

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
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Naomi Erickson, Administrator-Detroit Lakes

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

August 16, 2005

City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, August 16, 2005, at the City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota.

Chairman John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were: Farrell Erickson Dan Money
Dale M. Nelson Daniel Wilkens
Robert Wright Jerome Deal

Others present were: Naomi Erickson, Administrator
Dick Nelson, Financial Coordinator
Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office
Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
John Nelson, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD
Arlyn Stroble, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers 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
Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD
Warren Seykora, Wild Rice WD
Blake Carlson, Engineer, JOR Engineering
Jerry Bennett, JB & Associates
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering
Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator
Danni Halvorson, Monitoring Specialist
Jim Stengrim
Wally Dietrich
Brian Jadeke

Nick Drees requested reviewing the funding commitment for the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project under *Other Issues*.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to approve the minutes as written with minor corrections, **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 Erickson, **Carried**. A one-page handout of monthly bills to be approved was distributed. **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Erickson, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Financial Coordinator Report

D. Nelson reported that he has been attending fund raising efforts for area legislators and that it appears the board will have continued legislative support during the next year.

Red River Basin Commission

Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC distributed a handout regarding a bus tour scheduled for August 22, 2005. She reported that Senator Byron Dorgan's office, RRBC South Basin Initiative, Dakota Valley REC, North Dakota Farmer's Union, and the Sargent and Richland County Water Resource Districts are collaborating to provide an educational tour of the lands in Richland and Sargent counties in North Dakota and Marshall County in South Dakota. These counties share the Wild Rice River and experienced flooding during the June 2005 rain events.

The tour will be open to any residents, farmers, commissioners or water resource districts interested in participating. The goal is in water-education of the Wild Rice area including the geo-history of the Wild Rice Watershed, the present watershed environment, and past water control measures. Following the tour, participants will be encouraged to discuss future flood damage reduction measures in the Wild Rice Watershed.

Administrator Report

A) Leadership Program for Local Water Management Partners

N. Erickson reported that the Red Lake Watershed District has appointed three board members to a committee to discuss the potential for the district to conduct a training session for watershed managers, staff, project team members, and others relative to understanding roles, identifying and dealing with conflict, and strengthening partnerships when delivering watershed-based water management programs.

The committee includes Lee Coe, Arnold Stanley, and Orville Knott. The committee has met with Brian Dwight and Jody Horntvedt, however, no decision has been made with regard to scheduling the training session.

B) Annual Audit

N. Erickson stated that the annual audit was conducted with Mark Hatton of Dahl, Hatton, Muir & Reese of Stephen on August 11, 2005 at the Sand Hill River Watershed District. After receiving the completed financial information, the Annual Report will be forwarded to the printer.

C) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. Red River Basin Streamflow Monitoring Meeting, 1:00 pm, Thursday, August 18, 2005, Cass County Highway Department Conference Room, 1201 West Main Avenue, West Fargo, North Dakota.
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.

Water Quality Project Monitoring

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

As water levels have dropped considerably over the past month in most of the basin, monitoring has dropped off from weekly to biweekly monitoring and is now being done in conjunction with TMDL monitoring which is on a regular biweekly basis. If water levels continue to drop into the fall, condition monitoring will be discontinued for rivers where no to low flow conditions are present as enough data has been gathered for modeling purposes at these low flow levels.

TMDL monitoring of turbidity impairments will continue along with the condition monitoring. As with the condition sites, it is expected that monitoring of several of the TMDL sites will also discontinue if no significant precipitation occurs for the remainder of the year due to low to no flow conditions at these sites.

District Reports

- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported that bids were opened on July 27, 2005 for the completion of the Angus Oslo Site No. 4 project. It is anticipated that the Board of Managers will grant the contract to the low bidder, Triple D Construction, at the regular board meeting on August 15, 2005, with construction to begin in August.
- The Red Lake WD reported that the Board of Managers have requested HDR Engineering, Inc. to present a plan for the repair of Seeger Dam which will include adding a gated structure to the existing structure as well as lowering the existing roadway on the dam. This plan will be included in the application to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to determine if a dam safety permit is required for the project.
- The Wild Rice WD reported on two ongoing repairs on the South Branch of the Wild Rice River. One repair is located in Hagen Township of Clay County, and the other repair is in Winchester Township of Norman County. The work in Winchester Township started on July 18th and is scheduled to be completed in November, while the work in Hagen Township will begin in the 2nd or 3rd week in August and is also scheduled for completion in November. The combined repair costs are approximately \$850,000. The projects are both petitioned projects with funding primarily from local assessments. The repairs will be paid for through bonding through Clay County.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting and discussed the Natural Resources Framework Plan of the RRBC. Comments on the document prepared by the TAC were distributed. Jim Stengrim, landowner, noted that although he has not read the entire document he was concerned with how the document would address issues with landowners. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to accept the recommendations of the TAC and forward them to the RRBC for review, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Thul noted that at the previous monthly meeting, 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. Myron Jesme, Administrator-RLWD, stated that the combined Star Value for the Brandt and Euclid East impoundments would be below "20," should the previously approved funding percentage be appropriated as follows: Brandt Impoundment, \$1,200,000; and Euclid East Impoundment, \$750,000. **Motion** by Manager Deal to accept the modified funding request, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**.

Other Issues

Nick Drees, Acting Administrator - Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD, stated that the Board of Managers would like to proceed with the land purchase for the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project, however, they wanted to reaffirm the RRWMB's funding commitment due to the pending litigation. Manager Finney reviewed a list of funding commitments of the RRWMB, and reiterated that the RRWMB is committed to funding the above-referenced project in the amount of \$1,079,500.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on September 20, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 3:30 p.m. following the bus tour.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator