

Red River Watershed Management Board

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Board of Managers

John Finney, President-Humboldt Farrell Erickson, Vice Pres.-Badger Dan Money-Hallock Ron Osowski-Oslo
Vernon Johnson-Clearbrook Daniel Wilkens, Treasurer-Fertile Robert Wright, Secretary-Felton Jerome Deal-Wheaton
Naomi Erickson, Associate Director-Detroit Lakes

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

April 15, 2003

Wells Fargo Bank, Barnesville, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, April 15, 2003, at the Wells Fargo Bank, Barnesville, Minnesota.

In the absence of the President, Farrell Erickson-Vice President called the meeting to order.

Members present were: Dan Money Daniel Wilkens
Vernon Johnson Robert Wright
Jerome Deal

Others present were: Naomi Erickson, Associate Director
Dick Nelson, Financial Coordinator
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD
Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
Kevin Scheidecker, Basin Coordinator, RRBC
Dennis Nikolayson, Red Lake WD
Curt Nelson, Buffalo-Red River WD
Bruce Albright, Administrator, Buffalo-Red River WD
Jerry Bennett, Administrator, Wild Rice WD

An additional item was added to the agenda. Manager Deal requested adding an update regarding the water planning funds of the Board of Water & Soil Resources to the agenda under item no. 14.

Motion by Manager Deal to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the March 26, 2003 meeting, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**. **Motion** by Manager Deal to approve the minutes as written with minor corrections, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. **Motion** by Manager Money to approve the Treasurer's Report, **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 Johnson, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**. Naomi Erickson explained that the regular April board meeting occurred mid-month and that additional bills would be received prior to month-end. She requested that the bills received following the board meeting be authorized for payment. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize the bills received following the board meeting

for payment by the RRWMB, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Financial Coordinator Report

D. Nelson reported that the House is releasing the Environment Omnibus Bill which zeroed out funds for ring dikes and the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group. Some of these funds could be returned should the water user fee increase pass. The House has indicated that there will be no bonding bill since it is not a regular bonding year and no funds exist for debt service.

D. Nelson stated that the Senate passed a bonding bill out of the Capital Investment Committee and is scheduled to be heard in the Finance Committee. This bill includes many items that were vetoed last year, except that Marsh Creek, Hay Creek, Warren PL 566, and the City of Roseau projects have been added. Ring dike funding of \$500,000 has also been added to the City of Roseau bill at this time.

D. Nelson discussed the bonding funds on hold from last year. He has been in contact with the DNR and the Department of Finance regarding these funds, and has heard reports that only part of the \$15 million will be released. This could be very detrimental to the watershed districts that had projects included in these funds, since these projects were considered lower priority items.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) did not meet prior to the board meeting. He noted that the TAC has a meeting scheduled in conjunction with the 1st Annual Water Conference on April 23rd with representatives from the Red River Basin Institute (RRBI) and the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC) regarding the possibility of these groups working in collaboration.

The Board of Managers discussed requesting the TAC to review the Governing Documents publication.

Motion by Manager Deal to request the TAC to review the Governing Documents publication and submit comments to the RRWMB prior to June 1, 2003, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**.

Associate Director Report

A) Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

Erickson stated that following the board meeting on March 26, 2003, she met with Don Buckhout and Dan Wilkens to review the invoices submitted by AES (an engineering firm that participates on TSAC). AES had exceeded the amount budgeted for various tasks assigned to TSAC and the work group is in the process of reallocating TSAC funds to cover these expenditures. The Work Group has since requested AES to participate on TSAC only when directed by the Work Group.

B) 5th Annual Joint Conference / Don Ogaard's Retirement Party

The 5th Annual Joint Conference was conducted on March 27, 2003 with approximately 80 individuals attending. Although attendance was down from previous years, many favorable comments were heard regarding the content of the conference.

Erickson reported that several individuals were in attendance at Don's retirement party to wish him well as he retired from the RRWMB. She read a letter that was forwarded from Don to the RRWMB thanking the board for hosting the party in his honor.

C) Governing Documents Review

Erickson stated that a letter was distributed to the individual watershed districts regarding the RRWMB review of the Governing Documents publication. The letter stated that on February 20, 2003 the *Transition Team* met and discussed the RRWMB's position on transferring the responsibilities of the Work Group to the RRWMB. The Board requested that comments regarding revisions to the Governing Documents should be forwarded to the RRWMB office prior to June 1, 2003.

D) Upcoming Conferences

Erickson noted that the 1st International Water Conference is scheduled for April 23-24, 2003, Moorhead, MN. To register online: www.tri-college.org. The next Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2003, Holiday Inn-Lakeside, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Red River Basin Commission Report – Kevin Scheidecker

Kevin Scheidecker, Basin Coordinator-RRBC, stated that the RRBC has a retreat scheduled followed by a board meeting for April 16-17, 2003 in Grand Forks, ND. The retreat is conducted annually to review previous activities and discuss plans for the future.

The base funding strategy for the RRBC was also discussed. Local units of government contribute \$100,000 from each state (Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota) and the Province of Manitoba. Funding for the Minnesota portion is forwarded by the RRWMB. The goal of the commission is to secure base funding in each state legislature and the province, so that funding doesn't have to be sought on an annual basis.

Minnesota Association of Drainage Inspectors (MADI)

Manager Wilkens stated that the annual meeting of the MADI is scheduled for April 21, 2003 in Willmar, MN. The registration fee is \$35 for members of the organization.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

Wayne Goeken distributed the project monitoring monthly report. River Watch forums have been conducted involving the schools in the Roseau, Two Rivers, Middle-Snake-Tamarac, and Sand Hill River Watershed Districts. Several of these schools will be conducting their presentations at the 1st International Water Conference on April 24th in Moorhead, MN.

Data continues to be developed into reports for various watershed uses. Conversions have been made to results that were below detection limits to allow for more complete statistical analysis. Background inventory data for all monitoring sites is being developed for submission to MPCA for inclusion in the STORET data management system. The final corrected data set will then be provided to STORET when completed.

RRWMB Meeting Schedule

Manager Erickson stated that revising the monthly meeting schedule was discussed at the previous monthly meeting. He explained that discussion occurred among the Board of Managers to not schedule meetings during the months of May and August since these are especially busy months for managers. Following discussion, the Board agreed to continue scheduling meetings on a monthly basis, but to allow a five-day notice to cancel the meeting should it be deemed necessary. **Motion** by Manager Money to continue scheduling monthly meetings but allowing a five-day cancellation notice should it be deemed necessary, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported that the Board of Managers has completed the natural resource enhancement and flood damage reduction sections of their overall plan and is awaiting a rough draft from the local plan writer. The Board has also requested an extension until December 2003 to complete the plan.

Manager Erickson and Rob Sando-Administrator continue to meet bi-weekly 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 Watershed District. The meetings are also attended by individuals from the Northwest Regional Development Commission, Senator Mark Dayton's office, Bob Berglund, Wynne Consulting and other interested individuals. The group has been focusing on a proposed 24 million dollar flood recovery relief bill at the Minnesota State Legislature and also the proposed West Intercept, west of Roseau. The group recently discussed possible impoundments upstream of the City of Roseau.

- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported that bids for the first of three roadway crossings for Phase III of the Public Law 566 project were received on April 2, 2003. The District received seven bids ranging from about 2% to 12% below the Engineers Estimate. The bids for the remaining two crossings are planned to be let later this spring and summer. The District is continuing to work on the development of the plans for Phase III.

The first hearing on the appeal of two landowners of the benefits and damages was heard. The appeal period has not yet expired.

- The Red Lake WD reported that a new administrator was hired for the District. Myron Jesme will begin his duties on April 16, 2003.

Bids for construction of the Bagley Urban Runoff Reduction Project were opened at the board meeting last week. The job will be awarded following review of the bid by legal counsel and the engineer. The District is now advertising for bids for two flood storage easement projects in Polk County. Bids will be opened for these two projects on May 8, 2003.

- The Wild Rice WD reported on the status of the Wild Rice River U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Feasibility Study. In March, the District held a kick-off meeting with representatives from the USACE and district consultants involved with providing some of the work-in-kind services for the project. It is anticipated that the first phase of the project will take approximately 13 months to finish. In the coming weeks, the District will be working with the USACE to identify the detailed scope of work for the in-kind services and federal responsibilities to complete the first phase of the project.

District's Funding Requests

1. Buffalo-Red River WD / Whisky Creek Project / Step I Submittal

A tour of the Whisky Creek Project was conducted prior to lunch. The information required for a Step I submittal was distributed at the previous monthly meeting. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize the Step I submittal of the Whisky Creek Project contingent that the BRRWD is a member of the RRWMB, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**.

Board of Water & Soil Resources

Manager Deal reported that the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) is undergoing a revision to their rules since water planning funds had to be eliminated from the budget due to the receipt of limited legislative funding. He added that most counties are continuing to develop water plans but assigning them a lower priority status.

The next meeting will be on May 20, 2003, 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 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Associate Director