

Red River Watershed Management Board

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Board of Managers

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RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

November 21, 2006

Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, November 21, 2006, at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, 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
Mike Bakken, Engineer, JOR Engineering
Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering
Blake Carlson, Engineer, JOR Engineering
Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator
Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office
Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD
Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD
Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
Steve Dalen, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD
Jim Skaurud, Wild Rice WD
Lance Yohe, Executive Director, RRBC
Jim Ziegler, Unit Supervisor-MPCA
Don Buckhout, MNDNR Red River Basin Coordinator

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 Erickson to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**. A one-page handout of monthly bills to be approved was distributed. **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Knott, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Red River Basin Commission

Lance Yohe, Executive Director-RRBC, discussed the MIKE 11 Hydrologic Model currently being developed. The primary purpose of the mainstem model is to help predict the downstream effect of changes made upstream. Tributary inflows to the model will be altered with the effect to appear as a change in the downstream hydrograph. The goal of the modeling effort is to find feasible ways to reduce mainstem flood flows by identifying what is needed in different areas of the watershed and evaluating the effect of proposed projects as well as the cumulative effects of a combination of projects throughout the Red River Basin.

Yohe noted that the RRBC is planning to host a training session for the Access database program. He encouraged attendance of RRWMB employees should they be interested.

Yohe requested the Board of Managers to consider the appointment of delegates and alternates to the RRBC. The current board members representing the RRWMB on the RRBC are as follows: Daniel Wilkens and John Finney delegates; and Ron Osowski and Robert Wright alternates. **Motion** by Manager Deal to re-appoint Daniel Wilkens and John Finney as delegates, and Ron Osowski and Robert Wright as alternates to the RRBC for the term 2007-2009, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator, distributed a handout regarding Flood Damage Reduction, Condition, and TMDL monitoring activities.

Goeken explained that he reviewed input from various monitoring partners in the Red River Basin regarding monitoring proposals in response to an MPCA Surface Water Assessment Grant. He noted that he developed and submitted a pre-proposal on behalf of the RRWMB to MPCA for a grant to support a comprehensive and coordinated water quality monitoring program in the Red River Basin of Minnesota by identifying and filling gaps in coverage and building the capacity and participation of local partners.

Goeken further added that the proposed project will provide funding to monitoring partners to conduct monitoring in their areas and provide equipment as needed for the 2007-2008 monitoring seasons. River Watch (RW) monitoring will be a central part of the monitoring coverage and provides over \$130,000 as in-kind contributions for the RW teams' time involved in monitoring.

TMDL permitting restrictions were addressed by Nate Dalager-HDR Engineering, Inc. and Jim Ziegler-MPCA. Dalager discussed the recent difficulties that were encountered by the Red Lake WD with regard to a standard ditch improvement project. The project involved the Grand Marais River which had recently been designated an impaired waters. Dalager noted that should a body of water be classified as impaired, Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as provisions for erosion control must be developed and included in a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3). The SWP3 that was required in conjunction with this project stated that the project would be constructed in phases which assisted in obtaining permit approval from MPCA.

Jim Ziegler-MPCA explained that the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) has design requirements for permanent stormwater management systems. Any project that creates one or more acres of new impervious surface must treat a volume of one-half inch of runoff from those new impervious surfaces prior to the runoff leaving the construction site or entering surface waters located within the project site.

The NPDES permit has specific design requirements for wet sedimentation basins, infiltration / filtration systems, regional ponds or combinations thereof. Any stormwater system, or project, that does not meet the requirements outlined is most likely subject to additional review and monitoring requirements. Ziegler further noted that projects should be reviewed on a case by case basis and commended the Red Lake WD for their efforts to address short term impacts.

Nick Drees, Administrator-Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD, noted his concern relative to whether the NPDES design requirements could be prohibitive with regard to ditch maintenance projects. Manager Deal suggested developing a process to inform ditch authorities of the NPDES requirements and noted that this issue could be addressed at the upcoming March Conference.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting and discussed the Hay Creek project of the Roseau River WD.

The Hay Creek project has a Star Value Method ranking of 18. The proposed project calls for 5,542 acre-feet of gated storage and 1,850 acre-feet of ungated storage to the emergency spillway with the Norland Impoundment. The impoundment captures 3" of direct runoff from a 34 square-mile drainage area for spring runoff and 2" for summer events. The impoundment will be ~ 3,000 acres with outlet culverts to be set at natural ground levels to restore wetland hydrology.

The Ag Diked Storage area (6,424 acre-feet) will store additional flood flows diverted from Hay Creek utilizing overflow weirs. Operable gates may be included as an enhancement.

Setback levees along Hay Creek will be part of the Ag Dike storage dikes. The setback levees will be 250 feet back from the channel on both sides and will provide 394 acres floodplain corridor and planted to native vegetation.

Administrator Report

A) Financial Coordinator Position

N. Erickson reported that the Human Resource Committee met following the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group meeting on October 31, 2006 to discuss the terms of the contract with Ron Harnack. Mr. Harnack is scheduled to assume the duties of Financial Coordinator for the board on January 10, 2007.

B) Annual Report

The 2005 Annual Report has been prepared and copies are available at the close of today's meeting.

C) Governing Documents / Draft Amendment to Funding Procedures

N. Erickson stated that a draft amendment to Section 4, Application Procedures for Funding Flood Damage Reduction Projects and Related Programs has been prepared by Smith Partners. The amendment provides explicit authorization to the board's procedures for providing loans to member watershed districts and requires a three-fourths majority vote of the board.

Following discussion, the board inquired whether the three-fourths majority voting requirement should be used for the amendment. N. Erickson stated that she would contact Smith Partners to inquire whether a two-thirds or three-fourths majority vote should be required.

D) Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

N. Erickson stated that she was contacted by Molly MacGregor-MPCA regarding board authorization of year three of the Red River Basin Turbidity Impairment project. Jim Ziegler explained that the project is a regional approach for reducing sediment in the Red River Basin in Minnesota. SWAT modeling in one selected watershed will be conducted by the Energy and Environmental Research Center-UND under contract to the RRWMB.

Motion by Manager Deal to authorize year three of the Red River Basin Turbidity Impairment project, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

E) Smith Partners PLLP

N. Erickson noted that as of November 20th, Smith Partners has moved their office location and their new address will be: Old Republic Title Building, 400 Second Avenue South, Suite 1200, Minneapolis, MN 55401. Their phone numbers and email addresses will remain the same.

F) ADA Meeting

The Association of District Administrators conducted a meeting on Thursday, November 2, 2006 at the Holiday Inn, Alexandria, MN. A Key Messages Workshop was presented that included meeting with representatives of TeamWorks International-LaBreche Murray. This firm introduced strategic thinking and adaptive strategy development concepts and provided an overview of the processes used to develop a strategic communications plan and its implementation.

The objective of this meeting was to identify the key messages that would apply to all watershed districts. The key messages will be used in the development of an overall communication strategy at the ADA workshop at the MAWD Annual Meeting on November 30.

G) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. 7th Annual Minnesota/Iowa Drainage Research Forum, November 28, 2006 at Cabela's, Owatonna, MN.
2. MAWD 36th Annual Meeting & Trade Show, November 30 – December 2, 2006, at the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center, Alexandria, MN.
3. 24th Annual Summit Conference – "Ripple Effect: Working Today for a Better Tomorrow," Tuesday, January 23 – Thursday, January 25, 2007 at the Ramada Plaza Suites, Fargo, ND.

District Reports

- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported on the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project. The appeal period for the non-appealing landowners has expired. All lands required for the project have been acquired. The necessary requirements for permits has begun and the District anticipates construction to begin early in 2007.
- The Red Lake WD reported on the Grand Marais Outlet Restoration. The District has scheduled an informational landowner meeting for November 27, 2006 in Alvarado, Minnesota. This is the second meeting scheduled to gather input from the public for a project in Esther Township of Polk County, which among many things, would restore portions of the Grand Marais Creek Channel close to its original flows. This project was identified as part of the Governor's Clean Water Legacy.
- The Wild Rice WD reported on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) sedimentation analysis. Houston Engineering, Inc. is conducting cross-section work on the mainstem of the Wild Rice River which will allow the first phase of the sedimentation analysis to proceed toward a spring of 2007 completion. Real time data will be collected for the next 5 years to enhance the sediment movement documented in phase 1. This data will be crucial in the detention site location as well as final design of the structure to reduce flood damages.
- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that the construction pace has picked up over the last month on the North Ottawa project. Conditions have been drier than recognized previously.

The contract with Comstock Construction has been finalized and closed. Final payment was made on November 16, 2006 after the final hearing on the contract was held.

Midwest Construction, Inc. is continuing with earthwork. Borrow material is still a little too wet to get good compaction and with the drying time taking longer at this time of year, the dike core construction has slowed down. The good news is the project is still progressing. A major part of the contract was completed with the installation of large double-box culverts under Grant County Road No. 40 to accommodate the flows in the inlet channel. The inlet channel excavation is mostly complete. Two more weeks of construction weather would probably complete all of the work in the Midwest contract other than permanent seeding in the spring.

Topsoil removal in the area of the diversion ditch has been completed. Payments to local landowners are being made promptly.

District's Funding Requests

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

A tour of the revised Hay Creek Project as well as the information required for a Step I submittal was distributed to the board for review at the previous monthly meeting.

Motion by Manager Deal to authorize the Step I submittal of the Hay Creek Project, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

Mediated Negotiations

Manager Deal reported that a subsequent meeting relative to the mediated negotiations between the RRWMB and the Buffalo-Red River WD was conducted following the Human Resource Committee meeting on October 31, 2006. Another meeting is being scheduled in conjunction with the upcoming MAWD Annual Meeting.

Legislative Briefing

Don Buckhout, MDNR, commended the board on the revisions to the RRWMB website. He stated that he has been working with Ms. Versdahl with regard to adding information to the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group's segment on the website.

Buckhout stated that a meeting with area legislators is being planned in conjunction with the January Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group meeting. In an effort to encourage attendance from legislators, the Work Group scheduled their January 17, 2007 meeting at the Kelly Inn, St. Paul, MN. Buckhout inquired about the possibility of the RRWMB sponsoring the legislative briefing.

Following discussion, the board determined that the January RRWMB scheduled for January 16th could be conducted at the Kelly Inn in St. Paul in order to facilitate board member attendance at the legislative briefing and Work Group meeting. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize sponsoring a legislative briefing on Red River Basin issues in conjunction with the upcoming Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group meeting, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

The next meeting will be on December 19, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator