

Red River Watershed Management Board

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Naomi Erickson, Administrator-Detroit Lakes

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

September 19, 2006

Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, September 19, 2006, 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 Orville Knott
Daniel Wilkens Robert Wright
Jerome Deal

Others present were: Naomi Erickson, Administrator
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering
Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office
Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering
Blake Carlson, Engineer, JOR Engineering
Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD
Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
Steve Dalen, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD
Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering
Keith Mykelseth, The Nature Conservancy

Manager Erickson requested that the Hay Creek Project be discussed under *District Reports*.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to approve the minutes as written with minor corrections, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**.

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. **Motion** by Manager Osowski to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **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 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. Monitoring of turbidity TMDL projects has expanded as a “watershed” approach is being used. Rather than concentrate on the lower end of several of the watersheds where the turbidity TMDLs are listed, more sites are being monitored further upstream to determine where each river is considered non-impaired. Downstream tributaries are also being monitored.

While it is necessary in order to determine where sediment loading is coming from, it has added many more sites to the monitoring effort. The extra lab costs are not substantial as only total suspended solids are being analyzed. The extra mileage and time involved to do the sampling is the major commitment to this expanded effort.

Red River Basin Commission

Manager Wilkens reported on the board meeting conducted on September 7, 2006 in Fargo, ND.

Representatives from federal agencies were in attendance to present annual reports and respond to questions of the board.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting and discussed the Agricultural Tile Drainage Study previously funded by the RRWMB. The RRWMB obtained the services of a graduate student with the University of Minnesota, under the supervision of Dr. Gary Sands, to develop design criteria for tile drainage systems in the Red River Basin. The TAC will schedule a meeting with Dr. Sands to discuss the results of the study.

Thul noted that a workshop has been tentatively scheduled for the first week in October in Moorhead, MN at the Red River Basin Commission in order utilize the MIKE 11 model to develop goals for each watershed district with regard to reducing peak flows on the mainstem.

Administrator Report

A) Financial Coordinator Position

N. Erickson reported that the Human Resource Committee will meet following the regular monthly meeting today to review the Request for Proposals (RFPs) received for the position of Financial Coordinator.

Following discussion, the board directed the Human Resource Committee to conduct interviews prior to the next monthly meeting for the position of Financial Coordinator and develop a recommendation for the October board meeting.

B) Farmstead Ring Dike Program

At the regular monthly meeting held on August 15, 2006, the allocation of funding for the Farmstead Ring Dike Program for fiscal year 2007 was authorized.

The allocation of the \$125,000 legislative funding for eligible watershed districts is 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)	47,500
Total	<u>\$ 125,000</u>

Steve Dalen, Administrator-Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD), explained that the WRWD had inadvertently not responded to the ring dike assessment that was previously conducted. He stated that five applicants were prioritized for ring dike construction in June and inquired whether any other funding options were available. Manager Finney responded that although the 2007 legislative funding had already been authorized, that pursuing additional funding from the legislature in order to construct the remaining farmstead ring dikes needed in the basin is an issue that will be addressed when the position of Financial Coordinator has been filled.

C) Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC) Funding Guidelines

N. Erickson reported that at the May 17, 2006 Funding Committee meeting, the following recommendation was developed and subsequently adopted at the June 7, 2006 Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group meeting:

TSAC Coordination Meetings Expense Eligibility

For TSAC members whose participation in TSAC meetings is billable (i.e., JOR, Houston, MCEA), starting July 1, 2006 expenses and time for their participation in TSAC Coordination meetings will be paid by their parent organizations.

Expenses and time for their work on specific, FDRWG-authorized projects will be paid from accounts and funding sources established specifically for those projects. The amount of project-specific funds allocated to each person (consultant) will be determined at the start of the project. No cost overruns for those allocations will be paid without the approval of the FDRWG.

The funding source for all TSAC meetings, whether for Coordination or project-specific, will be clearly stated prior to the meeting. TSAC member invoices to the RRWMB must clearly state the project to which the hours and expenses apply.

Following discussion, the board agreed that a cap of \$2,000 for fiscal year 2007 should be established for consultants sponsored by the board participating with TSAC Coordination meetings. **Motion** by Manager Knott to authorize a cap of \$2,000 for TSAC committee members sponsored by the RRWMB participating with TSAC Coordination meetings for fiscal year 2007, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

D) Legislative Audit Commission

N. Erickson explained that the Legislative Audit Commission directed the office of the Legislative Auditor to prepare a report on watershed management in Minnesota. One part of this study involves an in-depth look at fifteen entities such as watershed districts, watershed management organizations, soil and water conservation districts, counties, and watersheds.

On August 25, 2006 she participated in a phone conversation with a representative from the Legislative Auditor's office. Specifically, major water issues in geographic areas, what is being done to address those issues, coordination among planning entities, and perceptions about the effectiveness of the local efforts were addressed.

E) Information Data Request

N. Erickson reported that she received a request for information dated September 12, 2006 regarding loan applications/requests the RRWMB received from member watershed districts from January 1, 2006 to the present. The board directed N. Erickson to forward the request to legal counsel to prepare a response.

F) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. Annual U.S. Geological Survey Red River Valley Co-op Meeting, Cass County Highway Department, Tuesday, October 17, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.
2. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, Wednesday, October 31, 2006, Holiday Inn-Lakeside, Detroit Lakes, MN.

District Reports

- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported on the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management (Helgeland Site) project. The District Court's Notice of Entry of Judgment with regard to the non-appealing landowners for the project has been received. With this action and the agreement with the last appealing landowner, the District has purchased all remaining lands required for the project.

The necessary requirements for permitting have begun with construction anticipated to begin early in 2007.

- The Red Lake WD reported on Ditch No. 11, Project No. 166. The final hearing for the petition to improve 6 ¼ miles of Polk County Ditch No. 40 was held on July 20, 2006 at the Northland Community College of East Grand Forks, MN. The District is presently awaiting the 30-day appeal period and has also advertised for bids on the project. Bids will be opened at the October 12, 2006 regularly scheduled board meeting.

The Board of Managers have approved the final plans and specifications for the construction of the new office building and have instructed the architect to proceed with advertising for bids. Bids for the new office building will also be opened at the October 12, 2006 regularly scheduled board meeting.

- The Wild Rice WD reported on the South Branch Storage project. The District has continued with its investigation of the off-channel alternative site selection by completing soil borings on site no. 3, which was deemed the most preferable alternative by landowners who have attended informational meetings. The report from Midwest Testing will be presented at the regular board meeting scheduled for October 11, 2006 and should assist the board in their selection of a preferred off-channel alignment. The preliminary survey of the tributary site vicinity (road, culverts, etc.) has been completed.

The geotechnical investigations of the upper tributary sites are currently taking place in order to determine the suitability for potential dike construction.

Informational packets for affected landowners have been mailed. Such mailings will be updated on an as needed basis.

Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD, reported that she had been contacted by a citizen of the WRWD regarding the issue of the RRWMB authorizing interim financing to the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD for the Agassiz Valley Water Management project. She indicated that member districts levy funds and remit one-half of those funds to the RRWMB and retain the other one-half to implement local projects. Member districts can submit funding requests to the board in an effort to apply for the funds that were previously remitted to the RRWMB. Manager Wilkens responded that prior to the establishment of the RRWMB, individual watershed districts could only levy for administration. Since legislation was passed authorizing

the establishment of the RRWMB, member watershed districts are able to keep one-half of the levy in their local watershed district to address local issues, while the remaining one-half is forwarded to the RRWMB to be used for projects that provide mainstem benefits.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

Hay Creek Project

Rob Sando, Administrator-Roseau River WD (RRWD), reported on the status of the Hay Creek Project. He explained that he was notified by the District's auditor to return the funding previously received from the RRWMB for land acquisition to the RRWMB since the project is unable to progress according to its original design specifications. Significant changes have occurred to the original project design which would require a revised Step I submittal to the RRWMB for consideration.

Motion by Manager Osowski to accept the return of funding previously authorized in the amount of \$325,000 from the RRWMB to the Roseau River Watershed District for land acquisition for the Hay Creek Project due to the inability of the project to progress according to the original project design, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

Administrator Sando explained that although the project has been modified significantly from its original design, it is still progressing under revised design modifications. He requested that the original funding request of \$325,000 be remitted back to the Roseau River Watershed District to be used for the revised project. **Motion** by Manager Erickson to authorize Pay Request No. 1 of \$325,000 for the revised Hay Creek Project, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

Following discussion, the board agreed to rescind the motion authorizing Pay Request No. 1 for \$325,000 for the revised Hay Creek Project. **Motion** by Manager Erickson to rescind the motion authorizing Pay Request No. 1 for \$325,000 for the revised Hay Creek Project, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

Administrator Sando requested that the RRWMB consider authorizing a funding request of \$400,000 for the revised Hay Creek Project. **Motion** by Manager Knott to authorize Pay Request No. 1 of \$400,000 for the revised Hay Creek Project, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, **Carried**.

The next meeting will be on October 17, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. at the City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator