

# 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

January 15, 2002

Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, January 15, 2002, at the Wild Rice Watershed District Office, Ada, Minnesota.

Chairman Ron Osowski called the meeting to order.

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

Others present were: Don Ogaard, Executive Director  
Dick Nelson, Financial Coordinator  
Naomi Erickson, Associate Director  
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator  
Brent Johnson, Engineer, Houston Engineering  
Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD  
Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering  
Rick St. Germain, Engineer, Houston Engineering  
Jerry Bennett, Administrator, Wild Rice WD  
Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office  
Dennis Nikolayson, Red Lake WD  
Dale M. Nelson, Red Lake WD

An additional item was added to the agenda in the Treasurer's Report as 4. (C).

**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. **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 Nelson, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Manager Wilkens suggested that the board consider authorizing one signature for payroll checks that are distributed each month as this would allow the employees to receive checks in a timelier manner. He noted that

currently the Treasurer's manual states that checks written to deposit funds in a depository account, or mailed directly, for social security and medicare, or other purposes as approved by the board require only one signature. **Motion** by Manager Deal to amend the Treasurer's Manual to include authorizing one signature for payroll checks, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**.

### **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 Deal 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 Nelson, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**. Vice President Finney returned the chair to President Osowski.

President 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 President 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 Johnson, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

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

President Osowski asked for nominations for Treasurer of the Board. Manager Erickson nominated Manager Wilkens for Treasurer. Nominations were called for three times by President 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 Deal, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **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 Ada, MN, on Tuesday, January 15, 2002.

On a **motion** by Manager Erickson, **seconded** by Manager Deal, and on a vote of 8 for and 0 against, the motion passed to designate the third Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. 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 Ada, MN, on Tuesday, January 15, 2002.

On a **motion** by Manager Erickson, **seconded** by Manager Deal, 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 .365 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 Ada, MN, on Tuesday, January 15, 2002.

On a **motion** by Manager Finney, **seconded** by Manager Wright, 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 and 1/18/00.

### **Resolution Authorizing Legal Counsel**

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the authorization of legal counsel at the regular board meeting held in Ada, MN, on Tuesday, January 15, 2002.

On a **motion** by Manager Finney, **seconded** by Manager Nelson, and on a vote of 8 for and 0 against, the motion passed to obtain legal counsel on a case-by-case basis for the Red River Watershed Management Board.

### **Resolution Appointing Representatives to RRBFDROW**

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the appointment of representatives to the RRBFDROW at the regular board meeting held in Ada, MN, on Tuesday, January 15, 2002.

On a **motion** by Manager Erickson, **seconded** by Manager Nelson, and on a vote of 8 for and 0 against, the motion passed to re-appoint the existing members consisting of Don Ogaard, Daniel Wilkens, Jerome Deal, and Vernon Johnson to the RRBFDROW.

### **Resolution Appointing Representative to RRBB**

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the appointment of a representative to the RRBB at the regular board meeting held in Ada, MN, on Tuesday, January 15, 2002.

On a **motion** by Manager Deal, **seconded** by Manager Johnson, and on a vote of 8 for and 0 against, the motion passed to re-appoint Daniel Wilkens as delegate and Don Ogaard as alternate to the RRBB.

### **Financial Coordinator Report**

D. Nelson reported that the legislative session begins the end of January and due to the two billion dollar deficit could be a very contentious and lengthy process. He added that 12 million dollars would be attempted to be secured. He explained that both RRBFDROW and ring dike funds have been targeted for 10% reductions with the DNR and the Governor's budget.

D. Nelson stated that the National Watershed Coalition has scheduled a meeting for the week of March 18<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C. which he has been requested to attend. He noted that he would also be working on influencing some Federal legislation that would bring more funds for the FDR program with regard to natural resource enhancements.

### **Red River Coordinator/TAC Report**

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting and discussed the Felton Ditch Off-Channel Storage Project. He distributed the TAC recommendation.

Thul noted that the project includes a 75/25 state cost share component, however, no natural resource enhancements are included in the project. He added that the TAC also discussed converting part of the temporary storage to gated storage, including spring run off events in hydrology, and developing an operating plan. He stated that in terms of design and ability to store water, the project includes the components endorsed by the TAC. The TAC recommended that funding be approved by the RRWMB.

**Motion** by Manager Wright to reaffirm the approval of the Step I submittal which was passed at the previous monthly meeting contingent on receiving a favorable recommendation from the TAC, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

Brent Johnson conducted a slide presentation on the progress of the TSAC. The presentation included updates on the various activities of the TSAC. These activities included discussion on basin strategy, FDR goals with regard to prevention and reduction, and goals agreed to by the work group.

### **Executive Director Report** – Don Ogaard

#### **A) RRBFDROWG/RRWMB March Conference Agenda**

Ogaard reported that the March Conference is scheduled for March 7-8, 2002 in Crookston, MN. The agenda is in the process of being finalized and includes topics such as Watershed District Board Role in FDR Process, Status and Progress on the Red River Institute, What Monitoring Can Do For You, and a State Legislative Panel.

#### **B) Basin Organization Proposals (RRBB, TIC, & RRWRC)**

Ogaard stated that discussion has occurred regarding the possible consolidation of the RRBB, TIC, and the RRWRC. He noted that this issue will be addressed at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Red River Basin Land and Water International Summit Conference scheduled for January 16-18, 2002 in Fargo, ND. He inquired whether the board would support seeking reorganization of the three boards into one entity. Following discussion, the board agreed to recommend the consolidation of the three boards into one entity. **Motion** by Manager Johnson to support the consolidation of the RRBB, TIC, and RRWRC into one entity, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

#### **C) Report on RRBFDROWG January 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Ogaard reported that the RRBFDROWG reduced their budget by 10% for the upcoming fiscal year. This included the elimination of several initiatives and also allowed for some of the allocated funds to be expended provided they are reimbursed during the next budget allocation.

Ogaard stated that MCEA has hired a new individual to represent their interests in the RRB. Henry Van Offelen, former DNR employee, has accepted the position and will work out of the Detroit Lakes area.

Ogaard explained that a handout is in the process of being developed which highlights proposed projects in the RRB. He added that this information is particularly helpful when trying to obtain legislative funding.

**D) Clarify Policy on TAC Membership**

Ogaard distributed a letter received from the Red Lake WD requesting that Nate Dalager of HDR Engineering be added to the TAC membership. The letter stated that due to the fact that Brent Johnson is leaving the area, the District adopted at their January 11, 2002 meeting a resolution to appoint Nate Dalager as a representative on the TAC.

Manager Wilkens stated that the TAC was originally designed to include a representative from each engineering firm that works with the individual watershed districts.

Dale M. Nelson inquired whether Rick St. Germain represented Houston Engineering on the TAC. He suggested that Nate Dalager from HDR Engineering should be added to the TAC membership since that firm has been working with the Red Lake WD and is not represented on the TAC.

Manager Erickson agreed that the TAC should include a representative from all engineering firms that work with the individual watershed districts. He further stated that although each firm should be represented, reimbursement for only one representative should be remitted from the RRWMB.

**Motion** by Manager Erickson to appoint a member from HDR engineering to the TAC, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**.

**Associate Director Report**

N. Erickson reported that Orren Bendickson from Bakke Insurance, Thief River Falls, MN would be conducting a presentation during the board meeting regarding obtaining group health insurance for the board and member watershed districts. A preliminary proposal has been prepared from BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota in conjunction with the Minnesota Service Cooperatives.

N. Erickson stated that on January 9, 2002, she updated the FY00 and FY01 TSAC funds for the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (RRBFDRWG). She also attended the RRBFDROWG meeting conducted on January 10, 2002 at the Holiday Inn, Detroit Lakes, MN.

N. Erickson noted that she is in the process of preparing year-end tax information in conjunction with the distribution of W-2's and 1099's for the board. She added that the 2001 audit has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, in Fertile, MN, with Mark Hatton of Dahl, Hatton, Muir & Reese of Hallock, MN.

### **Health Insurance Proposal**

Orren Bendickson, Bakke Insurance, Thief River Falls, MN conducted a presentation regarding obtaining group health insurance for the board and member watershed districts. A preliminary proposal has been prepared from BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota in conjunction with the Minnesota Service Cooperatives. The Minnesota Service Cooperatives perform planning on a regional basis and assist in meeting specific needs of clients in participating governmental units which could be better provided by a Service Cooperative than by members themselves. One of the services provided by the Minnesota Service Cooperatives includes an insurance program which has provided pool members a substantial savings and cost containment due to the cooperative efforts.

Manager Wilkens suggested forwarding a letter to the individual watershed districts and inquiring about possible interest in obtaining group health insurance sponsored by the RRWMB. Bendickson stated that once more information is obtained regarding the number of potential participants a final quote could be prepared.

**Motion** by Manager Erickson to forward a letter to individual watershed districts inquiring about interest in obtaining group health insurance, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**.

### **District Reports**

- The Roseau River WD reported on the status of the overall plan update. A meeting was conducted on January 7, 2002 which included discussion on the ranking of natural resource enhancements and flood damage reduction problems within the District. Revisions to the draft documents of Sections 2 and 3 of the revised overall plan occurred.
- The Two Rivers WD reported that the Ross No. 7 Flood Control Project was submitted and approved for a preliminary engineering grant at the January 10, 2002 meeting of the RRBFDROWG. The project is progressing and a preliminary engineer's report is expected by March. A timeline has been established to help with the progression of the project. The District hopes to secure funding, complete the project design, and obtain permit approval by the end of 2002. Public hearings will then be scheduled with construction anticipated by 2003.
- The Red Lake WD reported that a sampling and analysis plan was completed by the District and reviewed by Houston Engineering for the Clearwater Lake Project. This project is partially funded through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Challenge Grant program. The first round of water quality samples and discharge measurements have been collected for the project. Progress reports have also been submitted for the three Challenge Grant projects of the District.
- The Wild Rice WD reported that general obligation watershed bonds were sold by Clay County on January 8, 2002 to finance the local cost share on the Dalen Coulee Project. Advertising for bids has been delayed pending the completion of the MnDNR channel sinuosity design.
- The Buffalo-Red River WD reported on the Whisky Creek Tributaries Study. The soils investigation work for the proposed water impoundment site in Section 14, Barnesville Township, has been completed. A fair amount of underlying sand is in the area, as well as a high ground water table. The site does not look conducive to holding a permanent wildlife pool. It is also questionable if temporary water storage will work on the site. A meeting to discuss the soils report with the three affected landowners was conducted on January 4, 2002. The new information will be furnished to the project team at their next meeting scheduled for January 31, 2002. Assuming project team approval, the District may seek funding to develop the project in 2002.

- The Bois de Sioux WD reported on the status of the Moonshine Lake Watershed Project. At the previous project team meeting, the group struggled with defining the scope of the project. With the assistance of Jody Horntvedt, project team facilitator, the project scope was defined and agreed to by the project team. At the next project team meeting, goals for the project will be addressed.

**Parnell Impoundment Update**

Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, discussed the Parnell Impoundment Project. He stated that the Red Lake WD received legislative funding to implement a flood storage easement project in conjunction with a grant received from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Several sites were reviewed which included an area downstream at the outlet of the Parnell Impoundment Project. Implementing the flood storage easement project with the Parnell Impoundment would provide for improved operation of the impoundment, in addition to allowing for improvements to be made on the operating plan. A Step I submittal will be presented at the next monthly meeting.

**District's Funding Requests:**

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on February 19, 2002, at 9:30 a.m. at the City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Farrell Erickson  
Secretary

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Naomi L. Erickson  
Associate Director