not progressing.

G) Annual MN/ND Meeting

Ogaard stated that the Annual Minnesota/North Dakota meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2001 at the Doublewood Inn, Fargo, ND. He scheduled the meeting in cooperation with vice chairman of the Red River Joint Water Resources Board (RRJWRB), Gary Thompson.

Ogaard noted that only one large conference room is available on that date which could accommodate serving a buffet meal. He stated that should the RRJWRB conduct their regular meeting prior to the joint annual meeting, the RRWMB would need to schedule their board meeting at an alternate location. Chuck Fritz indicated that the conference room of the RRBB was available. Manager Finney stated that he has a contact with a bank located directly across from the Doublewood Inn and would check on whether a meeting room was available at this location due to the close proximity to the Doublewood Inn.

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported that the Board of Managers conducted a special meeting on February 12, 2001 with the Roseau County Engineer and Kurt Deter, Attorney-Rinke Noonan, to discuss the status of the ditch cleanings that have occurred and are scheduled to occur utilizing the FEMA funds received by Roseau County.
- The Two Rivers WD reported on the status of the Nereson Sub-Impoundment Project. The project has been in the process of construction since the early 1990's, however, due to severe wet conditions only limited construction activities have occurred. The contractor has discussed the possibility of sub-contracting the job to another contractor located in the vicinity of the project area which could allow the sub-contractor to perform the work in a more timely manner. The main contractor is located near Bemidji and is not able to monitor the site as well as needed in order to mobilize when conditions allow. The sub-contractor would be able to effectively monitor the site and mobilize when needed.
- The Middle River-Snake River WD reported on the Public Law 566 Project. Federal funding for the construction of phase 1 and a portion of phase 2 has been approved. The preparation of the plans and specifications for the project by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) continues. The appraiser's report should be completed by approximately April 1st. The second hearing for the project is scheduled for sometime in April 2001.
- The Red Lake WD reported that the District has been involved with Senate File No. 178 which addresses allowing the Red Lake WD to establish a manager position to represent the Red Lake Indian Reservation as a manager on the Board. Three managers of the District and Administrator Lanning met with representatives from the Red Lake Indian Nation, Representative Rod Skoe and a staff member from Roger Moe's office to discuss this issue on February 16, 2001 at the State Capitol. A meeting will be scheduled with county commissioners from each county in the District affected by the bill.
- The Sand Hill River WD reported that the District has tentatively scheduled a meeting for sometime in March with the county board, watershed district, and other interested individuals to meet with Kurt Deter, Attorney-Rinke Noonan, to answer legal questions regarding the Polk County No. 41 road rebuild project. The District has been working with landowners and the county board on this project for several years to

coordinate the road rebuild with the adjacent ditch system. The technical and engineering aspects have been considered. The landowners currently need answers to several legal questions prior to making a decision whether to present an improvement petition to the watershed district Board of Managers.

- The Wild Rice WD reported that at the project team meeting conducted in January agreement was reached on the flood damage reduction (FDR) goals for the priority areas identified within the watershed district. A similar process is being used for the natural resource (NR) problem areas. This process evaluated the existing conditions, endpoints, indicators and other variables in arriving at the priority areas.
- The Buffalo-Red River WD reported on the Cromwell Township flooding problem. Landowners are circulating a petition for a flood control project north of Hawley. The area involves a number of closed wetland basins, where the water has risen to a point that is threatening three homes and has inundated a township road. Based on a study conducted by Houston Engineering, the problem could be alleviated by installing a 24" diameter gravity flow tile. The estimated project costs are \$115,000. The District has applied for an FDR grant. The DNR has indicated they could support the proposed concept. The City of Hawley has filed notice that they are opposed to draining the water through their storm sewer. This spring, Steve Hofstad-WCA, and Peter Waller-BWSR, will review the area to determine how much the wetlands can be lowered.
- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that contracts are being executed for the \$909,000 Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) funds awarded to the North Ottawa Project. These funds will be used to acquire additional land rights needed for the impoundment and inlet channel. At the February board meeting, the Board of Managers approved requesting assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under their CAP – 206, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program. The USACE will now progress with the feasibility phase of the program at no cost to the District. These funds would be used to construct the internal structures of the project that deal with the natural resource enhancements (NRE's) of the project. Preliminary estimates indicate that these funds will provide approximately \$2 million of the estimated \$3 million needed to add the NRE's to the impoundment. Discussion has begun regarding the Operation and Maintenance of the NRE portions of the project with regard to where the funds will come from and who is the responsible party. The District would have responsibility for the FDR operations and maintenance but have limited funds as far as NRE's.

District's Funding Requests:

1. Bois de Sioux WD / North Ottawa Project:

Motion by Manager Deal to approve Pay Request No. 5 of \$201,608.79, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**.

The next meeting will be on March 20, 2001, 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 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Farrell Erickson
Secretary

Naomi L. Jagol
Administrative Assistant