

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, Administrator-Detroit Lakes

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

January 14, 2004

Moorhead Area Conference Center, Moorhead, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Wednesday, January 14, 2004, at the Moorhead Area Conference Center, Moorhead, Minnesota.

Chairman John Finney called the meeting to order.

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

Others present were: Naomi Erickson, Administrator
Dick Nelson, Financial Coordinator
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office
Don Buckhout, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Kevin Scheidecker, Basin Coordinator, RRBC
Alvin Nybladh, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD
Curt Nelson, Buffalo-Red River WD

No additional items were added to the agenda.

Motion by Manager Johnson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the December 16, 2003 meeting, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **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 Erickson 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 Wright, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Annual Board Organization

The Annual Board Organization was conducted. President Finney turned the meeting over to Vice President Erickson who asked for nominations for President of the Board. Manager Deal nominated Manager Finney for President. Nominations were called for three times by Manager Erickson. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for John Finney for President by Manager Money, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

President Finney asked for nominations for Vice President of the Board. Manager Money nominated Manager Erickson for Vice President. Nominations were called for three times by President Finney. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Farrell Erickson for Vice President by Manager Deal, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, **Carried**.

President Finney asked for nominations for Secretary of the Board. Manager Erickson nominated Manager Wright for Secretary. Nominations were called for three times by President Finney. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Robert Wright for Secretary by Manager Johnson, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

President Finney asked for nominations for Treasurer of the Board. Manager Deal nominated Manager Wilkens for Treasurer. Nominations were called for three times by President Finney. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Daniel Wilkens for Treasurer by Manager Money, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

Resolution Authorizing the Regular Monthly Meeting Date and Time

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the designation of the regular monthly meeting date and time at the regular board meeting held in Moorhead, MN, on Wednesday, January 14, 2004.

On a **motion** by Manager Osowski, **seconded** by Manager Johnson, and on a vote of 7 for and 0 against, the motion passed to designate the third Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. as the regular monthly meeting date and time for the Red River Watershed Management Board.

Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Per Diem/Mileage to Managers

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the authorization of payment of per diem/mileage to Managers at the regular board meeting held in Moorhead, MN, on Wednesday, January 14, 2004.

On a **motion** by Manager Wilkens, **seconded** by Manager Erickson, and on a vote of 7 for and 0 against, the motion passed to allow the maximum per diem by state law which is currently \$55.00 per day and the maximum IRS limit for mileage which is currently .375 per mile unless a change occurs.

Resolution Authorizing Deposit/Investment of Funds

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the authorization of deposit/investment of funds at the regular board meeting held in Moorhead, MN, on Wednesday, January 14, 2004.

On a **motion** by Manager Money, **seconded** by Manager Wright, and on a vote of 7 for and 0 against, the motion passed to authorize the Red River Watershed Management Board to reaffirm the adoption of the Treasurer's Manual originally adopted on 4/19/91 and amended on 8/08/95 and 1/18/00.

Resolution Authorizing Legal Counsel

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the authorization of legal counsel at the regular board meeting held in Moorhead, MN, on Wednesday, January 14, 2004.

On a **motion** by Manager Deal, **seconded** by Manager Erickson, and on a vote of 7 for and 0 against, the motion passed to obtain legal counsel on a case-by-case basis for the Red River Watershed Management Board.

Financial Coordinator Report

D. Nelson reported on the bonding bill. Funding requests for the Roseau River WD (Palmville and Malung) and the Red Lake WD (Project No. 60) have been submitted.

D. Nelson stated that subgroups have been meeting regarding whether changes are needed in Minnesota's Drainage Law.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) did not meet prior to the board meeting. He noted that he has begun preparing the information for the 2003 Annual Report. He added that he would be including more detailed information in the next annual report regarding the Water Quality Project Monitoring initiative.

A funding request submitted by the U.S. Geological Survey regarding the Red River wetland monitoring and modeling project was distributed. The Board of Managers requested that the TAC review the information received from USGS and develop a recommendation for the next monthly meeting.

Red River Basin Commission

Kevin Scheidecker, Basin Coordinator-RRBC, reported that CREP negotiations with the agriculture groups are at a stand still. The big sticking point in the negotiation has been the issue of permanent easements. The agriculture groups have been in opposition to any permanent easements in this CREP. As a compromise, Governor Pawlenty has been willing to look at a cap on perpetual easements of 50% with the other half being limited duration easements.

The agriculture groups have made a counter proposal for a cap of 20% perpetual easements. This means that since wetland restorations must be perpetual by state statute, the wetland restoration need of 30,000 acres in the statewide application would not be met.

The three basins proposed that 36,500 acres (36.5%) be targeted for perpetual easements (this would include the wetland restorations and the groundwater/drinking water supply that is currently in the Governor's application).

The bottom line is that Congressman Peterson must be convinced to help get this compromise approved by the agriculture groups. Scheidecker encouraged board members, local groups, and landowners to make phone calls to Congressman Peterson's office to support the CREP initiative.

Administrator Report

A) Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

At the December board meeting, the board authorized drafting a letter of support from the RRWMB for CREP. The draft letter developed by John Finney, Dick Nelson and Naomi Erickson was distributed for review. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize forwarding the letter of support for CREP, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

B) Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

The RRBFDROWG conducted a meeting on January 7, 2004 at the Holiday Inn-Lakeside, Detroit Lakes, MN. Status reports on the various flood damage reduction activities were discussed. A proposal from the Red River Basin Institute (RRBI) was also discussed which included developing a prioritized research agenda with the assistance of the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC). A presentation on the Two Rivers WD comprehensive water management plan was conducted by Dan Money.

C) Webpage Update

Erickson reported that Mike Love, an independent contractor from Fargo, ND, has begun updating the RRWMB website. She requested that any photos and/or logos from member watershed districts that could be included on the website be forwarded to the RRWMB office.

D) Red River Wetland Monitoring and Modeling Project

A letter was distributed that was received from USGS regarding the potential for funding for fiscal year 2004 for the Red River Wetland Monitoring and Modeling Project. The two watershed sites maintained during 2003 for the study included the Hamden site and Lonetree site. Results from model simulations indicated that 1) wetland water storage will likely reduce total discharge and many of the high flows during non-flooding conditions, 2) wetland water storage may reduce total discharge during flooding events, 3) wetland water storage may not affect high flows during flooding events, and 4) soils tended to retain more water than wetlands at the two watershed sites. The estimated cost for a scaled-down version of the project for fiscal year 2004 is \$66,500, with all current cooperating agencies contributing \$7,000.00. The current non-federal cooperators include: North Dakota State Water Commission, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Red River Joint Water Resource Board, and the RRWMB.

E) Computer Purchase

In response to the discussion that occurred at the previous monthly meeting regarding Internet access by board members, Manager Finney requested that cost estimates be obtained for purchasing a new desktop computer for the RRWMB office. All board members, with the exception of Vernon Johnson, currently have Internet access. An estimate was obtained for a new desktop computer at ~ \$1,393.52. (Dell Dimension 4600 Series, Pentium 4 Processor at 2.66GHz.) Following discussion, the board agreed to table discussion on this issue until the next monthly meeting.

F) Water Quality Project Monitoring

At the December 16th board meeting in Thief River Falls, the board authorized funding the Water Quality Project Monitoring Program in the interim from October through December 2003. As the account was in a deficit status prior to the beginning of FY04 (July 1st), the time period for calculating the adjusting entry included the \$11,295.15 deficit, in addition to the costs associated with the project from July 1st through December 31st. The amount of the adjusting entry was \$68,490.94 (\$57,195.79 + \$11,295.15).

G) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

Sixth Annual Joint Conference of the Red River Watershed Management Board and the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, February 5, 2004, Northland Inn, Crookston, MN.

District Reports

- The Two Rivers WD reported on the Nereson Project. The District is in the process of obtaining cost estimates for the installation of a gate on the bypass culvert. The bypass structure currently has a weir which allows some flows to go west during low flow situations.
- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported on the Farmstead Ring Dike Program. The District received an additional cost share agreement for the construction of farmstead ring dikes. The agreement is for additional ring dikes of ~ \$57,000. Work on the planning and design of 3 to 5 additional ring dikes will begin this year.
- The Red Lake WD reported on the Bagley Urban Runoff Project. The project consists of three separate urban runoff projects located within the city of Bagley. These sites will retain the runoff water and filter out sediments prior to entering the Clearwater River. The project consists of pond excavation, embankment construction, channel work and installation of outlet structures. This project is a joint project in cooperation with the RLWD, City of Bagley, Clearwater SWCD, the Minnesota Department of Transportation as well as other local and non-profit agencies. Construction occurred during the summer and fall of 2003, with final hearings and payment occurring in December.
- The Wild Rice WD reported on the Marsh Creek Site No. 6 Project. The Board of Managers has authorized updating the original engineer's report on the project. The updated engineer's report will include revised hydraulic/hydrology information, updated project costs and funding methodologies. The District has also been working with the DNR in efforts to obtain a favorable permit decision for the project. Action on the permit has yet to be finalized.
- The Bois de Sioux WD reported on the North Ottawa Project. The final hearing has been scheduled for January 22, 2004 in Wendell, MN. The hearing on the viewer's report will be conducted as well.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on February 17, 2004, 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 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator