

Red River Watershed Management Board

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Board of Managers

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Naomi Erickson, Administrator-Detroit Lakes

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

April 19, 2005

City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, April 19, 2005, 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: Ron Osowski 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
Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC
Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office
Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator
Danni Halvorson, Monitoring Specialist
Bruce Paakh, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD

An additional item was added to the agenda. Discussion regarding the Red River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) was added to the agenda under *Other Issues*.

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 Deal 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 Johnson, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **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, a handout was distributed on his behalf. The bonding bill has been completed which includes funding for the Grand Marais, Palmville, and Roseau River WMA projects. Additional funds needed for the Ross No. 7, Warren PL 566, and Malung projects were also included in the bill. Planning for next year's bonding bill has already begun with agencies preparing preliminary estimates.

Red River Basin Commission

Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC stated that the next board meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2005 at the Dakota Magic Casino, Hankinson, ND. A South Valley Initiative Tour is planned in conjunction with the board meeting. Tentative sites include: North Ottawa Impoundment project, White Rock Dam at Mud Lake, ongoing 319 projects in North Dakota including a buffer strip and demonstration farm, and the Tewaukon National Wildlife Refuge.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting and discussed a meeting conducted with Dr. Gary Sands of the University of Minnesota. The meeting with Dr. Sands included discussion regarding the RRWMB utilizing a model for developing tile drainage systems and also retaining the services of a graduate student from the university to develop various design criteria for tile drainage systems for the Red River Basin. Thul added that the proposal agreed upon by the board at their previous monthly meeting to retain the services of a graduate student, not to exceed \$20,000, seemed favorable to Dr. Sands.

Thul reported that committee member Nate Dalager has been working with Corey Hanson, Water Quality Coordinator-RLWD, regarding the Farm to Stream Project. The two-year study will investigate how water quality affected by agricultural drainage and best management practices relates to drainage in several different locations in the Red Lake WD. The TAC is interested in the study in order to gain additional information regarding the impact on downstream flows. A handout was distributed regarding the tile flow monitoring.

Thul added that previous discussions have occurred in the Red River Basin regarding a Digital Elevation Modeling proposal. The original scope of the project included the 13 counties along the Red River on the U.S. side of the basin with an estimated project cost of ~ \$3 million dollars, increasing to over \$7 million dollars should it be conducted on a watershed basis. Chuck Fritz, International Water Institute (IWI), has requested to meet with the TAC at their next monthly meeting to further discuss the proposal.

Administrator Report

A) Seventh Annual Joint Conference

N. Erickson reported that the Seventh Annual Joint Conference of the Red River Watershed Management Board and the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group was conducted on March 31, 2005, at the Northland Inn, Crookston, MN. Many favorable comments were received regarding the content of the conference. The conference will be featured in an upcoming *Focus* newsletter.

B) Deferred Compensation

N. Erickson stated that she was contacted by a financial advisor with Lauritsen & Associates of Fargo, ND with regard to their firm representing FTJ FundChoice for the deferred compensation services offered to the employees of the RRWMB. The board's employees currently invest with FTJ FundChoice, however, previously the firm was represented by another financial advisor. On April 15, 2005, N. Erickson met with Mr. Lauritsen and discussed the potential for his firm to offer financial advice to the employees of the board that participate in deferred compensation accounts. Mr. Lauritsen agreed to meet with the board at their May board meeting in order to further discuss the opportunities available to the board. **Motion** by Manager Osowski to forward a letter to FTJ FundChoice authorizing Lauritsen & Associates of Fargo, ND as the agent of record for the board, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

C) Red River Coordinator Contract

N. Erickson reported that she received the contract with the State of Minnesota for a cost share with the board relative to the renewal of the Red River Coordinator position. The coordinator position is funded by the two agencies as follows: 70% DNR and 30% RRWMB. The RRWMB's 30% cost share is \$24,000 per year. **Motion** by Manager Osowski to authorize N. Erickson to sign the Red River Coordinator contract, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

D) Mediated Negotiations

N. Erickson noted that representatives from the RRWMB and the Buffalo-Red River WD met on Friday, April 8, 2005 at the Northland Inn, Crookston, MN. Dan Thul conducted a presentation regarding the hydrology in the Red River Basin. He also addressed the concepts of early, middle, and late flood water and how this relates to the RRWMB's prioritization process. Other topics presented by Thul included the McCombs-Knutson Study, the STAR value method, and TSAC Paper No. 11.

Other issues discussed included the need for mainstem flood control, and the levy contribution of watershed districts to projects. No substantive agreements were reached regarding the issues discussed.

E) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, May 11, 2005, Holiday Inn-Lakeside, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Water Quality Project Monitoring

Danni Halvorson, Monitoring Specialist, conducted a presentation regarding the 2003 & 2004 Summary of Findings relative to the Water Quality project monitoring effort. The monitoring efforts focused on Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Total Phosphorus (TP). The monitoring loads were estimated using the FLUX model.

The water years monitored included 2003 with a percent of normal precipitation at 90 – 100, and 2004 with a percent of normal precipitation at 125 – 175. With the extreme differences in precipitation between the two years, it was difficult to draw summary conclusions.

Bruce Paakh, MPCA, added that during a typical spring melt with higher flow periods, the concentrations rise in a hydrograph with regard to sedimentation. When the peaks reach the top in a hydrograph and a significant drop off occurs, the decrease in velocity no longer moves the sediment. The volume of water has a great deal to do with how much soil it carries.

Halvorson concluded that should the goal be to reduce sedimentation, peak flows should be reduced by reducing runoff. The reduction of a given water quality variable is best addressed with flow control.

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.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Resolution

Manager Osowski distributed a resolution in support and increase in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) allotment for purposes of establishing riparian buffer strips that was passed by the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD at their April 18, 2005 board meeting.

Motion by Manager Osowski, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, that the following resolution be adopted: *That the Red River Watershed Management Board of Managers support an increase in the CRP allotment in all counties in the Red River Basin, including those counties without a crop history, where the limit for CRP has*

*been reached for purposes of establishing riparian buffer strips under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. **Motion carried.***

The next meeting will be on May 17, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator