

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
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Don Ogaard, Executive Director-Ada Naomi Erickson, Associate Director-Detroit Lakes

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

December 17, 2002

Holiday Inn, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, December 17, 2002, at the Holiday Inn, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. The meeting was conducted jointly with the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group.

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, Monitoring Coordinator
Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD
Don Buckhout, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Dick Lane, Big Stone County Commissioner
Chuck Meyer, Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians
Bruce Nelson, USDA-FSA
Paul Borgen, Citizen Representative, FDR Work Group
Ron Shelito, BWSR
Gerry Van Amburg, Buffalo-Red River WD
John Braastad, USFWS
Jim Ziegler, MPCA
Glen Kajewski, USDA-NRCS
Paul Swenson, Regional Director-DNR
Chuck Spitzack, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Warren Seykora, Wild Rice WD
Chuck Fritz, Program Manager, Red River Basin Commission
Jim Skaurud, Wild Rice WD
Bob Kloubec, Buffalo-Red River WD
Mark Chase, USFWS
Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office
Jerry Bennett, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
Dale M. Nelson, Red Lake WD

No additional items were added to the agenda.

Motion by Manager Erickson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the November 20, 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**.

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. **Motion** by Manager Deal to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**. Manager Wilkens explained that a request was forwarded to the watershed districts that all project team expenses incurred through June 30, 2002 be submitted to the RRWMB for reimbursement. He requested that the project team expenses submitted following the board meeting and prior to year-end be reimbursed. **Motion** by Manager Erickson to authorize the project team expenses submitted by the watershed districts prior to year-end be reimbursed by the RRWMB, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**. A one-page handout of monthly bills to be approved was distributed. **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Finney, **Seconded** by Roger Anderson, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Financial Coordinator Report

D. Nelson stated that of the \$15 million on hold for bonding projects, eight projects are included in the remaining portion which includes projects of both the RRWMB and metro region. He explained the importance of expending legislative funds as it will be very difficult to obtain additional funding if existing funds have not yet been expended.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul distributed the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommendation regarding the modification of the Parnell Impoundment Project. The proposal is to change the operating plan of the existing Parnell project which is considered an ungated storage project. The modification will install a gate on the structure and includes a gate operating plan with trigger points located downstream in ag areas to the west and downstream on the Red River at Crookston, GF, and Oslo. The TAC recommended that the board participate in this proposal.

Executive Director Report – Don Ogaard

Ogaard explained that the RRWMB was developed for the expressed purpose of coordinating and funding projects of the individual member watershed districts since the local WD's had no method to develop funding

for local projects. He added that there was a twelve year period when virtually no projects took place, however, due to the implementation of the mediation process more projects are moving forward.

Associate Director Report

N. Erickson reported that a meeting was conducted on December 2, 2002 at the Sand Hill River WD of the committee developed by the RRBFDWRWG to address issues and concerns with the current project team process, progress, and related issues. The main issue discussed was the process of developing projects via the relationship between the project teams and the watershed districts. Several recommendations were developed by the committee including project team membership, direction from WD Board of Managers, and information/education. A complete report of the meeting was prepared and will be distributed at the joint meeting with the RRBFDWRWG later today.

N. Erickson explained that the remaining half of fiscal year 2002 funds have yet to be received from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. She stated that she had contacted Ed Fick-DNR who indicated that the State of Minnesota would prefer to send these funds electronically in the future, rather than disbursing a check. She requested authorization to establish an electronic funds transfer (EFT) account for the RRWMB in order to begin receiving funds electronically from the state. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to establish an EFT account in order to receive state funds electronically, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

Wayne Goeken distributed the project monitoring monthly report. He stated that the purpose of the Red River Basin Monitoring Network is to develop a water quality monitoring system that provides flow-weighted assessment at a base number of sites related to the major watersheds that will provide information that can be used to compare watersheds in the Red River Basin, identify trends in water quality over time, identify problems, and direct further monitoring.

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported that a Roseau River International Watershed (RRIW) meeting was conducted on December 12, 2002 in Vita, Manitoba. The group focused on the upcoming Red River Basin Commission conference in Winnipeg and the completed hydrologic study of the west end of the Roseau River Watershed in Canada.
- The Two Rivers WD reported that Steve Harder was appointed to the Board of Managers by the Roseau County Commission. He resides in Barto Township, north of Greenbush, and replaces Harlan Solberg on the board. An appointment to replace Manager Solberg on the Red River Watershed Management Board will be made in January.
- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported on the Public Law 566 (Snake River Watershed) project. Construction has been halted for the season with work continuing on the development of the plans for phase 3. The plans for the road crossings are scheduled to be completed this winter with bids to be let in the spring of 2003. The District is responsible for construction of one County Road Crossing, two State Trunk Highway Crossings and two Railroad Crossings. Most of the details have been worked out for the public crossings. Work continues with the Railroads on agreements for the railroad crossings. The hearing on the appeals of the Damages and Benefits have been rescheduled for February 2003.

- The Wild Rice WD reported that the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan update has been completed. Copies will be distributed to entities either affected by the implementation of the Watershed Management Plan or have a role in the implementation. A 60-day comment period will be followed by a public hearing coordinated by the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) who will be assisting in the notification process. Comments on the plan can be submitted to the BWSR or the Watershed District.
- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that staff is currently working on the permit processes for the North Ottawa Impoundment Project. The wetlands permit applications are currently being developed and delineations are complete. An archeological/historical survey has been conducted under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) supervision as part of the 206 program. The survey results are not yet available.

