

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

July 15, 2003

Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, July 15, 2003, at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

Chairman John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were: Farrell Erickson Dan Money
Ron Osowski Vernon Johnson
Roger Hanson 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
Dennis Nikolayson, Red Lake WD
Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD
Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator
Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office

An additional item was added to the agenda. Manager Finney requested adding the Red River Basin Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to the agenda in the Financial Coordinator Report section.

Motion by Manager Deal to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the June 17, 2003 meeting, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**. **Motion** by Manager Money to approve the minutes as written with minor corrections, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**.

Motion by Manager Deal to dispense with the reading of the Treasurer's report, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, **Carried**. **Motion** by Manager Money to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**. A one-page handout of monthly bills to be approved was distributed. **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Money, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, **Carried**.

RRWMB Levy

The Board discussed the tax levy rate determination. **Motion** by Manager Deal to maintain the levy at 100% for FY 2004, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski. Discussion followed.

Manager Wright noted that the Wild Rice WD Board of Managers supports maintaining the levy at the maximum amount.

Manager Deal suggested that a budget committee be established. He stated that the previous year's expenditures could be used to determine a ceiling for the current year's levy. The Board suggested that the budget committee be comprised of the Transition Team committee members (Deal, Johnson, Erickson, and Wilkens) along with Naomi Erickson and Dick Nelson.

As there was no further discussion a vote was taken. Those voting in favor of the motion included: Deal, Erickson, Hanson, Money, Wright, and Osowski. Those opposing the motion included: Johnson. **Motion carried.**

Associate Director Performance Review

Manager Finney reported that the Human Resources Committee consisting of Jerome Deal, Farrell Erickson, and himself met prior to the board meeting and conducted a review of the Associate Director position with Naomi Erickson. He stated that since Don Ogaard's retirement as of January 1, 2003, N. Erickson assumed the responsibilities of preparing the monthly agendas, receiving all correspondence and inquiries relative to the RRWMB, and attending Flood Damage Reduction Work Group meetings as the designated alternate in addition to the regular duties associated with the Associate Director position.

Manager Finney stated that the distribution of the "News & Views" newsletter was discussed. The committee noted the importance of maintaining an updated mailing list and suggested that N. Erickson research the cost associated with adding the clerks of each township for the counties included in the RRWMB. Jon Roeschlein suggested that the RRWMB logo be added to the newsletter in order to better identify the affiliation of the RRWMB. Manager Money added that updates of potential projects within the individual watershed districts should be included in the newsletter.

Manager Finney noted that the committee also discussed the RRWMB's continued financial support of a computer consultant to the individual watershed districts. The RRWMB funded a consultant to assist the member districts with the implementation of the QuickBooks accounting program and also continued technical support for the program. Following discussion, the board agreed that the RRWMB would provide financial support to member districts for the computer consultant until October 1, 2003. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize N. Erickson to distribute a letter to member districts indicating that following October 1, 2003 individual districts would be responsible for their own technical support, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried.**

Manager Finney reported that the Human Resources Committee recommended continuing the current situation with N. Erickson assuming the additional duties associated with Don Ogaard's retirement along with additional responsibilities assumed by the individual board managers. The Committee determined that the board could function adequately in this manner without the need to fill the position of Executive Director. Manager Finney suggested that a title change occur for N. Erickson since it would be inappropriate to continue with a position of

Associate Director when the position of Executive Director is no longer in existence. He suggested that this issue be further addressed at the next monthly meeting.

Motion by Manager Deal to conduct an annual review of N. Erickson's position beginning on July of 2004, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**.

Financial Coordinator Report

D. Nelson distributed a handout regarding the Red River Basin Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The goals of the program will address flood damage reduction, improved water quality and an increase in fish and wildlife habitat. The focus for the application will be the mediation agreement developed by the Minnesota Flood Damage Reduction Work Group. The program will be implemented by local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency offices and staff.

Manager Finney noted that Governor Pawlenty is scheduled to be at the University of Minnesota-Crookston on Thursday, July 17, 2003, at 8:00 a.m. to discuss the Red River Basin CREP. Following discussion, the board agreed that Manager Finney should represent the RRWMB at the meeting at UMC. The board agreed to support the program on the basis that it is a targeted effort between Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Watershed Districts relative to flood damage reduction.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting. He distributed a handout of recommendations from the TAC regarding their review of the Red Lake WD's Flood Storage Easement Sites 1 and 2 and the Two Rivers WD's Ross No. 7 Project.

Thul added that the TAC also met last week to finalize their recommendations to the Governing Documents publication. A draft will be distributed to the Transition Team that was appointed to address the revisions needed to the Governing Documents.

Associate Director Report

A) International Red River Board Questionnaire

A questionnaire was developed to assess the achievements made since 1997. Responses will be provided to the International Red River Board and the International Joint Commission to assist them in evaluating the status and success of the IJC recommendations. N. Erickson is presently developing a draft in conjunction with Dick Nelson as directed by the Board at the previous monthly meeting.

B) Governor Pawlenty Appoints Four To BWSR

Governor Tim Pawlenty announced the appointment of Kevin Anderson, Kay Cook, Quentin Fairbanks, and Randy Kramer to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Governor Pawlenty also designated current board member Jerome Deal as the chairman of the board.

C) Governing Documents Review

A meeting of the *Transition Team* has been scheduled for the afternoon of **July 15, 2003** following the regularly scheduled board meeting to review the comments received from the individual watershed districts and the TAC regarding the revisions needed to the Governing Documents publication.

D) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. Governor Tim Pawlenty, Thursday, July 17, 2003, 8:00 a.m., University of Minnesota – Crookston.
2. The RRBC board will be touring the Roseau River Watershed on August 6 in conjunction with the August 7 Board Meeting.
3. The Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) will be touring the Red River Basin with members of the RRBFDROWG on August 6, 2003 in Crookston, MN.
4. Funding Committee (RRBFDRWG), Tuesday, August 12, 2003, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Airport Terminal Building Conference Room, Alexandria, MN.
5. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, Wednesday, August 20, 2003, Northland Inn, Crookston, MN.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

Wayne Goeken distributed the project monitoring monthly report. Since the last RRWMB meeting in mid-June, portions of the central and southern basin received considerable rainfall amounts, with some of the rains coming in a short period of time resulting in rapid run-off, bank-full conditions, and a very busy month of monitoring. In a continuing effort to ensure data reliability, several measures are being taken including:

- For every 10 samples a duplicate sample is taken to check on consistency of sampling as well as a filed blank to check on possible contaminants from the field.
- A set of split samples were done in late June with samples being sent to both the Minnesota Department of Health Lab in Minneapolis and to RMB Lab near Detroit Lakes. Both are state certified labs and should provide near identical results. MDH Lab was being used through June 30th with MPCA covering lab costs. As of July 1, no additional funds were on account with the MDH Lab thus a switch was made using RMB Lab. The split sample analysis will help discern comparability between lab results for the 2003 sampling season.
- Split samples throughout the sampling season are also being done with the North Dakota Department of Health and the USGS to assess any variations in lab analysis.

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported that the Board of Managers received a petition from the City of Roseau for the West Intercept at the July board meeting. The petition was acknowledged and accepted by the board. Preliminary work continues on the proposed project west of the City of Roseau with JOR Engineering performing the engineering duties. Public meetings are being planned for late August or early September.

The Board of Managers has developed a list of potential projects for the next bonding session and is considering 4 proposed projects totaling 8 – 9 million dollars. The proposed projects are 2 impoundments upstream of the City of Roseau, rehabilitation of a fen and a dam modification and a repair in Beltrami Island State Forest.

- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported on the status of the Public Law 566 (Snake River Watershed) Project. Work on the structure on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 15 is scheduled to begin on August 4, 2003. Bids have been advertised for the next mile of the floodway which has been designated as Phase 3A with the apparent low bidder of Strom Construction. As soon as the pre-award requirements are met, the District anticipates the contract will be awarded. The area has been spared excessive rainfall and work is progressing on the impoundment portion of the project (Phase 2).
- The Red Lake WD reported that in addition to ongoing lake and stream water quality monitoring, the water quality staff has also submitted a Board of Water and Soil Resources Challenge Grant application for a preliminary study for the implementation of stormwater treatment in the City of Clearbrook. Staff has also begun aquatic vegetation mapping on Clearwater Lake along with the Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation District.
- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that appeals have been filed by the North Ottawa Township Board and Davison, Inc. regarding the laterals for Judicial Ditch No. 12 re-alignment. The Board of Managers has attempted to address their concerns by offering the landowners a chance to propose an amendment to the current agreement. A deadline of June 25th was established for the proposed amendment and since no proposal was submitted the Board of Managers is moving forward with the current plan. The final project hearing will be conducted in conjunction with the viewer's report with appeals expected from both hearings.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on August 19, 2003, at 9:30 a.m. at the City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Associate Director