

# 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, Administrator-Detroit Lakes

## RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

November 18, 2003

Roseau River Watershed District, Roseau, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, November 18, 2003, at the Roseau River Watershed District, Roseau, Minnesota.

Chairman John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were: Farrell Erickson Dan Money  
Ron Osowski Vernon Johnson  
Daniel Wilkens Robert Wright  
Jerome Deal

Others present were: Naomi Erickson, Administrator  
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  
Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office  
Alvin Nybladh, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD

No additional items were added to the agenda.

**Motion** by Manager Deal to approve the minutes as written with minor corrections, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **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 Erickson, **Carried**. A one-page handout of monthly bills to be approved was distributed. Naomi Erickson explained that a voucher for reimbursement regarding the Farmstead Ring Dike Program had been received from the Buffalo-Red River WD for the period of 5/27/03 through 10/14/03. Since the Buffalo-Red River WD is no longer a member watershed district, the board directed Naomi to contact Ed Fick regarding the cost-share requirements under the program. **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.

### **Financial Coordinator Report**

D. Nelson reported that he met with Jerry Bennett, Administrator-Wild Rice WD, regarding the public informational meeting scheduled for November 19, 2003 in Ada, MN.

D. Nelson added that Kevin Scheidecker, Basin Coordinator-RRBC, had requested a letter of support from the RRWMB regarding the Red River Basin Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

N. Erickson distributed a handout regarding the Red River Basin CREP program. The handout outlined strategy meetings that were scheduled throughout the basin to give updates on the status of the CREP application and also an overview of the upcoming challenges.

Manager Finney stated that he had discussed the CREP program with Ron Harnack, Executive Director-BWSR. Harnack explained that the CREP program is intended to focus on projects that evolve from the project teams within each watershed district. Harnack further suggested that the RRWMB may want to consider developing a method for allocating the 42,500 acres available under the program among the watershed districts.

D. Nelson inquired whether water is considered an acceptable cover under the CREP program. He noted that this issue, along with others, should be resolved prior to the RRWMB forwarding a letter of support.

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

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) did not meet prior to the board meeting. He reported on the issue of dike elevations between Minnesota and North Dakota. The State of Minnesota has contacted landowners regarding lowering their dikes and also a survey of North Dakota dikes has been completed, although no information regarding either activity has been received. Thul requested that the survey data be forwarded from the consultants once it is finalized. He added that the State of Minnesota originally negotiated for a certain level of protection and they currently want to maintain that level.

### **Administrator Report**

#### **A) Governing Documents Review**

A summary of the revisions suggested by the Transition Team was distributed at the previous monthly meeting. The Board agreed that any comments on the revisions should be forwarded to N. Erickson prior to the November board meeting. To date, no comments have been received.

#### **B) Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group**

The RRBFDROWG conducted a meeting on October 29, 2003 at the Northland Inn, Crookston, MN. Unexpended funds from FY2002-03 of \$92,500 were approved for reallocation as follows: Proposed Engineering Grants, \$20,000; Project Monitoring, \$32,500; Project Acceleration Grants, \$30,000; and TSAC Coordination, \$10,000. The proposed engineering grants were also approved: Manston Slough, \$10,000, and Moonshine Lakebed, \$10,000. The "March" Conference has been scheduled for February, 5, 2004.

#### **C) Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD)**

The MAWD 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting and Trade Show will be conducted on December 4-6, 2003, Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center, Alexandria, MN. Two special day long sessions will be offered prior to the start of the Annual Meeting on Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. They are Minnesota Drainage and Water

Management and a New Managers Orientation Workshop. All new managers (two years or less experience) are encouraged to attend the new manager workshop. Registrations for the Annual Meeting are due by November 26<sup>th</sup>.

**D) Buffalo-Red River Watershed District**

N. Erickson distributed the response letter that was forwarded to the Buffalo-Red River WD on November 14, 2003. The letter was developed in response to the correspondence received from the District dated July 10<sup>th</sup>. A copy of the letter is attached.

**Water Quality Project Monitoring Report**

The project monitoring monthly report prepared by Wayne Goeken was distributed. The regular 2003 sampling season has come to a close as sites have begun to freeze over. The normal sampling season for schools participating in the River Watch program is during ice off periods – generally from April through October depending on location in the basin and weather conditions. The monitoring staff are currently entering and reviewing the data for errors and any inconsistencies before proceeding with analysis. Data review sessions will be held with each of the 27 schools currently participating in the River Watch portion of the RRWMB monitoring program. During the review sessions, assistance is also provided to the school River Watch teams in preparing the presentations that each school delivers at the River Watch Forums. These review sessions will occur in November and December with the Forums to occur in January and February.

The monitoring staff is also reviewing water quality and flow data collected for the 23 conditions monitoring sites and flood damage reduction project sites during the 2003 sampling season in preparation for analysis and reporting. The staff will work with USGS to obtain verified flow data where possible to correspond with the sampling locations and dates. Reports will be developed and provided for each watershed, which will incorporate all monitoring conducted in each respective watershed.

**District Reports**

- The Two Rivers WD reported that installation of the wildlife weir, emergency spillway, draw-down structure, Texas crossing, and other structures has been completed by the Spruce Valley Corporation on the Nereson Project. This concludes construction of the sub-impoundment which began in 1992. The impoundment will be fully operational for spring runoff in 2004.

Two new members have been added to the Board of Managers, both from Roseau County. Dick Novacek of rural Greenbush was appointed by the Roseau County Commission to replace Ron Jacobson, who did not apply for re-appointment. Jim Kukowski of rural Strathcona was appointed to replace Steve Harder, who resigned from the Board. The District welcomes both and looks forward to working with them.

- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported that the appeals filed concerning the establishment of the Agassiz Valley Water Management Project are starting to be heard. The District will continue to try to resolve the appeals.

The Marshall County Board of Commissioners appointed David Bakke of Newfolden and Tracy Anderson of Warren to 3-year terms. They replace Ron Osowski of Oslo and Jerome Potucek of Warren who had both served as Managers since 1988. In November the Board re-organized. The officers for the District are: President – Doug Sorenson, Vice-President – Jim Johnson, Secretary – Carl Green, Treasurer – Alvin

Nybladh, and Assistant-Secretary/Treasurer – Arlyn Stroble. The District’s representative on the RRWMB is Ron Osowski and the alternate is Alvin Nybladh.

- The Red Lake WD reported that a set of standard Operating Procedures for Water Quality monitoring in the Red River Basin has been completed as part of the Red River Watershed Management Board Protocol Project. The procedures may be downloaded at [www.redlakewatershed.org](http://www.redlakewatershed.org). Hard copies are available upon request.
- The Wild Rice WD on the Heiberg Dam. About 45 people attended an informational meeting sponsored by the District at the Twin Valley Community Center on October 29<sup>th</sup> to learn more about the progress of repairs to the Heiberg Dam. The dam has not had water flowing over it for about 16 months after the dike broke during heavy rains in June of 2002. The DNR presented some conceptual information for modification to the structure to provide fish passage, ice breaking capability, improved habitat and public fishing areas. Bill Hirte with the Minnesota Department of Emergency Management addressed FEMA’s role in how the project is progressing under their criteria for disaster assistance.

The District will proceed under Minn. Stat. 103D.635 for repairs and improvements that exceed normal maintenance and has authorized Houston Engineering to develop preliminary plans to incorporate necessary alterations or improvements to attain the level of operating efficiency contemplated at the time the project was constructed. The DNR has agreed to provide financial assistance (\$20,000 50/50 cost share) for development of the restoration plan.

- The Bois de Sioux WD reported the District is preparing for the final hearing on the North Ottawa Project. The final engineer’s report has been distributed and the viewer’s report will be presented to the Board at their November meeting. A public hearing will be scheduled for both reports shortly after the holiday season in early January.

#### **District’s Funding Requests**

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on December 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 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert Wright  
Secretary

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Naomi L. Erickson  
Administrator