

# 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

November 15, 2005

Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, November 15, 2005, at the Red Lake Watershed District, 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 James Skaurud  
Jerome Deal

Others present were: Naomi Erickson, Administrator  
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator  
Lance Yohe, Executive Director, RRBC  
Don Buckhout, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering  
Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering  
Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD  
Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering  
Blake Carlson, Engineer, JOR Engineering  
Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator  
Danni Halvorson, Monitoring Specialist  
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering  
Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD

Manager Wilkens requested that the Red River Basin Water Quality Team be discussed under *Other Issues*.

**Motion** by Manager Money 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 Johnson, **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 Deal, **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, N. Erickson requested that member districts submit state bonding requests for projects to be included in the 2006 bonding bill within the next 30 days. Manager Finney added that due to D. Nelson's recent illness, Ray Bohn has offered to assist the board with their legislative efforts.

Don Buckhout, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, noted that the future bonding schedule for projects could include funds only for initial land acquisition, with the applicant required to reapply for funds for project construction.

### **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 Phase II of the mainstem modeling effort of the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC). Lance Yohe, Executive Director-RRBC, attended the TAC meeting and discussed conducting various scenarios that have been developed in conjunction with the model, in addition to scheduling demonstration workshops once the model has been completed. Yohe noted that additional funding is needed to conduct the scenarios as well as the demonstration workshops. The TAC recommended that the board participate in funding the additional \$15,000 needed toward Phase II of the mainstem modeling effort.

Thul discussed the timeline/checklist currently under development by the TAC for member watershed districts regarding project implementation. The draft timeline requires that a project schedule be developed and/or updated and submitted along with each step application to the board. The draft will be distributed for board review at the next monthly meeting.

### **Red River Basin Commission**

Lance Yohe, Executive Director, Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) conducted a presentation representative of workshops currently being conducted throughout the basin relative to nutrients and the Natural Resources Framework Plan of the RRBC. The workshops are being funded through the International Joint Commission and Manitoba Water Stewardship.

Yohe stated that at the previous monthly meeting, the RRWMB authorized \$5,660 to complete Phase II of the mainstem modeling effort. He explained that although sufficient funding has been secured to complete the model, additional funding is needed to conduct scenarios that have been developed along with demonstration workshops. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize an additional \$15,000 toward Phase II of the mainstem modeling effort of the Red River Basin Commission, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**.

### **Administrator Report**

#### **A) Annual Report**

N. Erickson reported that the accounting firm of Dahl, Hatton, Muir & Reese of Hallock has completed the audit of financial information for the RRWMB. The information needed to prepare the annual report was delivered to Precision Printing of Minnesota who prepared a cost estimate for printing the reports. An estimate of \$1,300 (\$4.00 per report) for 325 copies was received.

**B) Smith Partners PLLP**

The principals of Smith Parker, a law firm created 10 years ago, have decided to embark on new professional career paths. Mr. Parker is starting a new firm with an expanded litigation focus; while Louis Smith will continue the firm as Smith Partners. All previous obligations fulfilled by Smith Parker, will now be assumed by Smith Partners. The office location and phone numbers will remain the same, with Mr. Smith's new email address as follows: [smith@smithpartners.com](mailto:smith@smithpartners.com).

**C) Website Update**

N. Erickson explained that at the previous monthly meeting, the board authorized 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. The budget for the development of the new webpage is \$2,700.00, which does not include updating the RRWMB logo. Subsequent discussions with Ms. Versdahl have included updating the RRWMB logo in conjunction with redesigning the webpage. Revising the logo would involve an additional \$500.00. Following discussion, the board requested that Ms. Versdahl develop proposed revisions to the logo for consideration at the next monthly meeting.

**D) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences**

1. MAWD 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Trade Show, December 1-3, 2005, at the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center, Alexandria, MN.
  - a. Hotel Reservation Form Due November 18, 2005
  - b. Registration Form Due November 25, 2005
2. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, Funding Committee, December 2, 2005, Alexandria, MN.
3. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, January 11, 2006, Northland Inn, Crookston.
4. 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Conference, January 11-13, 2006, The Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg, MB.

**District Reports**

- 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 was conducted on October 24<sup>th</sup> in Golden Valley, MN with BWSR, DNR, West Polk SWCD and the USACE to discuss the impacts of the Brandt Site on wetlands. The mitigation plans regarding the permit needed for the impoundment were discussed.

Another meeting was conducted on October 28<sup>th</sup> with the landowners affected by the Euclid East Site. Discussion included how the project will improve drainage routes. Input was also gathered from the local landowners.

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 or early 2007.

- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that the shell of the new office building is complete as is the outside concrete work and some of the grading of the lot. It is anticipated that the interior cement work will be completed this week.



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

Wayne Goeken- Monitoring Coordinator reported that he is currently working with the International Water Institute (IWI) to develop proposals regarding strategic planning for the River Watch program.

### **Red River Basin Water Quality Team**

Managers Wilkens and Erickson noted that they attended the above-referenced meeting on Monday, October 24th at the Red Lake Watershed District office. Following discussion, the board agreed to encourage board manager attendance at the meetings.

### **District's Funding Requests**

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on December 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 at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert Wright  
Secretary

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Naomi L. Erickson  
Administrator