

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

June 21, 2005

Minnesota Department of Transportation, Bemidji, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, June 21, 2005, at the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Bemidji, Minnesota.

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

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

Others present were: Naomi Erickson, Administrator
Dick Nelson, Financial Coordinator
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD
Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
Lance Yohe, Executive Director, RRBC
Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
Jim Skaurud, Wild Rice WD
Don Buckhout, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Nick Drees, Acting Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD
Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering
Pete Waller, Board Conservationist, BWSR
Al Kean, Chief Engineer, BWSR
Tom Wenzel, Design Engineer, BWSR
Tom Groshens, DNR
Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator
John Hoffman, ICS Agency, Inc.

No additional items were added to the agenda.

Motion by Manager Money to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as written, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **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 Johnson, **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

D. Nelson reported that the bonding bill has been completed, however, the reform of the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) is delaying finalizing the Environment Bill.

The resolution of the board adopted on August 17, 1999, regarding their position on the Devils Lake outlet was distributed. D. Nelson reported that some organizations have taken statements out of context and stated that the board supports the outlet. The parameters in the resolution passed by the board involve gated controls not flow of the outlet.

Following discussion, the board agreed that a letter of clarification would be in order regarding the board's position on the outlet as a whole. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize the board to draft a letter of clarification regarding the Devils Lake outlet to be forwarded to the Governor's office of North Dakota, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, **Carried**.

Red River Basin Commission

Lance Yohe, Executive Director, RRBC reported that the Natural Resources Framework Plan (NRFP) has been developed extensively over the past several months under the guidance of the RRBC Plan Management Committee. He encouraged comments on the plan to be forwarded to the RRBC office.

A handout was distributed regarding potential scenarios for mainstem flood reduction using the MIKE 11 Hydrologic Model. A presentation on the model will be conducted at the July board meeting.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

In the absence of Dan Thul, there was no TAC meeting this month.

Administrator Report

A) Insurance Quotes

N. Erickson reported that John Hoffman with ICS Agency, Inc. will compare the current insurance coverage of the board with the proposed coverage from Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT) at the board meeting today.

B) Leadership Program for Local Water Management Partners

N. Erickson stated that Brian Dwight forwarded a proposal for a watershed program to be conducted in the Red Lake WD. The program will focus on understanding roles, identifying and dealing with conflict, and strengthening partnerships when delivering watershed-based water management programs. A committee has been designated in the Red Lake WD to further discuss this proposal.

C) Special Meeting

N. Erickson stated that a special board meeting was conducted on Thursday, May 26, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. at the Sand Hill River Watershed District office in Fertile, MN. Board intervention with regard to the petition filed with the Marshall County Attorney by Mr. Eric Bartsch to remove managers of the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District was discussed.

The board authorized Louis Smith of Smith Parker to: a) file a response to the Marshall and Polk County Boards concerning the request to remove the managers of the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District; and b) intervene as appropriate in the Agassiz Valley project litigation. A response was filed to the county boards, and the request to remove the managers was dismissed.

D) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD), Summer Tour, June 23-25, 2005, (Hosted by Thirty Lakes Watershed District) Ramada Inn, Brainerd, MN.
2. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, Funding Committee, August 19, 2005, at the Alexandria Airport Terminal, Alexandria, MN.
3. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, September 7, 2005, Northland Inn, Crookston; and October 19, 2005, Holiday Inn-Lakeside, Detroit Lakes, MN.

ICS Insurance

John Hoffman, ICS Agency, Inc. discussed the current coverage obtained by the board regarding the various classifications of insurance. The board currently has a general liability policy, as well as an automobile liability, property and marine, workers compensation, a public employee fidelity bond, manager's liability, and professional liability.

Mr. Hoffman reviewed a proposal obtained from Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust regarding insurance for the board. He explained that a trust is different from an insurance company in that rates for insurance companies are set in advance with no chance for the company to request additional premiums based on claims. Coverage obtained from MCIT states that the board may be responsible for assessments or other deficits at a later date.

Mr. Hoffman also discussed another significant difference between the current coverage with ICS and the proposal from MCIT. The Manager's Liability Coverage for MCIT indicates that the "Retroactive Date is the effective date of coverage." Mr. Hoffman explained that claims made prior to the effective date of coverage would not be covered under MCIT. The current insurance of the board includes full prior acts coverage.

Following discussion, Manager Money stated that he would like to request a representative from MCIT to attend the next board meeting to answer questions the board may have with regard to their proposal. **Motion** by Manager Deal for the board to stay with the current insurance company of ICS Agency, Inc., **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, discussion followed. As there was no further discussion a vote was taken. Those voting in favor of the motion included: Osowski, Johnson, Wilkens, Wright, and Deal. Those opposing the motion included: Money. **Motion carried.**

Water Quality Project Monitoring

Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator, distributed a handout regarding Flood Damage Reduction and Condition Monitoring, River Watch, and Coordination activities. With heavy rains over the past month,

monitoring staff have been busy carrying out project monitoring throughout the basin. TMDL monitoring of impaired river reaches have also begun for the 2005 monitoring season.

District Reports

- The Two Rivers WD reported that construction on the Springbrook – County Road 61 project has been hampered by the extensive rainfall received in May and June. This project will install a meandering channel and set back levee along a 5-mile stretch to provide both flood and erosion control. Partners include FEMA, Townships, Kittson County, local landowners, and the CRP program. The construction is scheduled to be concluded in late June or early July.
- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported that bids were received for the construction of the crossing on the Trunk Highway No. 1 / Canadian Pacific Railway for the Public Law 566 project. The low bidder was Gladen Construction. The contract has been awarded and the district is in the process of finalizing the contract documents. The installation of the crossing is expected to be completed in mid-summer.

Construction on Phase 3b which is the diversion structure and the upper part of the floodway has resumed. In addition, work to develop the mitigation features (Phase 4) is underway.

- The Red Lake WD reported on the construction of ring dikes within the district. Construction has started on one dike, a second dike is awaiting a permit for wetland mitigation, and construction on a third ring dike will begin in late July. With the completion of these three ring dikes, all funding appropriated from the state which will expire on June 30, 2006 will be exhausted.

District's Funding Requests

1. Red Lake WD / Project No. 60 – Grand Marais Project / Step II Submittal

The information required for a Step II submittal was distributed at the previous monthly meeting. The estimated total project cost is currently \$5,145,850. Approximately \$2.6 million (50%) will be sought through state bonding. The proposed cost share for funding is 50% State, 50% Local. The proposed local portion of funding is as follows: RRWMB 75%, and RLWD 25%.

Myron Jesme stated that he had contacted Dan Thul, Chair of the TAC, who indicated that the committee had not reviewed the project as of yet. **Motion** by Manager Money to authorize the Step II submittal of Project No. 60 – Grand Marais project contingent upon the approval of the TAC, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

2. Wild Rice WD / Felton Ditch – On-Channel Storage Project / Step I Submittal

The information required for a Step I submittal was distributed to the board for review. A tour of the Felton Ditch – On-Channel Storage project will be conducted during the July board meeting.

The next meeting will be on July 19, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 11:30 a.m. following lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator