

# 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  
Orville Knott-Red Lake Falls Daniel Wilkens, Treasurer-Fertile Robert Wright, Secretary-Felton Jerome Deal-Wheaton  
Naomi Erickson, Administrator-Detroit Lakes

## RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

May 16, 2006

Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, May 16, 2006, at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

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

Members present were: Dan Money Ron Osowski  
Orville Knott Daniel Wilkens  
Robert Wright Jerome Deal

Others present were: Naomi Erickson, Administrator  
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator  
Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD  
Steve Dalen, Administrator, Wild Rice WD  
Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD  
Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD  
Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD  
Mike Bakken, Engineer, JOR Engineering  
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering  
Vernon Johnson, Red Lake WD  
Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering  
Don Buckhout, MNDNR Red River Basin Coordinator  
Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering  
Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering  
Blake Carlson, Engineer, JOR Engineering  
Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC

No additional items were added to the agenda.

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

### **Legislative Report**

N. Erickson distributed a handout from Ray Bohn of Media & Government Affairs. The Eminent Domain bill has passed and has been forwarded to Governor Pawlenty. Additional language was added to the bill to clarify that the bill will not affect Minnesota Statutes 103D and 103E, with certain exemptions applicable to Chapter 117.

The Clean Water Act is at \$25-30 million with the House passing the policy language. Implementing wastewater treatment methods, as well as providing technical support to the Board of Water & Soil Resources is included in the bill.

The amendment requiring watershed district managers to be elected rather than appointed has been discussed and withdrawn.

The Kittson County disaster relief bill is at \$842,000 in the Senate, and \$159,000 in the House. Although the House has dropped the language, Maxine Penas is still lobbying for funding.

Relative to revising the State auditing requirements, Mr. Bohn indicated that he would discuss this issue with various watershed districts throughout the state for input prior to submitting recommendations to the state office.

### **Red River Basin Commission**

Julie Goehring reported that the next Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) board meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Thursday, June 1 at the Walhalla Inn Supper Club. The international Pembina River Watershed Tour is scheduled for Wednesday, May 31 and will depart from the Walhalla Inn Supper Club in Walhalla, ND.

A tour of the Devils Lake basin conducted by the Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board is scheduled for July 20. For more information, contact Mike Connor at (701) 662-7076.

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

In the absence of Wayne Goeken, the project monitoring monthly report was distributed. All condition monitoring sites have now been able to be monitored as spring flood waters have receded. Condition monitoring at each major Minnesota tributary and six Red River mainstem sites will be done weekly through the spring and early summer period.

Halvorson and Goeken have been assisting schools in getting their River Watch monitoring programs up and running for the 2006 monitoring season. Supply needs are being coordinated with local watershed districts and Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) monitoring partners. Adjustments are also being made to monitoring locations based on analysis of previous monitoring data and local needs.

## **Administrator Report**

### **A) Red River Basin Commission**

N. Erickson reported that the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) will hold the international Pembina River Watershed Tour departing at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 31 from the Walhalla Inn Supper Club in Walhalla, ND. The tour will feature existing flood damage reduction measures, water quality programs, potential retention sites and recreation areas in the watershed. The evening will conclude with a social, dinner and presentation at the supper club. The RRBC will hold its board meeting at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, June 1 at the Walhalla Inn Supper Club. All RRBC directors, alternates, committee members and the public are encouraged to attend the tour and board meeting.

### **B) Bois de Sioux Watershed District**

N. Erickson noted that the Bois de Sioux Watershed District has completed construction of their new office building located at 704 South Highway 75, Wheaton, MN 56296. The District has invited the board to conduct their June board meeting in Wheaton to visit their new location.

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

1. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, Funding Committee, Wednesday, May 17, 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the Alexandria Airport Terminal, Alexandria, MN.
2. Red River Basin Commission, Pembina River Watershed Tour, Wednesday, May 31, 2006, departing at 1:00 p.m., Walhalla, ND.
3. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, Wednesday, June 7, 2006, Holiday Inn – Lakeside, Detroit Lakes, MN.
4. 2006 MAWD Summer Tour, Marching Forward to the Beat of Progress, June 22-24, 2006, hosted by the Sauk River Watershed District. The headquarters is located at the Holiday Inn, Alexandria, MN.

## **District Reports**

- The Roseau River WD reported on the Roseau River Wildlife Management Area (RRWMA) project. The Board of Managers have scheduled a project team meeting for May 22<sup>nd</sup> to continue the discussion of a proposed alternative outlet on the west end of the RRWMA Pool 3. The project team met on May 1<sup>st</sup> and discussed the drafted purpose and needs statement for the project. Alternative analysis has also been discussed previously and will be discussed again at the meeting scheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- The Two Rivers WD reported on the status of the culvert inventory. Plans are to cover three townships during the months of May and June. Each culvert within this designated area will be located with global positioning systems, inventoried, and entered into an ArcView geographic information system. Data collected on each culvert includes its size, length, direction of flow, next culvert downstream, flow line elevation vs. natural ground elevation vs. road overtopping elevation, and other pertinent information. The data collected is proving invaluable in analyzing water flow patterns and analyzing drainage areas. Approximately 2/3 of the district has been inventoried over the past 7 years.
- The Red Lake WD reported that at their regularly scheduled board meeting on April 27, 2006, the Board of Managers approved the final engineers report for the Grand Marais Sub-Watershed Creek Project 60 project. The District started advertising for bids for the construction of both the Brandt and Euclid East Impoundment projects with bid openings to be held May 25 at 10:00 a.m. Construction is estimated to begin on Euclid East by the end of June and construction on the Brandt site early to mid August (permits pending).

- The Wild Rice WD reported on the repairs to Green Meadow Dam. The project will involve the repair of the existing erosion and seepage damage to the embankment. The construction on this project is scheduled to occur between July 1 and September 15, 2006.

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

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting and discussed the possibility of a LiDAR collect for the Minnesota side of the Red River basin with representatives from Sanborn Map Company of Colorado Springs, CO.

A presentation was conducted relative to the photogrammetric services provided by Sanborn Map Company. The Colorado Springs office has a broad range of capabilities in remote sensing, GIS, mapping and database systems offering full service geospatial solutions to customers worldwide. Key services include Certified Project Managers on staff to ensure customers get the right solution on a timely basis. A wide range of geospatial solutions are available including: imagery data capture, orthophotos, DEM/DTM/Contours, planimetric compilation, LiDAR bare earth, value-added products, survey, and GIS system design/training.

The Sanborn - Colorado Springs office has a diverse set of technologies at its disposal. They are fully equipped with aircraft, two digital cameras, two aerial LiDAR scanners and a suite of over twenty photogrammetric processing software systems to complete on-site mapping projects that meet strict quality standards.

### **Service Award**

N. Erickson presented Vernon Johnson with a nine-year service award for his devoted service given to the Red River Watershed Management Board.

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

#### **1. Red Lake WD / Project No. 60 – Grand Marais Project**

Myron Jesme, Administrator requested another advance payment of \$500,000 from the board for the above-mentioned project. The Step II submittal was previously approved by the board at the June 21, 2005 board meeting which authorized funding in the amount of \$1,929,694.

#### **2. Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD / Agassiz Valley Water Management Project**

The Board of Managers forwarded a request for interim financing for the above-mentioned project. The District is currently negotiating a settlement of the appeals filed concerning the project. The settlement refers to the fact that state funding for the project is available only on a reimbursement basis, therefore, disbursements must be made prior to requesting state funds. The estimated state funding needed for the project is ~ \$1.7 million which would be in addition to any previously authorized RRWMB commitment. Upon receipt of the state funds by the district, the RRWMB would be reimbursed for the requested funding advance.

**Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize interim financing of \$1.7 million for the estimated state funding portion of the Agassiz Valley Water Management project, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

The next meeting will be on June 20, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. at the Bois de Sioux Watershed District, Wheaton, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Robert Wright  
Secretary

---

Naomi L. Erickson  
Administrator