

# 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

July 19, 2005

Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, July 19, 2005, at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota.

Chairman John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were: Rob Sando Ron Osowski  
Dan Money Vernon Johnson  
Roger Hanson Robert Wright  
Jerome Deal

Others present were: Naomi Erickson, Administrator  
Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office  
Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD  
Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD  
Lance Yohe, Executive Director, RRBC  
Jim Skaurud, Wild Rice WD  
Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC  
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator  
Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering  
Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering  
Nick Drees, Acting Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD  
Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering

No additional items were added to the agenda.

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

### **RRWMB Levy**

The Board discussed the tax levy rate determination. **Motion** by Manager Deal to maintain the levy at 100% for FY 2006, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

### **Red River Basin Commission**

Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC distributed a handout regarding a bus tour scheduled for August 2, 2005. She reported that the bus will depart from Moorhead on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, with pick-ups in Grand Forks and Morris, MB. A water tour is scheduled consisting of a tour of the research vessel NAMAQ. A land tour of the St. Andrews Lock and Dam commonly known as the "Lockport Bridge" located on the Red River at the town of Lockport, MB is also scheduled. The bus will return to Moorhead, MN on August 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Red River Basin Mainstem Model**

Lance Yohe, Executive Director, RRBC discussed potential scenarios for mainstem flood reduction using the MIKE 11 Hydrologic Model. He explained that the phase 2 MIKE 11 model is being recalibrated, and will include seamless data from Lake Traverse to Lake Winnipeg. Several scenarios are being developed involving the following points along the Red River: Wahpeton, Fargo, Grand Forks, Drayton, Emerson, Morris and the Floodway. Hydrographs for each tributary will be developed, in addition to scenarios for flow reduction. The updated MIKE 11 model will assist in targeting flood damage reduction strategies for the Red River Basin.

Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering stated that with regard to updating the MIKE 11 model, existing hydrographs from the 1997 flood were reviewed in order to get a sense of how much each tributary contributed to the flood. Ungaged areas were also considered since they are important with regard to timing. Anderson suggested that the RRWMB consider assigning the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to evaluate the MIKE 11 model.

### **Administrator Report**

#### **A) Insurance Quotes**

N. Erickson reported that at the June board meeting, John Hoffman with ICS Agency, Inc. compared the current insurance coverage of the board with the proposed coverage from Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT). Mr. Hoffman explained that the significant difference between the current coverage with ICS and the proposal from MCIT is 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, the board authorized remaining with the current insurance company of ICS Agency, Inc.

A request was made to invite a representative from MCIT to attend the July board meeting to answer questions the board may have with regard to their proposal. N. Erickson stated that she contacted MCIT following the June board meeting and was informed that they were unwilling to send a representative to a board meeting to discuss the cost estimate that was prepared. She was also notified that the representative that had prepared the previous cost estimate was no longer employed with MCIT, and that a new application would need to be submitted for consideration should the board determine a new cost estimate is needed. Following discussion, the board decided that an application should not be resubmitted to MCIT.

**B) Leadership Program for Local Water Management Partners**

N. Erickson stated that she and Brian Dwight discussed the proposal for the Red Lake Watershed District to conduct a watershed program to focus on understanding roles, identifying and dealing with conflict, and strengthening partnerships when delivering watershed-based water management programs. N. Erickson noted that Dwight indicated that the proposal has been presented to the Red Lake WD's Board of Managers for their consideration, with a response anticipated in the near future.

**C) Farmstead Ring Dike Program**

N. Erickson reported that she and Dick Nelson discussed the need for an assessment of member watershed districts relative to the rural ring dike program in order to compile information for the distribution of the \$125,000 funding that was approved during the current legislative session. N. Erickson requested that responses be forwarded to either herself or Dick Nelson prior to month-end.

**D) Annual Audit**

The annual audit has been scheduled with the accounting firm of Dahl, Hatton, Muir & Reese of Hallock for July 27, 2005 at the Sand Hill River Watershed District. After receiving the completed financial information, the Annual Report will be forwarded to the printer.

**E) Funding Commitments**

N. Erickson distributed a handout of funding commitments of the board. The spreadsheet included the projects of member districts progressing through the Step Process of the board, as well as programs that have received funding approval from the board.

The March Impoundment Project of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD was listed under projects receiving Step I approval. Nick Drees, Acting Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD stated that since the project has been inactive for a significant time period it would be acceptable to remove it from the list of funding commitments of the board. **Motion** by Manager Deal to remove the March Impoundment Project of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD from the list of Step I approvals of the RRWMB, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**.

**F) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences**

1. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, Funding Committee, August 19, 2005, at the Alexandria Airport Terminal, Alexandria, MN.
2. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, September 7, 2005, Northland Inn, Crookston; and October 19, 2005, Holiday Inn-Lakeside, Detroit Lakes, MN.

**Water Quality Project Monitoring**

In the absence of Wayne Goeken, the project monitoring monthly report was distributed. Ongoing monitoring of flood damage reduction (FDR) projects has continued by Danni Halvorson in the northern basin, and Wayne Goeken in the southern basin. Projects currently being monitored include: Project No. 60 (Grand Marais-RLWD); Ross Impoundment (TRWD); Hay Creek (RRWD); Agassiz Valley (MSTRWD); Palmville Fen (RRWD); Whisky Creek (BRRWD); Manston Slough (BRRWD); and North Ottawa (BdSWD). Preliminary monitoring of projects under consideration by various WD project teams has also been done on a limited basis as part of initial project scoping but regular project monitoring will not occur until such projects are officially proceeding through the FDR process and monitoring plans are developed.

Maynard Pick suggested that an article be prepared outlining the history of the River Watch – Water Quality Project Monitoring initiative and forwarded to Washington, D.C. He noted that the initiative could be eligible for federal recognition and/or funding assistance.

### **District Reports**

- The Joe River WD reported that a rain gauge located near the Joe River recorded 30.4 inches of rainfall since May 6<sup>th</sup>. The Kittson County Farm Service Agency recently reported 90,500 unplanted farm acres, of which a significant portion is located in the district. In addition to excess rainfall, severe winds have caused thousands of dollars in property damage. A number of grain bins have been destroyed, as well as damage to homes and other buildings. Several homestead shelter belts, which have been growing for generations were nearly destroyed by straight-line winds.

On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, a storm cell moved into the area late in the afternoon and stalled. The storm produced seven confirmed tornados, with damage to several acres of cropland. Nearly all the district received an excess of 5 inches of rainfall, as well as severe hail and more damaging winds. One precipitation model showed an area that received over 15 inches of rain. Several homes in the area were damaged by overland flooding.

- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported that JOR Engineering has finalized the construction and mitigation features for the Angus Oslo Site No. 4 project. The site showing and bid opening will be conducted in August with construction to follow soon thereafter.
- The Red Lake WD reported on the Grand Marais Creek Sub-Watershed Project 60 project. The hearing for the construction of the two impoundments referred to as Euclid East and Brandt was conducted on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the University of Minnesota – Crookston. At the regularly scheduled board meeting, which convened following the hearing, a motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Coe, to adopt and establish the Grand Marais Creek Subwatershed, RLWD Project 60B as a project. The district is now awaiting the grant agreement from the State and will proceed with various other cost sharing tasks.

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

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting and discussed the Brandt and Euclid East Impoundments of the Project No. 60 Grand Marais Project of the Red Lake WD, and the Felton Ditch / On-Channel Storage Project of the Wild Rice WD.

The Brandt Impoundment has a Star Value Method ranking of 16. This project will have 3,126 acre-feet of gated storage with an additional 786 acre-feet of ungated storage. Flooding along County Ditch No. 2 and County Ditch No. 66, other ditch systems that receive overflows from these two ditches, Grand Marais Creek, and the Red River will all be considered in the operation plan. This impoundment will work in conjunction with the proposed Euclid East Impoundment as it is part of the Project No. 60 Grand Marais Project.

The Euclid East Impoundment has a Star Value Method ranking of 10. This project will have 1,878 acre-feet of gated storage with an additional 565 acre-feet of ungated storage. This is 2.7 inches over the 17.1 square mile watershed. The operating plan is very general at this point, but planned trigger locations on the Red River include 36 feet at Grand Forks and 34 feet at Oslo. Following discussion, the board requested the TAC to review Project No. 60 again to determine whether or not the Star Value could be reduced for the project.

The Upper Felton Storage Project has a Star Value Method ranking of 16. This project will have 4,678 acre-feet of gated storage with an additional 2,470 acre-feet of ungated storage. This is 4.5 inches over the 29.8 square mile watershed. A 48” gate located in the principal drop inlet structure will be used to control outflows. Flooding along the Felton Ditch, the Wild Rice River, and the Red River will be considered in the operating plan.

### **District’s Funding Requests**

#### **1. 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 at the previous monthly meeting. A tour of project was conducted. The primary purpose of the project is to reduce flood damages within the Felton Ditch sub-basin as well as downstream along the Wild Rice and Red Rivers. A flood control reservoir will be built so that floodwaters from the 29.8 square mile drainage area can be held until downstream channel conditions can accommodate the flows. The flood pool will be maintained in a dry condition when flooding is not occurring. The storage area will have a total capacity of approximately 7,140 acre-feet (4.5 inches), of which 4,670 acre-feet (2.9 inches) will be gated to provide detention times in excess of 30 days if needed. The size of the flood pool will range from 0 acres to approximately 885 acres (emergency spillway crest), depending on the size of the flood and operation, which will depend on downstream conditions.

The Felton Ditch – Off-Channel Storage Project was listed under projects receiving Step I approval. Following discussion, the board agreed that since the project has been inactive and the new On-Channel Storage Project is being pursued, it would be acceptable to remove the Off-Channel Storage Project from the list of funding commitments of the board and rename the new project “Felton Ditch Storage Project.” **Motion** by Manager Deal to remove the Felton Ditch Off-Channel Storage Project of the Wild Rice WD from the list of Step I approvals of the RRWMB, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, **Carried**.

**Motion** by Manager Deal to approve the Step 1 submittal for the Felton Ditch Storage Project, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, **Carried**.

The next meeting will be on August 16, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. at the City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert Wright  
Secretary

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Naomi L. Erickson  
Administrator