

# 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

October 17, 2006

Roseau River Watershed District, Roseau, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, October 17, 2006, at the Roseau River Watershed District, Roseau, Minnesota.

Chairman John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were: Farrell Erickson Dan Money  
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  
Mike Bakken, 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  
Jeff Hane, Attorney, Brink Sobolik Severson Malm & Albrecht PA  
Allison Frislie, Roseau River WD  
Todd Miller, Roseau River WD

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 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 Erickson, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

### **Red River Basin Commission**

Manager Wilkens reported on the status of the LiDAR study of the RRBC. The PFRA Federal Canadian Agency has funding for a LiDAR project in the Pembina River Watershed, mostly in North Dakota. This study together with the culvert study and the Choke Point Modeling will provide new information that will directly impact possible solutions to the Pembina area flooding.

Manager Wilkens stated that the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit Conference – “Ripple Effect: Working Today for a Better Tomorrow” – is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23 – Thursday, January 25, 2007 at the Ramada Plaza Suites, Fargo, ND. The planning committee is currently finalizing the details of the conference.

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

In the absence of Wayne Goeken, the project monitoring monthly report was distributed. Limited sampling again occurred over the past month due to low flow conditions. Rains that were experienced tended not to increase stream flows much if at all, but rather were absorbed for the most part due to relatively dry soil conditions.

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

Thul stated that there was no Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting this month. He 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 plans to schedule a meeting in the near future with Dr. Sands to discuss the results of the study.

Thul reported that Charlie Anderson attended a workshop 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. He stated that Anderson will discuss the results of the workshop at the next TAC meeting.

### **Administrator Report**

#### **A) Financial Coordinator Position**

N. Erickson reported that the Human Resource Committee conducted interviews on Wednesday, September 27, 2006 at the Northland Inn, Crookston, Minnesota for the position of Financial Coordinator. Based on the responses of the committee members at today’s meeting, the committee will offer a recommendation for a candidate to fill the position of Financial Coordinator.

#### **B) Annual Report**

The accounting firm of Dahl, Hatton, Muir & Reese of Hallock has completed the audit of financial information for the RRWMB and the information needed to prepare the annual report was delivered to Kris Versdahl & Associates. Ms. Versdahl plans to post the 2005 Annual Report on the website, as well as coordinate with the Quick Print Center for preparation of printed copies. An estimate of \$200.00 (\$8.00 per report) for 25 copies was received. Ms. Versdahl also suggested that CDs could be made available at a cost of \$1 per copy.

Following discussion, the board agreed to authorize printing 80 copies of the 2005 Annual Report and, in addition, not prepare CDs for distribution. The board also discussed scanning all previous annual reports for posting on the RRWMB website. **Motion** by Manager Wright to authorize Kris Versdahl to scan all prior copies of annual reports to post on the RRWMB website, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**.

**C) Hay Creek Project**

At the September board meeting, the status of the above-mentioned project was discussed. Significant changes have occurred to the original project design which require a revised Step I submittal to the RRWMB for consideration. A tour of the project will be conducted today with a revised Step I submittal presented to the board.

**D) Clean Water Legacy Act**

N. Erickson explained that a resolution for Fiscal Year 2007 Clean Water Legacy Act – Surface Water Assessment Grants was forwarded from MPCA for approval at today's meeting. A grant proposal is currently being developed which includes the following goals and objectives:

Project Goals:

The Red River Watershed Management Board will work cooperatively to establish a comprehensive monitoring network, using technical assistance from the MPCA, and local units of government and citizen monitors to collect data, to complete the dataset necessary to assess the attainment of water quality standards for the major watersheds of the Red River of the North, measure project effectiveness, investigate resource problems, support impaired waters studies and work with North Dakota and Manitoba to manage water resources.

Project Objectives:

1. Hire and train two staff to provide water quality and flow collection, reporting and analysis.
2. Create the position of Basin Monitoring Coordinator to oversee the Red River Basin Water Quality Monitoring Network, to coordinate with local partners and to establish dialogue with North Dakota and Manitoba on monitoring issues.
3. Convene advisory group routinely to review project activities.
4. Assess participation by localities and provide resources to meet local monitoring needs.
5. Work collaboratively to define a long-term funding strategy for the network.
6. Oversee water quality monitoring, the reporting of results and the management of the data, including entry into the STORET system.

**Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize the resolution of support for Fiscal Year 2007 Clean Water Legacy Act – Surface Water Assessment Grants, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

**E) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences**

1. Ecology of the Aspen Parkland – Life at the Edge, October 23-24, 2006, University of Minnesota-Crookston, Crookston, MN.
2. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, Wednesday, October 31, 2006, Holiday Inn-Lakeside, Detroit Lakes, MN.
3. Red River Basin Commission Board Retreat and Meeting, November 1-2, 2006, Holiday Inn, Grand Forks, ND.
4. MAWD 36th Annual Meeting & Trade Show, November 30 – December 2, 2006, at the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center, Alexandria, MN.

## **District Reports**

- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported on the Public Law 566 (Snake River Watershed) project. The project is now complete with only some areas of the Snake River remaining to be re-zoned out of the flood plain. This process is estimated to take one to two years. The backfilling of the diversion structure has also been completed. Wetland mitigation of the Off-Channel Storage Site continues.
- The Red Lake WD reported on the new building project. The board has approved the final plans and specifications for the construction of the new building and has instructed the architect to proceed with the advertising for bids. Bids were opened for the construction of the new building October 12, 2006 at the District office. Four contractors submitted bids for the project, with the low bid being awarded to Schmitz Builders, Inc. from Red Lake Falls, MN in the amount of \$596,000.00. The board issued the order to proceed with plans of completing the new office building in the spring.
- The Wild Rice WD reported on the South Branch Storage project. Boring analysis on the upstream sites were completed on 6 sites of which 4 were favorable to support retention structures. There were alternative sites identified for the lower off-channel area. Because of the soil analysis, Site No. 3 has been eliminated from further consideration. The District will continue to investigate the lower area through soil analysis to identify the potential for a physically feasible site this fall.
- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that progress on the North Ottawa project has continued over the past month. Comstock Construction has completed work on the outlet structures so that the contract will be closed out. The structures are all in place, outlet and inlet pipes have been laid, cement work has been completed, rip rap has been installed, and the gates are ready for operation.

Midwest Construction, Inc. is continuing with earthwork. The rains over the last month have delayed some of the core dike construction. Work has continued on the interior dikes and more work on perimeter ditches has occurred.

## **District's Funding Requests**

### **1. Roseau River WD / Hay Creek Project, Revised Step I Submittal:**

A tour of the project was conducted prior to lunch. The status of the above-mentioned project was discussed following the tour. Significant changes have occurred to the original project design which require a revised Step I submittal to the RRWMB for consideration. **Motion** by Manager Erickson to remove the original Hay Creek Project of the Roseau River WD from the list of Step I approvals of the RRWMB, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Sando explained that he was notified by the District's auditor to return the funding previously received from the RRWMB for land acquisition for the original Hay Creek Project to the RRWMB since the project is unable to progress according to its original design specifications. N. Erickson stated that she had contacted the auditor following the September board meeting to discuss the funding previously advanced by the RRWMB for the Hay Creek Project. N. Erickson reported that Mr. Hatton stated that since the project is still progressing that it would not be necessary for the Roseau River WD to return the funding requests previously authorized by the RRWMB. Following discussion, the board agreed to rescind the motions adopted at the September 19, 2006 board meeting. **Motion** by Manager Erickson to rescind the motions

related as a whole to the Hay Creek Project that were adopted at the September 19, 2006 board meeting, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Sando distributed copies of the revised Step I submittal to the board for review. **Motion** by Manager Erickson to accept the revised Step I submittal for the Hay Creek Project, **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**.

### **Human Resource Committee**

Manager Deal, Chair of the Human Resource Committee, reported that interviews were conducted on Wednesday, September 27, 2006 in the boardroom of the Northland Inn, Crookston, Minnesota for the position of Financial Coordinator.

A list of the candidate names, in their respective order of interview, was distributed to each Human Resource Committee member. Mr. Deal requested that each committee member identify their candidate of choice when called. The responses of the Human Resource Committee members were as follows: John Finney – Ron Harnack; Farrell Erickson – Ron Harnack; Daniel Wilkens – Ron Harnack; and Jerome Deal – Ron Harnack.

Manager Deal reported that based on the responses of the committee members, it is recommended that Ron Harnack be offered the position of Financial Coordinator. **Motion** by Manager Money to authorize the Human Resource Committee to offer the position of Financial Coordinator to Ron Harnack and proceed with negotiating a contract, **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**.

### **Farmstead Ring Dike Program**

Steve Dalen, Administrator-Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD), referred to the ring dike assessment that was previously conducted by the RRWMB. He explained that the WRWD inadvertently did not forward a response to the assessment, and inquired whether any other funding options were available. **Motion** by Manager Wright to authorize \$7,500 for the Farmstead Ring Dike Program for FY2007 to the Wild Rice WD, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Manager Finney reiterated that pursuing funding from the legislature in order to construct the remaining farmstead ring dikes needed in the basin is an issue that will be addressed by the RRWMB in the near future.

### **Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD**

Nick Drees, Administrator-Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District (MSTWD), presented a promissory note made by the MSTWD to describe repayment of the loan of \$1,700,000 made by the RRWMB to the MSTWD to facilitate the timely and effective implementation of the Agassiz Valley Water Management Project. The note was authorized at the October 16, 2006 MSTWD board meeting and signed by Chair, Doug Sorenson. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to accept the promissory note from the MSTWD to describe repayment of the loan of \$1,700,000 for the Agassiz Valley Water Management Project, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Manager Wilkens explained that he attended the October board meeting of the MSTWD to explain the history and operating procedures of the RRWMB. Drees reported that the Board of Managers passed a resolution of

support towards the efforts of the RRWMB at their October board meeting and stated that he would forward a copy of the signed resolution to the RRWMB for their records.

Following discussion, the board agreed that the history of the RRWMB as presented by Manager Wilkens at the MSTWD board meeting would be an excellent topic for the upcoming March Conference.

The next meeting will be on November 21, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert Wright  
Secretary

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Naomi L. Erickson  
Administrator