

Red River Watershed Management Board

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Board of Managers

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RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

March 15, 2005

Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, March 15, 2005, at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

Chairman John Finney called the meeting to order.

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

Others present were: Naomi Erickson, Administrator
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD
Jerry Bennett, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering
Lance Yohe, Executive Director, RRBC
Rachel Asleson, Administrative Asst./Conf. Coordinator, RRBC
Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office
Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering
Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
Don Buckhout, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Brian Dwight, Watershed Specialist, BWSR
Pete Waller, Board Conservationist, BWSR
Jason Lambrecht, Supervisory Hydrologist, USGS
Alvin Nybladh, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD
Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator
Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD

No additional items were added to the agenda.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to approve the minutes as written with minor corrections, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **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 Osowski, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Financial Coordinator Report

In the absence of D. Nelson, Manager Finney reported on his behalf. Manager Finney stated that funds remain secure in the bonding bill, with negotiations nearing completion.

Manager Finney noted that the MAWD Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, March 22-23, 2005 and encouraged board member attendance.

Leadership Program for Local Water Management Partners

Brian Dwight, BWSR, referred to the above-mentioned program that was developed for local water management partners to strengthen the coordination efforts needed to deliver watershed-based water management programs in the Red River Basin. At the August 2004 board meeting, the RRWMB agreed to a financial contribution to the program, however, due to lack of registration confirmations the program was cancelled.

Following discussion, the board agreed on two possible options for pursuing the program. Two one-day regional work shops, or two site-specific watershed districts could be targeted for the program. Dwight indicated that he would inquire about the potential interest for the proposed options and report to the board at the May board meeting.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Pete Waller, BWSR, updated the board on the Red River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) allocation proposal. Targeted acres for the Red River Basin include 51,000 acres allocated as follows: 35,435 acres of riparian, 13,440 acres of wetland restoration, and 2,125 acres of flood damage reduction.

CREP helps farmers by providing an economically competitive option for removing the land from production and voluntarily enrolling land into a conservation easement. Farmers receive an up-front "bonus" payment from RIM, plus 15 years of guaranteed annual payments from the federal CRP program. Actual payment rates are based on the USDA soil rental rate for the land.

The program is administered at the state level by BWSR. Soil and Water Conservation Districts implement the program locally. Federal partners are the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Other state agencies and water management organizations also participate in the program.

Red River Basin Commission

Lance Yohe, RRBC, distributed the *Around the Basin* newsletter. He noted that the Natural Resources Framework Plan (NRFP) has gone through many modifications since the January 2004 conference in Moorhead, MN. The plan is not simply for the Red River Basin Commission to enact or enforce, but rather a

guide to be used by all entities in their decision-making processes. The NRFP will define: thirteen comprehensive goals for the basin relating to management of land and water resources; objectives for each of the 13 goals that define the RRBC's role in achieving the goals; activities the Commission can undertake to help achieve the objectives; and the process by which other entities in the basin can help achieve the 13 goals for the basin.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting and discussed the STAR value method. He noted that the TAC is refining the method by reviewing a table in the procedure that defines how a tributary gage relates to the peak on the Red River. The TAC is also trying to incorporate a travel time map to ensure that the method is accurate and usable.

Thul added that Blake Carlson, JOR Engineering, attended a seminar at UMC on tile drainage. He stated that Carlson discussed the possibility of the RRWMB utilizing a model for developing tile drainage systems with Dr. Gary Sands of the University of Minnesota. Thul noted that Charlie Anderson and Al Kean have also discussed with Dr. Sands the possibility of retaining the services of a graduate student to develop various design criteria for tile drainage systems for the Red River Basin. Thul inquired about the possibility of the RRWMB contributing \$15,000 to \$20,000 to hire a graduate student to participate with the TAC to develop a model for tile drainage. **Motion** by Manager Deal to hire a graduate student of the University of Minnesota to participate with the TAC in developing a model for tile drainage, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**.

Thul stated that in discussions with member watershed districts, the individual boards would like to see the RRWMB identify flood damage reduction goals for individual watershed districts. The TAC concurred that with the RRBC developing a MIKE 11 model, the model could be used to develop various scenarios relative to flood damage reduction measures on the Red River. Manager Deal added that it would be useful to identify flood damage reduction measures on the smaller tributaries as well.

Charlie Anderson conducted a presentation on the *Definition of the Red River Hydrograph without Existing Storage Effects*. Using the travel time model in the Red River Basin in Minnesota upstream from Emerson, hypothetical hydrographs were developed. The model used Minnesota DNR developed software to determine travel time by estimating flow velocities considering the following parameters: slope, land cover, drainage area, and stream type. A hypothetical unit hydrograph of the Minnesota flow contribution to the Red River at Emerson was presented. The hydrograph had three peaks which corresponded to travel time, with no storage effects. The first peak occurred where there isn't much storage along the river, the second peak was where most of the projects built by the RRWMB are located, and the third peak was where a significant amount of natural storage is available. Anderson stated that he would like to include the North Dakota portion of the Red River Basin in the model.

Administrator Report

A) Member District Meetings

N. Erickson reported that meetings were conducted with member districts on the following dates: Bois de Sioux WD, 02/17/05; Wild Rice WD, 03/09/05; and Red Lake WD, 03/10/05. She and Dan Thul discussed various aspects of the board and answered questions from board managers. Issues discussed included the length of time to build a project, project prioritization, and how the board determines the effectiveness of a project.

B) 2002 Clay County Aerial Mapping Project

N. Erickson explained that at the February 19, 2002 board meeting, a funding request was submitted for 50% funding for the Buffalo-Red River WD's (BRRWD) portion of the Clay County study. The estimated total study costs were \$149,323. The BRRWD's portion was \$134,397.70. A 50% RRWMB share was \$67,195.35. The following motion was passed: **Motion** by Manager Nelson for the RRWMB to fund the study in the amount of \$67,195.35, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, **Carried**.

N. Erickson stated that a funding request was submitted from the BRRWD for the aforementioned project and that according to the records of the board, payments to the District for this project to date totaled \$65,339.25. A balance of \$1,856.10 remains for this account. Following discussion, the board approved payment of \$1,856.10 representing the remaining balance as final payment for this project.

C) Wire Transfer Agreement

N. Erickson reviewed an agreement from Bremer Bank which allows a designation of authorized individuals to complete wire transfers through the bank's electronic services wire department on behalf of the board. Each user is sent their own security code which is needed at the time the wire is requested.

Motion by Manager Johnson to authorize the wire transfer agreement with Bremer Bank with a limit of \$1,000,000, designating Daniel Wilkens and Naomi Erickson as the Authorized Users of the agreement, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

D) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. MAWD Legislative Breakfast, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 22-23, 2005.
2. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, March 30, 2005, Northland Inn, Crookston, MN.
3. 7th Annual Joint Conference, Thursday, March 31, 2005, Northland Inn, Crookston, MN.
4. Red River Basin Institute, Second International Water Conference "Research and Education in an International Watershed: Implications for Decision-Making" at the Ft. Garry Hotel in Winnipeg, Manitoba, April 6 -7, 2005.
5. Northwest Minnesota Viewers' Association, Tuesday, April 12, 2005, at 1:30 p.m. in the Agricultural Research Center Building, Youngquist Auditorium, UMC, Crookston, MN.

Water Quality Project Monitoring

Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator, distributed a handout regarding Flood Damage Reduction and Condition Monitoring, River Watch, and Coordination activities.

Analysis of the combined data from the 2003-2004 sampling season continues. Flow data is not available yet for several watersheds in the northern basin where DNR is working on establishing rating curves. FLUX modeling of loads will be done as soon as this flow information is available.

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported that the Board of Managers have been working with JOR Engineering on the revised plan for the West Intercept project. The District is in the process of purchasing necessary fee title acres for the construction of the project as well as temporary construction easements. Three appeals have been received on the purchase price of the land that is being purchased from private landowners.

The project should be ready to bid within the next 10-14 days. The plan is to begin construction at the outlet this summer and continue working upstream in different phases.

- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported that work continues with JOR Engineering to finalize the construction and mitigation features for the Angus Oslo Site No. 4 project. A final submittal will be presented to the RRWMB at the April board meeting.
- The Red Lake WD reported that a draft report for the “Red Lake Watershed District Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan” should be ready for review by the Board of Managers, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) by the end of March. The District plans to have the update completed by late summer.
- The Wild Rice WD reported that the board accepted the viewer’s report on the South Branch repairs planned in Winchester and Hagen Townships and approved scheduling a final hearing on the repairs in April. The work proposed includes channel repairs and bank stabilization work totaling \$800,000. A portion of the repairs in Hagen Township will be covered by FEMA.
- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that the fourth control structure is in place on the North Ottawa project. The contractor has stopped work until the weather conditions, namely runoff, are more favorable. Water is starting to pool in the area and becoming difficult to manage. The primary outlet structure in JCD No. 2 is one of the last two structures that are left.

District’s Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

Wetland Banking Credits

Manager Finney requested Manager Deal to discuss the wetland banking credits program as administered through BWSR. Manager Deal, as chairman of the Board of Water & Soil Resources, explained that wetland banking is a convenient way to replace wetlands that are drained or filled for agriculture or development. Wetland banking allows a person wishing to drain or fill a wetland to purchase wetland credits from someone who has already restored or created a wetland and "deposited" those wetland credits in the Minnesota Wetland Bank.

Manager Finney stated that discussion had occurred relative to the RRWMB administering wetland banking credits for individual member watershed districts. Manager Deal explained that in order to administer the program, additional staff would be needed by the RRWMB that specialize in wetland soils. Deal further stated that it could be possible for member districts to exchange credits within the Minnesota Wetland Bank and that he would inquire about that possibility with BWSR.

Mediated Negotiations

Don Buckhout, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, stated that potential meeting dates for the mediated negotiations between the RRWMB and the Buffalo-Red River WD were discussed with both parties. Following discussion, the board agreed to meet on Wednesday, April 6, 2005 at the Northland Inn, Crookston, MN.

Dan Thul added that Don Buckhout requested that he conduct a presentation at the negotiations regarding the hydrology in the Red River Basin. He added that he would address the concepts of early, middle, and late flood water and how this relates to the RRWMB's prioritization process. Other topics presented would include the McCombs-Knutson Study, the STAR value method, and TSAC Paper No. 11.

7th Annual Joint Conference

Don Buckhout-MDNR stated that Bobby Whitefeather, former chairman of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, has agreed to be the keynote speaker during lunch at the 7th Annual Joint Conference scheduled for March 31, 2005. Mr. Buckhout inquired about the possibility of the RRWMB reimbursing Mr. Whitefeather for his attendance. **Motion** by Manager Osowski to reimburse Bobby Whitefeather a per diem of \$100.00 plus mileage, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

Don Buckhout-MDNR stated that the next Work Group meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2005, the evening prior to the 7th Annual Joint Conference, at the Northland Inn, Crookston, MN. He added that a citizen has requested to be on the agenda to discuss the Agassiz Valley Water Management Project located in the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD.

The next meeting will be on April 19, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. at the City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator