

Red River Watershed Management Board

1298 South Shore Drive Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 Phone: (218)844-6166, Fax: (218)844-6167

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

August 19, 2003

City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, August 19, 2003, at the City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota.

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

Members present were: Dan Money Ron Osowski
Vernon Johnson Daniel Wilkens
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
Danni Halvorson, Water Quality Project Monitoring
Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office

No additional items were added to the agenda.

Motion by Manager Osowski to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the July 15, 2003 meeting, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**. **Motion** by Manager Deal to approve the minutes as written with minor corrections, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**.

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. **Motion** by Manager Johnson 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 Wright, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

Manager Deal distributed an email he received from Don Buckhout, MDNR, regarding funding applications received from the Buffalo-Red River WD (BRRWD) for the Manston Slough and Spring Prairie Township Erosion Control projects. Deal explained that since the BRRWD is no longer a member of the RRWMB, Buckhout questioned whether or not these projects should receive consideration at the Work Group meeting.

D. Nelson stated that the BRRWD may be trying to get legislation passed to obtain taxing authority similar to the RRWMB legislation, however, at the present time they have no taxing ability.

Manager Deal noted that the funding applications submitted by the BRRWD should be considered at the next Work Group meeting. He suggested that the RRWMB support the BRRWD funding applications, however, a clear statement should be made that any additional applications would not receive RRWMB endorsement until the BRRWD rejoins the organization.

Associate Director Position

Manager Deal stated that the Human Resources Committee (Finney, Erickson, & Deal) met prior to the July 15, 2003 board meeting to conduct a performance review of the Associate Director position. The committee determined at that time that the board could function adequately without filling the position of Executive Director.

A title change was discussed for the Associate Director position since it would be inappropriate to continue with a position of Associate Director when the position of Executive Director is no longer in existence. Following discussion, the board agreed to change the title of the Associate Director position to Administrator. **Motion** by Manager Johnson to change the title of the Associate Director position to Administrator, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

Financial Coordinator Report

D. Nelson reported that the Governor was at the University of Minnesota-Crookston on Thursday, July 17, 2003, to obtain support for the new water quality initiative which includes the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Although most participants were supportive of the CREP initiative in the Red River Basin, some concerns expressed at the meeting included permanent easements, tax base, and the responsible parties for the planning and decision-making processes. Currently, it appears that the Red River Basin would receive 40,000 to 45,000 acres of the allotment.

The Legislative Commission on Minnesota's Resources (LCMR) conducted a tour of Northwest Minnesota on August 6-7, 2003. Tour sites included the Red River Recreation Area and Greenway, Crookston Dam Modification and Streambank Stabilization Project, Parnell Project of the Red Lake WD, and Glacial Ridge. Items discussed included the need for state funding for ongoing water quality initiatives, the length of time for project implementation, land ownership/easement/land use issues, tax base issues, and the mediation process.

D. Nelson stated that a meeting has been scheduled by Senator Stumpf, Senator Langseth, and officials from the MDNR for August 25, 2003 to outline proposed floodplain ordinance language for counties. Counties must adopt revised language to issue permits for farmstead ring dikes which fall under an exception approved by FEMA.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) did not meet prior to the board meeting. He noted that Charlie Anderson is finalizing the calculations for the STAR Value update which will be presented to the board at the next monthly meeting.

Associate Director Report

A) International Red River Board Questionnaire

The questionnaire developed by the International Red River Board (IRRB) was completed and forwarded to R. Halliday & Associates Ltd. on behalf of the Red River Watershed Management Board. The objective of the questionnaire was to assist the IRRB in evaluating the status and success of the IJC recommendations.

B) Funding Committee (RRBFDRWG)

The Funding Committee of the Work Group met on Tuesday, August 12, 2003 in Alexandria, MN. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a spending plan for the 2004 Fiscal Year using the \$210,000 available to the Work Group from the DNR Water Resources Fund. The agenda included: 1. Developing FY2004 Spending Recommendations 2. Developing a strategy for FDR projects Capital Bonding request, and 3. Reviewing the status of the FDRWG Account (Grants to RRWMB). The recommendations developed by the Funding Committee will be presented to the Work Group for consideration at the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 20, 2003 in Crookston, MN.

C) Governing Documents Review

The Transition Team met on 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. Another meeting will be scheduled to continue reviewing the revisions needed to the documents.

D) Roseau River International Watershed Tour

A bus tour sponsored by the Red River Basin Commission was conducted on August 6, 2003 in Roseau, MN. A detailed report of the tour will be featured in an upcoming issue of News & Views.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

Danni Halvorson distributed the project monitoring monthly report. Pre-project monitoring is occurring at several flood damage reduction projects and potential project locations across the Red River Basin. Basic water quality variables such as sediment and nutrients are monitored along with stage levels and/or flow quantities. As flows are identified throughout the basin, known sediment and nutrient concentrations will be quantified as total loads of sediment and nutrients contributed by each watershed within the Red River Basin. Monitoring pre and post project conditions allows Project Teams to quantify the effectiveness of projects as they relate to project goals.

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported on the status of the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan update. The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) have finished

reviewing the subwatershed portions and the main sections of the plan. The District plan writer is developing a rough draft of the plan for review.

- The Two Rivers WD reported on the construction of farmstead ring dikes. It appears that the District is nearing completion of the farmstead ring dike program funded in cooperation with the DNR and the RRWMB. After the seeding is completed during the month of August, the District will have constructed three ring dikes during 2003. Since 1997, twenty ring dikes have been constructed through this program.
- 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 nearly completed. The contract for Phase 3A has been awarded to Strom Construction and the start date is scheduled for sometime between August 18, 2003 and September 8, 2003. The construction of Phase 2 is progressing well and should be nearly completed this fall.
- The Red Lake WD reported on the status of the Bagley Urban Runoff Reduction Project. The project is on schedule with a completion date of August 31st. Construction on Parnell Impoundment Sites 1 and 2 have been progressing well with Site 1 nearing completion. Site 2 is expected to be completed by August 31st.
- The Wild Rice WD reported on the Wild Rice River Feasibility Study (WRRFS). The aerial survey work has been completed as part of the first phase of the LIDAR mapping. The District is presently completing ground surveys that will be used to develop the detailed topography mapping of the study area. Information is being gathered for the economic analysis and updating of the Hydraulic and Hydrology models to include the recent flood events. In an effort to gain public input, the District held its first public informational meeting on the WRRFS. The District is planning to provide quarterly updates with the public to provide information on the WRRFS progress.

District's Funding Requests

1. Red Lake WD / Project 60 Area Project / Step I Submittal

A tour of the Project 60 Area Project was conducted following lunch. The information required for a Step I submittal was distributed at the June board meeting. Numerous alternatives were identified by the Project Team that could provide the desired 10-year protection for the project area. A combination of ditch improvements and flood storage impoundments is the preferred alternative. The estimated cost of the proposed improvements is \$2,436,699. The estimated cost of the Brandt storage site and the Euclid East storage site is \$4,615,744. The estimated total project cost is currently \$7,052,443.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to authorize the Step I submittal of the Project 60 Area Project, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

2. **Red Lake WD / Flood Storage Easement Project / Step III Submittal**

The information required for a Step III submittal was distributed. The Flood Storage Easement Site No. 1 Project will provide 247 acre-feet of gated storage. This is a very unique structure in that it is designed to store runoff from a 3.13 square mile runoff area and also function to provide additional storage for the Parnell Impoundment in the rare event that the emergency spillway starts to flow. The estimated total cost of the project is \$369,198 with a RRWMB commitment of \$50,000.

The Flood Storage Easement Site No. 2 Project will provide 343 acre-feet of gated storage for a drainage area of 2.5 square miles. The estimated total cost of the project is \$144,700 with a RRWMB commitment of \$50,000.

Motion by Manager Osowski to authorize the Step III submittal of the Flood Storage Easement Project, Sites 1 and 2, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

3. **Red Lake WD / Parnell Impoundment Operating Plan / Step III Submittal**

The information required for a Step III submittal was distributed. 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 III submittal funding request for a total project cost of \$251,500 of which the RRWMB will fund 85%, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**.

The next meeting will be on September 16, 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 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Associate Director