

# 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 Jerome Deal-Wheaton Don Ogaard, Executive Director-Ada Naomi Erickson, Associate Director-Detroit Lakes

## RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

November 20, 2002

Falk Lodge, Wheaton, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Wednesday, November 20, 2002, at the Falk Lodge, Wheaton, Minnesota.

Chairman Ron Osowski called the meeting to order.

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

Others present were: Don Ogaard, Executive Director  
Naomi Erickson, Associate Director  
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator  
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Middle River-Snake River WD  
Harry Farris, Administrator, Red Lake WD  
Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD  
Dennis Nikolayson, Red Lake WD  
Curt Nelson, Buffalo-Red River WD  
Rick St. Germain, Engineer, Houston Engineering  
Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering  
Kevin Scheidecker, Basin Coordinator, RRBC  
Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering  
Wayne Goeken, Water Quality Project Monitoring  
Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD  
Don Buckhout, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Dick Lane, Big Stone County Commissioner

No additional items were added to the agenda.

**Motion** by Manager Erickson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the October 22, 2002 meeting, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried.** **Motion** by Manager Deal to approve the minutes as written with minor corrections, **Seconded** by Manager Finney, **Carried.**

**Motion** by Manager Finney to present a condensed Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried.** **Motion** by Manager Finney to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Roger Anderson, **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.

### **Report on Red River Basin Commission**

Kevin Scheidecker, Basin Coordinator-RRBC, distributed a handout of the RRBC board meeting highlights of the November 7, 2002 meeting. He stated that the Plan Management Committee met on November 6, 2002. A timeline was developed for reviewing the Maple River Dam project, and also the mainstem hydrology study contract was awarded.

A brochure regarding the Twentieth Annual Red River Basin Land and Water Summit Conference was distributed. The conference is scheduled for January 15-17, 2003 at The Fort Garry, Winnipeg, MB.

### **Human Resources Committee Report/Recommendations**

Manager Finney reported that the Human Resources Committee met in Thief River Falls on Friday, November 15, 2002. Those present were RRWMB Managers Jerome Deal, Farrell Erickson, and John Finney. Also present were Don Ogaard-Executive Director, Naomi Erickson-Associate Director, and Dick Nelson-Financial Coordinator. The purpose of the meeting was to further discuss the options available to the RRWMB concerning the upcoming retirement of Don Ogaard.

At the October 2002 regular board meeting, a motion was made and passed to advertise for Executive Director of the board. Upon further review of this action, the committee discussed the possibility that this position may be handled internally, with the current workload of the Executive Director being distributed among the RRWMB Directors and the Associate Director.

After discussion, the committee recommended the following: 1. The Associate Director will be responsible for preparing the agenda and be an alternate to the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (RRBFDRWG). 2. The positions on the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) and the RRBFDRWG currently held by the Executive Director shall be appointed from the RRWMB. The committee proposed that all of the aforementioned recommendations, if approved for implementation by the RRWMB, be subject to a performance review in six months.

**Motion** by Manager Wilkens to rescind the motion passed at the October 2002 meeting which authorized the Human Resource Committee to develop a job description and advertise for the position of Executive Director, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

**Motion** by Manager Wilkens to accept the Human Resource Committee recommendations, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

The committee reviewed the contract with RPN Consulting which expired in 2001. A copy of the revised document was distributed. **Motion** by Manager Erickson to renew the contract with RPN Consulting, Inc., **Seconded** by Manager Finney, **Carried**.

The committee also reviewed the agreement with the Associate Director which has been in place for 15 months. The committee suggested a 3% cost of living adjustment (COLA) be awarded to the Associate Director, retroactive to August 1, 2002. **Motion** by Manager Deal to approve a 3% COLA increase retroactive to August 1st, **Seconded** by Manager Anderson, **Carried**.

**Appointment of two RRBC members (Board of Directors) for 2003-2004 term**

Following discussion, the Board of Managers recommended that Daniel Wilkens continue to serve as a board member, and John Finney replace the vacancy created by Don Ogaard's retirement. The Board of Managers also suggested that Manager Wright and Dick Nelson be appointed as alternates to the RRBC.

**Motion** by Manager Deal to appoint Daniel Wilkens and John Finney as representatives to the RRBC with Robert Wright and Dick Nelson as alternates, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**.

**Appointment of four members to the RRBFDROWG for 2003**

Following discussion, the Board of Managers recommended that Daniel Wilkens and Jerome Deal continue to serve as members to the RRBFDROWG, with Farrell Erickson and Ron Osowski to replace the vacancies created by the retirements of Don Ogaard and Vernon Johnson. The Board of Managers also suggested that Naomi Erickson be appointed alternate to the RRBFDROWG.

**Motion** by Manager Finney to appoint Farrell Erickson, Jerome Deal, Ron Osowski, and Daniel Wilkens as representatives to the RRBFDROWG with Naomi Erickson as the alternate, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, **Carried**.

**Discuss Appointing two administrators/two managers to RRBFDROWG Committee**

Ogaard explained that a committee was developed at the previous RRBFDROWG meeting to address issues and concerns with the current project team process, progress, and related issues. The work group agreed that the committee will be comprised of two work group members, two watershed district administrators, and two watershed district board managers. The work group appointed Jerome Deal and Mark Ten Eyck as representatives to the committee. The current co-chairs of the RRBFDROWG, Don Ogaard and Paul Swenson, will chair the meeting.

Don Buckhout stated that the main issue for the committee to discuss is the process of developing projects via the relationship between the project teams and the watershed districts. He added that another issue to be addressed relates to restructuring the membership of the RRBFDROWG. The work group has considered whether its current membership is adequate to carry out the tasks of the mediation agreement.

Following discussion, the following individuals were recommended for the committee: Farrell Erickson and Ron Osowski, Board Managers; and Ron Adrian and Jon Roeschlein, Administrators. Don Ogaard suggested that Naomi Erickson attend the meeting to record the minutes.

**Motion** by Manager Wilkens to appoint the following individuals to the committee: Farrell Erickson and Ron Osowski-Board Managers, and Ron Adrian and Jon Roeschlein-Administrators, **Seconded** by Manager Finney, **Carried**.

**Financial Coordinator Report**

In the absence of D. Nelson, a handout was distributed on his behalf. Due to the recent election, different perspectives in both the state and federal governments resulted. These changes will present new challenges as attempts are made to balance the significant budget deficits without raising taxes.

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

Thul reported that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting and discussed the Moonshine Lake Project. A handout was distributed relative to the TAC recommendation for the project. The STar Value Method ranking score for this project is 18. The TAC agreed that the project provides significant natural resource enhancement benefits through the restoration of a previously drained lake bed.

Thul stated that the TAC discussed the USGS wetlands study which is partially funded by the RRWMB. A meeting was conducted relative to the study which Thul and St. Germain attended. The TAC still has several questions about the modeling included in the study and the members agreed they would like to meet directly with the USGS regarding the details of the study. Rick St. Germain agreed to contact Greg Wiche, USGS, to schedule a meeting.

Thul added that the TAC also discussed the revised operating plan for the Parnell Impoundment Project. He noted that Nate Dalager will update the TAC on the revisions to the operating plan and report to the board at the next monthly meeting.

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

#### **A) December Joint Meeting with the RRBFDROWG**

Ogaard stated that at the previous RRBFDROWG meeting, it was suggested that a joint meeting be conducted with the RRWMB to address the concerns relative to the progress of the project teams. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize a joint meeting of the RRWMB with the RRBFDROWG on December 17, 2002 at the Holiday Inn, Detroit Lakes, MN, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

#### **B) Director Per Diem**

Ogaard stated that a request was submitted to Rinke-Noonan law firm regarding whether the RRWMB may set a higher per diem than that allowed for watershed district managers. A handout was distributed regarding the response received. The handout stated that after reviewing the Joint Powers Agreement creating the RRWMB and an appropriate state law, it was determined that the RRWMB Directors may not set a per diem compensation rate higher than that allowed for watershed district managers. The conclusion was reached since the Joint Powers Statute limits the exercise of authority by the Joint Powers Organization to those powers possessed by its members. Minnesota Statutes 103D.315 Subd. 8 limits compensation of managers for meetings and performance of other necessary duties to \$55.00 per day.

### **Associate Director Report**

N. Erickson reported that two investments matured during the month and were renewed at rates of 2.50% and 2.60% for twelve month terms.

N. Erickson stated that she attended the RRBFDROWG meeting conducted on October 29-30, 2002 in Detroit Lakes, MN. The majority of the discussion included the function of the project teams. The work group

approved forwarding letters from the co-chairs (Don Ogaard and Paul Swenson) requesting timelines from the USACE for the Hay Creek Project, and offering support for the Red River Basin CREP proposal. A funding request was approved from the Roseau River WD for \$77,000 to complete the engineering studies developed in response to mitigate the recent flood damages.

N. Erickson added that she met with Daniel Wilkens at the Sand Hill River WD on November 14, 2002 to update the mediation funds of the RRBFDROWG. The work group authorized a reallocation of remaining funds for FY00 and FY01. Although no state funding has been received to date for FY02 and FY03, budgets are in the process of being developed.

### **Water Quality Project Monitoring Report**

Wayne Goeken distributed the project monitoring monthly report. Data has been compiled and preliminary analysis provided for the Bois de Sioux, Roseau, and Two Rivers WDs as these three watershed districts are currently involved in the final stages of their Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan updates. Available water quality monitoring data from other sources such as the local SWCDs and WDs were also included in the analysis. Data and analysis will also be compiled and provided to the remaining WDs as final results become available.

### **District Reports**

- The Roseau River WD reported that Farrell Erickson and Rob Sando continue to meet on a weekly basis with the Flood Mitigation Board. This board consists of two Roseau County Commissioners, two City of Roseau officials, and two representatives from the Roseau River WD. The meetings are also attended by representatives from the Northwest Regional Development Commission, a representative from Senator Mark Dayton's office, Bob Berglund, Wynne Consulting and other interested individuals. The group has been focusing on the City of Roseau's short, intermediate, and long range plans as well as flood damage reduction efforts in the Roseau River WD.
- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported on the status of the Public Law 566 (Snake River Watershed) project. Construction on Phase 2 which is the off-channel floodwater storage site has been halted for the season. In terms of the value of the contract, Phase 2 is approximately 35% completed. The work on Phase 1 has been completed and it is expected that final payment will be made in the next month. The District continues to work with the Burlington Northern Railroad and the Northern Plains Railroad on agreements for the railroad crossings.
- The Red Lake WD reported on the City of Bagley Urban Runoff Reduction Project. Funding agreements from the City of Bagley and MnDOT have been signed. MPCA has also submitted a 319 Clean Water Partnership (CWP) Grant to perform an add-on to the project. Construction should begin in early April 2003.
- The Sand Hill River WD reported that on November 5, 2002 the Board of Managers received an improvement petition with 80% of the landowner's signatures regarding the Polk County Highway No. 41 Road Rebuild Project. The board accepted the petition contingent on attorney review and a bond of \$70,000.00.

- The Bois de Sioux WD reported on the status of the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan update. Information is being received from the natural resource enhancement agencies to be incorporated into the plan. Upon completion of the draft, the plan will be submitted to the Board of Managers for review and approval and will be released for the public review process. The model is scheduled to be completed by December 31, 2002. An extension has been submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources through April 30, 2003 to allow for the completion of the public review process.

### **District's Funding Requests**

#### **1. Bois de Sioux WD / Moonshine Lakebed Project**

A tour of the Moonshine Lakebed Project was conducted following lunch. The information required for a Step I submittal was distributed at the previous monthly meeting. The following motion was passed at the October board meeting: **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize the Step I submittal of the Moonshine Lakebed Project, **Seconded** by Manager Finney, **Carried**.

Manager Deal stated that the preliminary proposal for funding the project is as follows: USFWS \$1,635,000, NAWCA \$300,000, RRWMB \$200,000, BdSWD \$100,000, and MnDNR \$300,000. He requested funding assistance from the RRWMB until the request for funds is received from the USFWS. **Motion** by Manager Deal for the RRWMB to authorize funding assistance to the BdSWD for the Moonshine Lakebed Project to be repaid when the funding request is received from the USFWS, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**.

#### **2. Red Lake WD / Parnell Impoundment Project / Step II Submittal**

A Step II submittal funding request was presented to the board for consideration. Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., presented the final engineer's report regarding modifications to enhance flood control of the Parnell Impoundment Project. The estimated total cost of the project is as follows: Engineering and project administration of \$118,000 and construction costs of \$133,500 for total project costs of \$251,500.00. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to approve the Step II submittal funding request for a total project cost of \$251,500 of which the RRWMB will fund 85%, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**.

**Don Ogaard referred to the Governing Documents manual and explained that Step II submittals must not be approved until the month following presentation. Motion withdrawn.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Farrell Erickson  
Secretary

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Naomi L. Erickson  
Associate Director