

Red River Watershed Management Board

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Board of Managers

John Finney, Vice Pres.-Humboldt Farrell Erickson, Secretary-Badger Harlan Solberg-Greenbush Ron Osowski, President-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

September 18, 2001

Houston Engineering, Inc., Fargo, North Dakota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, September 18, 2001, at Houston Engineering, Inc., Fargo, North Dakota.

Chairman Ron Osowski called the meeting to order.

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

Others present were: Don Ogaard, Executive Director
Dick Nelson, Financial Coordinator
Naomi Jagol, Associate Director
Ron Adrian, Administrator, Middle River-Snake River WD
Jerry Bennett, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
Brent Johnson, Engineer, Houston Engineering
Julie Goehring, Red River Basin Board
Bob Kloubec, Buffalo-Red River WD

An additional item was added to the agenda to be included in item no. 12 regarding the next meeting date. Ogaard suggested that since the third Tuesday falls in the middle of the month that the board should consider rescheduling the regular monthly meeting for October 23, 2001. Manager Erickson also noted that the tour hosted by the Roseau River International Watershed scheduled for October has been cancelled.

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

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. Manager Finney inquired about the reapportionment of HACA funds. Manager Wilkens responded that previously the state subsidized ~40% of HACA funds from real estate taxes with HACA funds. Wilkens further explained that the reapportionment would involve monies from the general fund financing the school system which would offset the loss of HACA funds. **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 Johnson, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Executive Director Report – Don Ogaard

A) Progress Report on Red River Basin Board (RRBB)/The International Coalition (TIC) Conference

Ogaard stated that the annual conference has been scheduled for January 16-18, 2002, in Fargo, North Dakota. Representatives from watershed districts, water resource districts, and a water association consortium from Manitoba will be reporting on current initiatives to include the problems encountered at the local, state and provincial levels of government. Reports from the various inventory teams of the RRBB will also be presented.

B) Potential Additional Funds for Ring Dike Construction

Ogaard reported that he had been in contact with Ed Fick, DNR, who is in charge of managing the funds for ring dike construction. He stated that Fick reported that funds remaining in the ring dike construction account from 1997 need to be confirmed, and if funds are available and a request is made for the release of funds, however, should a request be received for the release of funds they would be eligible to be disbursed. He added that Fick indicated that the funds should be disbursed this year or they would be forwarded into the general revenue account.

Motion by Manager Deal to proceed to apply for the tentative additional funds, **Seconded** by Manger Solberg, **Carried**.

D. Nelson discussed the rule making authority that the DNR is trying to implement. He explained that a couple of years ago, it was proposed in the legislature that if ditches weren't maintained for 25 years they would lose the right to be maintained. He noted the importance of this issue since many ditch systems haven't been maintained. He explained that the issue was submitted by MAWD, but was dropped during negotiations in exchange for other proposals. He added that should this issue be adopted under the DNR's rule making authority, no legislative action would be required but the end result would be the same.

C) Summary of Presentation for U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Meeting

Ogaard reported that he is scheduled to conduct a presentation at a meeting later today in Fargo, North Dakota. He noted that there is a significant need for the USGS to continue their participation in initiatives in the Red River Basin.

D) Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Grant Proposal

Ogaard explained that MPCA is in process of developing a grant proposal for 319 funds which names the RRWMB as the fiscal agent for administering the grant.

Jerry Bennett, Administrator of the Wild Rice WD, stated that the grant proposal currently being developed by MPCA is based on a challenge grant submitted last year by the Wild Rice WD (WRWD) to obtain volunteers for staff gages and update current gages into continuous reading gages. He stated that meetings were conducted with Soil and Water Conservations Districts (SWCDs) and the DNR which resulted in the development of a grant proposal submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). He noted that MPCA inquired whether the proposal submitted by the Wild Rice WD could be used to obtain 319 funds to develop a pilot project on a regional basis.

Manager Wilkens stated that the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (RRBFDRWG) obtained legislative funds to administer a project monitoring effort in the Red River Basin. The grant proposal, if obtained, is for Funds were obtained of \$150,000 a year for a three-year time frame to be used to enhance the goals of the RRBFDRWG.

D. Nelson inquired whether the grant involves a matching requirement. Manager Wilkens responded that no matching requirement is involved and that the RRWMB would be acting only as the fiscal agent to administer the funds.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to authorize the RRWMB to act strictly as the fiscal agent upon approval of the final contract with no responsibility for any financial or in-kind contributions, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Wild Rice WD Request

Jerry Bennett, Administrator of the Wild Rice WD, submitted a request from the Wild Rice WD Board of Managers to authorize Jerry Bents to be added to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the RRWMB. He explained that the Board of Managers would like to have Bents added to the committee in order for the District to receive adequate representation on the committee.

Brent Johnson, Houston Engineering, added that both he and Rick St. Germain are members of TAC. He noted that, in theory, he represents the Red Lake WD and St. Germain represents the Buffalo-Red River WD, Wild Rice WD, and the Sand Hill River WD on TAC.

Manager Finney stated that his understanding of the TAC is to review issues as directed by the RRWMB. He added that the purpose of the TAC is not to address individual watershed district issues.

Manager Deal suggested that the engineering firms that provide technical representation on TAC should determine who participates on the committee. D. Nelson suggested that guidance regarding membership on TAC should come from the RRWMB. Deal concurred with D. Nelson and suggested that the engineering firms that participate on TAC should communicate among each other regarding membership.

Motion by Manager Johnson to forward an explanation in writing to the Wild Rice WD regarding the reporting requirements of the TAC, **Seconded** by Manager Finney, **Carried**.

Report on Red River Basin Board (RRBB) September 6th Meeting

Manager Wilkens distributed a handout which included highlights of the previous monthly meeting of the RRBB. He stated that a tour was conducted of the Bald Hill Dam. The next meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2001, in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Financial Coordinator Report

D. Nelson reported on the Mayor's conference conducted in Davenport, IA. He noted that attendees consisted of representatives from various federal, state, and local agencies as well as other non-governmental entities. The purpose of the meeting was to explore flood options on the upper Mississippi River and its surrounding communities and lowland areas. Gerald Galloway, International Joint Commission (IJC), was the keynote

speaker at a banquet and stated that drainage did not cause flooding, and that wetland replacement would not stop flooding.

D. Nelson stated that he attended a tour to observe Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) implementation on the Minnesota River. He added that although this program could be beneficial in the Red River Basin, it should not be considered a cure for the flooding problems.

D. Nelson reported that a joint Senate/House Environment Committee and LCMR tour will be conducted on October 2-3, 2001 in the Red River Basin. The main focus of the tour is the Con-Con issue, however, a flood damage reduction project of the Middle River-Snake River WD will also be viewed.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

In the absence of Dan Thul, no TAC report was presented.

Associate Director Report

Jagol reported that a rate survey was conducted of the banks that had previously been contacted in the Red River Basin and indicated they wished to participate in submitting rate quotes. Rates were obtained for a 12-month investment of \$500,000. Approximately 48 letters were faxed with about 1/3 forwarding responses back with rate quotes. The successful bidder was the First State Bank of Fertile who submitted a quote of 4.10 for a 12-month term.

Jagol attended the Finance Committee meeting of the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group which met on August 28, 2001 in St. Paul. It was noted that at the present time, there is no flood damage reduction funding targeted in the proposed DNR budget for 2002. The need for developing an annual appropriation into the budget to fund Red River Basin initiatives was discussed. Another meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 25, 2001, in St. Paul, MN at the DNR.

Jagol received information from Canon regarding maintaining insurance on the photocopier. The cost to obtain insurance coverage through Canon is \$13.47 per month. The policy protects covered equipment against losses due to: burglary, theft, fire, lighting, flood and water, power surge, accidental damage, vandalism, wind and hurricane, employee theft, as well mysterious disappearance, transit, robbery, electrical disturbances, hail, smoke, volcanic action, falling objects, and collapse.

Jagol stated that additional coverage was added to her home homeowner's policy to insure that office liability was added to the policy. The liability coverage includes personal liability for each occurrence of \$300,000, medical payments to others per person of \$2,000, and medical payments to others in each accident of \$25,000.

Jagol noted that the new address and phone numbers associated with the AD position are as follows: Red River Watershed Management Board, Naomi Jagol, Associate Director, PO Box 561, Fertile, MN 56540. Phone:(218) 945-3703, Cell:(218) 280-0736, Fax:(218) 945-3704, Email:rrwmb@gvtel.com

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is continuing the preliminary study (Section 206) on the Hay Creek Project. The District recently purchased two tracts of land in the project area and awaits the preliminary project proposal from the USACE.
- The Two Rivers WD reported that the District is progressing with the Ross No. 7 Project. Some land purchases have been finalized and others are progressing with discussions with landowners. The project team has been meeting and discussed natural resource goals for the project. A timeline has also been established regarding the project. The project team will gather information including wetland delineation, topographic survey, hydrologic modeling, research of biological survey information, and other data needs.
- The Middle River-Snake River WD reported that on August 31, 2001, the Board of Managers entered into the Project Agreement and the Operation and Maintenance Agreement for Phase I of the Public Law 566 Project. In addition, the District certified to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) assurances regarding the project. Six landowners have appealed the damages and/or the benefits of the project. The appeal of damages are for properties required for portions of Phase II and Phase III of the project. The invitation for bids for Phase I of the project has been completed and will be opened on October 3rd. Phase I includes approximately the lower one-mile of the floodway and has an estimated construction cost of ~\$800,000.
- The Red Lake WD reported that impoundments are once again down to normal levels. The District is allocating water to the wild rice growers on the Clearwater River. Pine Lake is in the drawdown stage to get it down to winter level. General maintenance items have been taken care of on the projects and ditches now that the water levels are down.
- The Sand Hill River WD reported that the project team is waiting for the engineering data on the fish passage issue and the feasibility of a holding site in the Maple Creek sub-watershed area. The area will be surveyed by Houston Engineering utilizing GPS technology.
- The Wild Rice WD reported that the Board of Managers received the DNR permit approval for the Dalen Coulee Project. The first phase of construction has been delayed until the Davis Bacon wage rates are incorporated into the bidding documents. The District is working with the Northwest Regional Development Authority to assist with the Davis Bacon monitoring and the federal grant compliance requirements. The District has been working closely with the DNR on a timeline to finalize the design plans for the channel restoration. It is anticipated that the DNR will provide construction supervision for the channel restoration phase of the project. The District is continuing to have discussions with the appropriate agencies on EWP and Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) funding for the flood storage/wetland restoration land acquisition.
- The Buffalo-Red River WD reported that the District has authorized David Morten, Midwest Helicopters, to spray 58 miles of cattails and 51 miles of trees. The average cost per mile for application and chemical is \$250.00. The District has also hired a contractor to do 15 miles of ditch mowing.

District's Funding Requests:

1. Buffalo-Red River WD / Proposed Anderson Acres Subdivision Ring Dike:

A funding request was submitted for 25% (\$15,000) of the proposed ring dike, which has an estimated project cost of \$60,000. The District is currently working with Oakport township and a group of homeowners in the Anderson Acres Subdivision regarding the possible construction of a ring dike. The ring dike would protect 21 homes and an additional 12 undeveloped lots. The area is subject to localized flooding, as well as overland flows from the Buffalo River. The costs allocation is as follows: 50% state, 25% RRWMB, and 25% split between the landowner and the WD.

Motion by Manager Erickson to authorize the funding request of up to \$15,000 which represents 25% of 25% of the proposed ring dike cost of \$60,000, subject to 50% state cost share and 25% split between landowner and WD. **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**.

The next meeting will be on October 16, 2001, at 9:30 a.m. at the Wild Rice Watershed District office, Ada, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Farrell Erickson
Secretary

Naomi L. Jagol
Associate Director