District's Funding Requests

1. Red Lake WD / Parnell Impoundment Project / Step II Submittal

A Step II submittal funding request was presented to the board for consideration. 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 Erickson, **Carried**.

2. Red Lake WD / Parnell Project / Step I Submittal

Nate Dalager distributed copies of the Step I submittal to the board. Manager Johnson suggested that the project area be toured during the next monthly meeting and invited the board to conduct the next monthly meeting in Thief River Falls.

Ring Dike Funding

Manager Deal stated that the Bois de Sioux WD has remaining funds available with the State of Minnesota for ring dike construction. He inquired whether these funds could be reallocated for ring dike construction in other watershed districts. D. Nelson responded that he would contact Ed Fick regarding whether funds designated for ring dike construction in one watershed district could be reallocated to other watershed districts.

RRBFDRWG Membership

Manager Osowski stated that at the previous monthly meeting he was selected to represent the RRMWB on the RRBFDRWG. He indicated that for personal reasons he would prefer not to continue as president of the RRWMB but rather continue his involvement as a regular board member. He also requested that a replacement be designated for his position on the RRBFDRWG. **Motion** by Manager Erickson to accept Manager Osowski declining the appointment to the RRBFDRWG, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

Ogaard stated that a letter was received from the Red Lake WD requesting that Manager Johnson be reinstated to his position with the RRBFDRWG since he has decided to fulfill another term with the Red Lake WD. **Motion** by Manager Erickson to appoint Vernon Johnson to fill the vacancy on the RRBFDRWG as a result of Ron Osowski declining the appointment, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

JOINT DISCUSSION: RRWMB – RRBFDWRWG

Review of RRWMB Governing Documents

Ogaard explained that the Governing Documents publication is a compilation of the policies, laws, and procedures of the RRWMB. He noted that the process used for funding of projects of the RRWMB is reflective of the processes utilized in the member watershed districts.

Borgen inquired how the RRWMB levy was determined. Ogaard responded that a consensus of what the taxable property could bear for this particular purpose indicated that a 2 mill levy would be appropriate.

RRBFDRWG Status Reports

A copy of the letter from Chuck Spitzack was distributed to members of the work group. The letter describes the status of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) involvement in the North Ottawa and Hay Creek projects.

Watershed Plan Distribution

Jerry Bennett distributed copies of the draft Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Wild Rice WD. Jerome Deal distributed copies of the Executive Summary of the Watershed Plan for the Bois de Sioux WD. A CD version of the full plan for the Bois de Sioux WD will be forwarded to work group members. Both plans will be undergoing public review during the next month. Work group members were requested to review the plans and submit any comments directly to the watershed district administrators.

RRBFDRWG Purpose, Process and Structure Issues

The work group received and acted upon recommendations from the Project Team Issues Committee, which met on December 2, 2002. The following recommendations were adopted by the work group:

1. Project Team Membership
 - a) The membership of Board Managers on project teams should be one manager less than that needed for a quorum.
 - b) The project team membership should be adjusted to the type and location of the potential project under consideration. (Appointed by watershed district managers on a per project basis.)
 - c) Regulatory agencies that participate on project teams should encourage individual agency members to promote agency programs to prevent inconsistencies from various disciplines within agencies.
 - d) Agencies and individual project teams should promote the goals of the mediated agreement rather than personal agendas.
2. Direction from Watershed District Board of Managers

The watershed district Board of Managers should provide the potential project area for consideration by the project teams, to be consistent with the comprehensive watershed management plans.
3. Information/Education
 - a) An information and/or education component should be initiated for project team members and watershed district managers.
 - b) An information packet should be prepared and discussed with legislators by members of the RRBFDWRWG.

4. Project Team Facilitator

The work group was unable to reach agreement on the recommendation from the subcommittee. Therefore, Paul Swenson agreed to develop a list of position responsibilities and reportability requirements for this position and submit them to the work group for further consideration at the January meeting.

5. Financial Support Team

A support team should be developed to facilitate a coordinated effort of securing funding assistance for the RRBFDROWG. Richard Nelson should be named chairman of this group.

6. Soil and Water Conservation District Initiative

The Board of Water and Soil Resources should coordinate an effort to be conducted by the person in BWSR's Red River Basin Field Station position (Brian Dwight) to maximize collaboration between SWCD's and project teams on flood damage reduction initiatives and program participation.

TSAC Monitoring Protocols/On-Channel Storage Assessment

The work group received a brief presentation by Henry Van Offelen on behalf of the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC) regarding the progress of the on-channel storage assessment project. There will be another presentation of the status of the On-Channel Storage Assessment by TSAC at the January meeting.

The work group briefly discussed the TSAC charges invoiced by Applied Ecological Services (AES). It was determined that no payments would be made in excess of budget. Naomi Erickson agreed to check with other consultants who participated in the wetland study to determine whether unexpended funds could be allocated to the study.

The next meeting of the RRWMB will be on January 21, 2003, at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District office, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Farrell Erickson
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Associate Director