

Red River Watershed Management Board

PO Box 763 Detroit Lakes, MN 56502-0763 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

August 15, 2006

City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, August 15, 2006, at the City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota.

Chairman John Finney called the meeting to order.

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

Others present were: Naomi Erickson, Administrator
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering
Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC
Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD
Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
Jim Skaurud, Wild Rice WD
Todd Miller, Roseau River WD
Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute
Keith Mykelseth, The Nature Conservancy

No additional items were added to the agenda.

Motion by Manager Money to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as written, **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**.

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. **Motion** by Manager Erickson 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 Osowski, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

In the absence of Wayne Goeken, the project monitoring monthly report was distributed. Staff assisted with flow monitoring equipment installation – primarily continuous stage recorders, over the past month at all locations that still need flow measurements for both condition and TMDL work. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) provided the equipment with Bruce Paakh – MPCA Detroit Lakes coordinating the installation process.

The MPCA Detroit Lakes office was notified in August that they will receive an additional staff person in their office to assist with monitoring. This person will work with Bruce Paakh, Goeken, and Halvorson to cover the monitoring needs in the Red River Basin.

Drainage Work Group

Manager Wilkens reported that the Drainage Work Group (DWG) meeting was held on August 10th in Eagen, MN. The DWG is charged by the legislature to make recommendations on changes to the Drainage Code in October or November for the upcoming session. The group met last year and again this year and recently requested Manager Wilkens and Warren Seykora to serve on the work group representing the Red River Basin.

The DWG is looking at ways to enhance grass buffer strips, standardize and improve drainage records, use of ditch funds, and Best Management Practices relating to drainage. Manager Wilkens represents the RRWMB, the Minnesota Association of Drainage Inspectors (MADI), and the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) on this work group.

Red River Basin Commission

Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator – RRBC, commended the Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD) on hosting a tour of the watershed on August 2, 2006. The tour featured water detention structures, drainage practices, no till farming, and wetland restoration and included presentations by the board of managers.

The next RRBC board meeting and retreat is scheduled for November 1-2, 2006 in Grand Forks, ND.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that there was no Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting this month. He reported that following the August board meeting, the TAC reviewed the draft resolution of support for the development of a basin-wide digital elevation model (DEM) which was distributed at the meeting and agreed to recommend that the board pass the resolution.

Basin-wide Digital Elevation Model

Charles Fritz, Director-International Water Institute (IWI), conducted a presentation regarding the basin-wide Digital Elevation Model (DEM) initiative. He explained that there is a documented need in the Red River Basin to acquire high-resolution topographic data and develop a seamless digital elevation model that can be used for a wide variety of resource management planning, project development, and decision support purposes.

The cost of the initiative for the U.S. portion of the Red River of the North basin is approximately \$4.5 - \$5.0 million dollars.

Fritz referred to the draft resolution of support for the development of a basin-wide DEM which was distributed at the August monthly board meeting. Following discussion, the board agreed to authorize a resolution of support contingent upon securing a matching financial commitment from North Dakota and other state, federal and local partners representing lands outside of the RRWMB who will benefit from the digital elevation model.

Motion by Manager Osowski to authorize a resolution of support to fund up to \$500,000 (or 10% of the total project cost, whichever is less) for a high-resolution data collection and digital elevation model project beginning in the spring of 2007 contingent upon securing a matching financial commitment from North Dakota and other state, federal and local partners, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

The Board of Managers also directed the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to develop a request for proposals describing the scope and technical components of a basin digital elevation model for the Red River of the North Basin.

Administrator Report

A) Financial Coordinator Job Description

N. Erickson reported that the Human Resource Committee met on August 2, 2006 in Mahanomen, MN to discuss filling the vacated position of Financial Coordinator. A draft job description and classified advertisement were reviewed and adopted by the committee.

The committee directed N. Erickson to submit the classified ad for publication in the Star Tribune, Fargo Forum, and Grand Forks Herald for a two week time period. The committee also directed N. Erickson to request that the ad be posted on the Minnesota Association of Watershed District's (MAWD) website, and the Red River Basin Commission's (RRBC) website. The classified ad can also be found on the RRWMB website at www.rrwmb.org.

B) Farmstead Ring Dike Program

N. Erickson reported that on July 28, 2006, an assessment of member watershed districts relative to the rural ring dike program was conducted in order to compile information for the distribution of the \$125,000 funding that was approved during the current legislative session. In addition, member districts were requested to develop cost estimates for the ring dikes that are planned for construction during the 06-07 season, as well as a prioritization schedule.

The funding for the Farmstead Ring Dike Program for eligible watershed districts for fiscal year 2007 was authorized and allocated as follows:

Watershed District	Year 2007 Ring Dike Funding Allocation
Roseau River WD (2)	\$ 40,000
Two Rivers WD (1)	17,500
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD (2)	20,000
Red Lake WD (2)	<u>47,500</u>
Total	<u>\$ 125,000</u>

C) Funding Commitments Worksheet

N. Erickson stated that on August 2, 2006, an updated spreadsheet of RRWMB committed funds to member watershed districts and/or other organizations relative to project and/or program funding for 2006 was distributed to member watershed districts.

Member districts reviewed the spreadsheet for accuracy relative to pertinent information for their respective watershed districts. An updated spreadsheet was distributed for review at the board meeting.

D) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. 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. All wetland permits have been secured regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). Other permits have been received from Ross Township, Roseau County, and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The only permits now remaining to obtain are the DNR Dam Safety permit and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Phase 1 construction will begin this year and will consist of constructing several farm ring dikes. Bid opening for these will be held on August 22, 2006. Construction on the main dike, ridge dike, outlet structure, emergency spillway, and inlet ditches will begin next year.
- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported on the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management (Helgeland Site) project. The mediated agreement with the appellants has been signed. This ends the legal challenge to the project. Only one appeal to damages remains.

Plans are to begin the project team as soon as possible, with construction planned to start in 2007.

- The Red Lake WD reported on the Project No. 60 – Grand Marais project. Construction on the Euclid East Impoundment started on June 14, 2006. Approximately 75% of the entire project has been completed, with 98% of the common excavation and borrow completed. The installation of the principal outlet structure remains to be completed, along with some seeding.

The permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the construction of the Brandt Impoundment was received, and the district issued the “Order to Proceed” on July 31, 2006.

The district has been in contact with Ron Harnack, Executive Director of the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR), regarding a groundbreaking ceremony. Due to the fast pace of construction on both sites, it was agreed that a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Governor’s office would be more appropriate sometime during the month of October.

District’s Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on September 19, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 11:10 a.m. following lunch and a tour of the PL 566 Project.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator