

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
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

June 20, 2006

Bois de Sioux Watershed District, Wheaton, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, June 20, 2006, at the Bois de Sioux Watershed District, Wheaton, Minnesota.

Chairman John Finney called the meeting to order.

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

Others present were: Naomi Erickson, Administrator
Steve Dalen, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
Don Buckhout, MNDNR Red River Basin Coordinator
Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering
Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC
Bob Roach, Bois de Sioux WD
Jim Skaurud, Wild Rice WD
Ray Bohn, Media & Government Affairs
Peg Bohn, Media & Government Affairs
Pete Waller, Board of Water & Soil Resources

No additional items were added to the agenda.

Motion by Manager Deal 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 Knott to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **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.

CREP II / Financial Supplement

In the absence of Ron Harnack, Executive Director-Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR), the board discussed the Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP): The Second Generation.

Manager Finney noted that he had discussed the possibility of the board supplementing payments to participating landowners under the CREP II program with Mr. Harnack. Mr. Finney further explained that a total of 120,000 acres were authorized under CREP II, including 51,000 acres in the Red River Basin, to be used toward riparian, wetland restoration, and flood damage reduction easements. Due to the total number of acres included in the program, the funding available to interested participants has not been sufficient to encourage enrollment.

Manager Deal noted that discussions have occurred regarding reducing the total number of acres authorized in CREP II from 120,000 to 70,000 in order to make payments more attractive to landowners. He added that he would discuss this issue further with Mr. Harnack relative to reducing the number of eligible acres in the program as well as the RRWMB providing supplemental funding to landowners.

Legislative Report

Ray Bohn of Media & Government Affairs discussed this year's legislative session with the board. Mr. Bohn indicated that with regard to the bonding bill, several natural resource enhancement issues were debated. He encouraged inviting legislators, as well as lobbyists from agricultural groups, to the Red River Basin to discuss the specifics of the mediation agreement. He suggested that the board retain a public information firm in order to promote projects that are currently progressing throughout member watershed districts in the basin. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize a committee consisting of Ray Bohn, Dan Money, Naomi Erickson, and himself to develop recommendations for retaining a public information firm for the board, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

Mr. Bohn stated that he discussed the issue of the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District rejoining the membership of the RRWMB with Senator Langseth and Representative Lanning. Mr. Bohn noted that the aforementioned legislators indicated that the Buffalo-Red River WD would be interested in resuming negotiations with the board. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize Ray Bohn to develop parameters with regard to scheduling negotiated sessions between the RRWMB and the Buffalo-Red River WD, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

Mr. Bohn reported that a board member position is vacant on the BWSR board. The board meets 9 times a year and members, including the board chair, are appointed by the governor to four-year terms. He requested that any board manager from Region 1 who may be interested in the position to contact him in order for his/her name to be forwarded to BWSR for consideration.

Red River Basin Commission

Julie Goehring reported that the next Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) board meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. Thursday, August 3 at the Shooting Star Casino, Mahnommen, MN. A bus tour of the Minnesota Wild Rice Watershed is scheduled for 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 2 departing from the Shooting Star Casino. The tour will include lunch, feature flood damage reduction structures, water quality programs, wetland restoration, buffer strip programs and will conclude with a social and dinner at the casino. All RRBC directors, alternates, committee members and the general public are encouraged to attend the tour and board meeting.

Charlie Anderson discussed Phase II of the mainstem modeling effort. Several members of the TAC have attended workshops sponsored by the RRBC to gain familiarity with the MIKE 11 model. Julie Goehring added that an additional \$5,000 is needed for the project budget in order to complete Phase II of the modeling

effort. **Motion** by Manager Money to authorize \$5,000 to complete Phase II of the mainstem modeling effort of the Red River Basin Commission, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

In the absence of Wayne Goeken, the project monitoring monthly report was distributed. Goeken and Halvorson continue to assist local River Watch monitoring as needed. Where possible, schools are provided equipment and training to allow them to be independent in their monitoring and thus more responsive to sampling based on their time schedules and special monitoring conditions such as rain events. Supply needs are being coordinated with local watershed districts and SWCD monitoring partners. Local water plan coordinators are beginning to use local water plan funds to help cover ongoing supply costs.

Administrator Report

A) Red River Basin Commission

N. Erickson reported that she attended the Red River Basin Commission's Pembina River Watershed Tour on Wednesday, May 31, 2006. The tour departed from Walhalla, ND and featured existing flood damage reduction measures, water quality programs, potential retention sites and recreation areas in the watershed.

B) Financial Coordinator Job Description

N. Erickson distributed a draft job description for the position of Financial Coordinator to the board for review. Manager Knott inquired whether the position of Financial Coordinator/Lobbyist should remain a full-time position. Manager Deal suggested that the position continue on a contract basis, with the Human Resource Committee to discuss the specifics of the contract with the job applicants for further review by the board.

C) Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

N. Erickson reported that she attended the Work Group meeting on June 7, 2006 at the Holiday Inn-Lakeside, Detroit Lakes, MN. Several topics were addressed including Project Team / Project Updates, Corps of Engineers Concurrence Points Update, FDR-NRE Project Prioritization Criteria, SWAT (Soil and Water Assessment Tool) Model Presentation, TSAC Project Proposals, Culvert Sizing Standards, and Fund Reallocation and Approval of Revised FY 2007 Spending Plan.

N. Erickson added that she attended the Funding Committee meeting on May 17, 2006. Recommendations were developed for reallocations of approximately \$11,500. The recommendations were approved by consensus of the Work Group. The 2007 spending plan, as adjusted by the committee to provide funding for the two on-going TSAC efforts was also approved by consensus of the Work Group.

D) Personnel Manual

N. Erickson stated that the Human Resource Committee met on June 7, 2006 at the conclusion of the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group meeting in Detroit Lakes, MN. The revisions to the manual were distributed to the board for review. Following review by the board, the revisions will be considered for approval at the next monthly meeting.

E) RRWMB Address Change

Please note that the physical mailing address of the RRWMB has changed from 1298 South Shore Drive, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 to **PO Box 763, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502-0763**. All correspondence should be forwarded to the new post office location immediately.

The change in mailing address is a result of an effort to avoid at-risk situations for board staff and coincides with the board's Policies and Procedures for Public Access to Documents (DPA Policy) which provides for requested data inspection at a public governmental building.

F) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. 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.
2. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, Wednesday, August 30, 2006, Northland Inn, Crookston, MN.

District Reports

- The Two Rivers WD reported on the Ross No. 7 project. The district has received verbal approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding their wetland permit, and is awaiting written notification. Notice and approval has been received from the Roseau Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) under the Wetland Conservation Act. Roseau County will have a public hearing on July 11 regarding the district's petition to impound water on Roseau County Ditch No. 13. Two other permits are needed, including a DNR Dam Safety permit and the MPCA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Once the Roseau County public hearing has been conducted, the district will advertise for bids. Phase 1 construction is expected to begin early fall.

The district received a presentation from the University of North Dakota – Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) regarding a trial site of the Waffle plan that was conducted in Kittson County, within the district. The EERC has offered to donate the culvert material and equipment that was used on the site if the district would be willing to assume operation of the site in the future. A culvert through Kittson County Road No. 19 was altered by outfitting it with a stand pipe and control valve. The Kittson County Highway Department suggested that the district seriously consider the offer. A decision will be made by the Board of Managers within the next couple of months.

- The Red Lake WD reported on the Grand Marais Sub-Watershed Creek Project 60 project. The Board of Managers opened bids for the construction of the Euclid East and Brandt Impoundments at their regularly scheduled board meeting on May 25, 2006. Low bid for the Euclid East Impoundment in the amount of \$1,574,672.14 was awarded to R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc. from East Grand Forks, MN. The Engineer's estimate for this impoundment was \$2,010,172.95. Low bid for the Brandt Impoundment in the amount of \$1,980,388.01 was also awarded to R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc. The Engineer's estimate for this impoundment was \$2,354,268.50.

Construction on Euclid East started on June 14, 2006. Plans are to begin construction on the Brandt Impoundment as soon as the USACE permit has been approved. The 30-day public review of the USACE permit ended June 3, 2006 and the district is optimistic that a permit is forthcoming.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

In the absence of Dan Thul, there was no TAC meeting this month.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on July 18, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 11:52 a.m. following lunch and a brief tour of the North Ottawa Impoundment project.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator