

# 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

October 19, 2005

Best Western, Thief River Falls, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Wednesday, October 19, 2005, at the Best Western, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

Chairman John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were: Farrell Erickson Dan Money  
Ron Osowski Vernon Johnson  
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  
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator  
Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering  
Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering  
Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD  
Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering  
Lance Yohe, Executive Director, RRBC  
John Braastad, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Blake Carlson, Engineer, JOR Engineering  
Henry Van Offelen, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy  
Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator  
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering  
Kris Versdahl, Kris Versdahl & Associates  
April Swenby, Kris Versdahl & Associates

No additional items were added to the agenda.

**Motion** by Manager Erickson 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 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**

D. Nelson referred to the draft *Timeline for Project Implementation* that is currently being developed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). He added that the timeline will be helpful when districts apply for funding assistance from the RRWMB. The timeline will include a work plan, permits needed for the project, a schedule for project implementation, and an assignment of responsibilities. The timeline will be distributed to member districts after the final version is adopted by the board.

### **Red River Basin Commission**

Lance Yohe, Executive Director, Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) distributed a handout of Phase II of the mainstem modeling effort. Several members of the TAC attended a workshop sponsored by the RRBC to gain familiarity with the MIKE 11 model by simulating several different scenarios. The project budget in order to complete Phase II of the modeling effort is short \$5,660. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize \$5,660 to complete Phase II of the mainstem modeling effort of the Red River Basin Commission, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

Yohe stated that the 23rd Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Conference is scheduled for January 11-13, 2006, Hotel Fort Garry, Winnipeg, Manitoba. The conference is a public forum for education, training and information dissemination relating to natural resources in the Red River Basin. This year's theme recognizes the Red River's upstream contribution to water quality and also continues to build on a basin-wide approach in dealing with natural resource management issues.

### **Administrator Report**

#### **A) Project Management**

N. Erickson reported that Bryan Ripp of Mead & Hunt, one of the top 100 fastest growing architectural and engineering firms in the nation, requested to be put on the November 15th agenda to discuss the services his firm provides relative to environmental and water resources capabilities. Their firm has offices located in California, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, and Wisconsin, as well as project offices throughout the country. Their firm is also available to put an experienced project team on location.

#### **B) Farmstead Ring Dike Assessment**

At the regular monthly September board meeting, the allocation of funding for the Farmstead Ring Dike Program for fiscal year 2006 was authorized. The following information was forwarded to Ed Fick at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The allocation of the \$125,000 legislative funding for eligible watershed districts is as follows:

Watershed District	Year 2006 Ring Dike Funding Allocation
Roseau River WD	\$ 15,000
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD	52,500
Red Lake WD	5,000
Wild Rice WD	<u>52,500</u>
Total	\$ <u>125,000</u>

### **C) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences**

1. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, October 19, 2005, Best Western, Thief River Falls, MN and January 11, 2006, Northland Inn, Crookston.
2. MAWD 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Trade Show, December 1-3, 2005, at the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center, Alexandria, MN.

### **District Reports**

- The Two Rivers WD reported on the outlet structure at Horseshoe Lake. An operation and maintenance agreement has been agreed to by the DNR, Kittson County, and the District for the alteration of the outlet structure at Horseshoe Lake. This was an NRCS engineered PL566 project installed in the late 1960s, consisting of a main dike, emergency spillway, north dike, and fixed elevation outlet. The outlet was a cement box dropping into a corrugated metal pipe which allowed water to flow through the dike and into an outlet ditch. The project has not attained either its wildlife or flood control benefits and therefore the recent agreement is to cut a hole in the face of the box and install stop logs. This will provide for better wildlife management and flood control opportunities. The RRWMB has agreed to assist in the funding, with both the DNR and the District also contributing.
- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported that Phase 3B construction continues with the Public Law 566 (Snake River Watershed) project. The floodway channel has been completed with only the sheet piling remaining to be installed. The floodway should be in operation for the spring runoff in 2006.

The concrete work and backfilling on the diversion structure continues with hopes of completion in the fall of 2005.

- The Red Lake WD reported on the Grand Marais Creek Sub-Watershed Project No. 60 project. The abstracts for the major parcels of land for both the Euclid East Site and Brandt Site have been received. The process of updating the abstracts will begin, followed by completion of the title opinions.

A meeting has been scheduled for Monday, October 24 in Golden Valley, MN with BWSR, DNR, West Polk SWCD and the USACE to discuss the impacts of the Brandt Site on wetlands. The District hopes to clarify the permit for the impoundment. Another meeting has been scheduled for Friday, October 28 with the landowners affected by the Euclid East Site. This meeting will include discussion on how the project will improve drainage routes to the impoundment and also input from the local landowners for possible alternatives concerning this issue.

The goal is to begin construction on the Euclid East site in the late spring or early summer of 2006 and let bids on the Brandt site in late fall of 2006.

- The Sand Hill River WD reported on the Union Lake Flood Control and Erosion Project. The District received a \$50,000 grant from the Board of Water & Soil Resources (50/50 match) and is in the process of developing plans and specifications for the project. Due to budget constraints, the District is designing many rock dams in the channel. The upstream landowner and renter have agreed to place the upstream farmland into CRP which should help in controlling the erosion that has occurred.

### **Water Quality Project Monitoring Report**

Wayne Goeken- Monitoring Coordinator reported on Flood Damage Reduction, Condition, and TMDL monitoring. Monitoring of FDR projects continues in the basin. This is generally done on a monthly basis if there is flow at the sites in the respective project areas. Staff continues to work with project teams to meet monitoring needs of projects.

Staff participated in two strategic planning sessions to discuss direction for further maintenance and growth of the River Watch Program in the basin. The Center for Watershed Education coordinated the planning effort with an outside facilitator used to get ideas from invited teachers, school administrators, students, multi-jurisdictional organization representatives, and resource managers as to program needs, curriculum development, marketing, funding, and other planning considerations that need to be addressed at a proposed comprehensive strategic planning process. A proposal is being developed for submittal to the Northwest Minnesota Foundation to carry out this process which, if funded, is anticipated to begin in early 2006.

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

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting and reviewed the proposal submitted at the previous monthly meeting regarding the water quality study of the Glacial Ridge Project. During the past couple months, the Nature Conservancy has been working with partners to develop a financial plan that would sustain funding through project completion. The year one funding proposal is as follows: (October 1, 2005 - September 30, 2006) the Nature Conservancy \$14,000; Red River Watershed Management Board \$20,000; and the Red Lake Watershed District \$10,000. Following discussion, the TAC recommended against funding of this project since the technical knowledge gained from this effort would be similar to the information obtained from the wetland restoration study conducted by the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC) of the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group.

In addition, the board determined that since The Nature Conservancy will transfer all land rights to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after the restoration efforts have been completed at Glacial Ridge, possible funding sources should be pursued through their agency. The board accepted the TAC recommendation and agreed not to participate in funding the water monitoring study.

Thul discussed the timeline/checklist currently under development by the TAC for member watershed districts regarding project implementation. It is anticipated that the timeline will serve as a guide to update the RRWMB on various projects progressing through the step process and should be completed and submitted along with the Step I application for consideration. The draft timeline/checklist should be ready to distribute at the next monthly meeting. The TAC further agreed that the engineering firms represented on the committee could adequately address the tasks associated with project management, should they be directed to do so by their respective watershed districts.

**Website Development**

Kris Versdahl, of Kris Versdahl & Associates, provided a cost estimate to redesign the RRWMB website. The proposal addressed web development, a maintenance agreement, digitizing minutes, and a budget. **Motion** by Manager Erickson to authorize Kris Versdahl & Associates to update the RRWMB website, provide monthly maintenance for a one-year term to be reviewed after six months, and digitize minutes, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

**District's Funding Requests**

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on November 15, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert Wright  
Secretary

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Naomi L. Erickson  
Administrator