



Red River Watershed Management Board

Board of Managers

John Finney, President-Humboldt Steve Lee-Badger Dan Money-Hallock Ron Osowski-Oslo
Orville Knott, Vice President-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

January 16, 2007

Kelly Inn, St. Paul, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, January 16, 2007, at the Kelly Inn, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Chairman John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

Rob Sando	Dan Money
Ron Osowski	Orville Knott
Daniel Wilkens	Robert Wright
Jerome Deal	

Others present were:

- Naomi Erickson, Administrator
- Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
- Paul Swenson, MDNR, Natural Resource Tribal Liaison
- John Nelson, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD
- Ray Bohn, MAWD
- Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD
- Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD
- Steve Dalen, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
- Warren Seykora, Wild Rice WD
- Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD
- Jim Skaurud, Wild Rice WD
- Roger Hanson, Sand Hill River WD
- Don Buckhout, MNDNR Red River Basin Coordinator
- Lance Yohe, Executive Director, RRBC
- Louis Smith, Attorney, Smith Partners, PLLP
- Rick Foy, LaBreche-Murray, Public Relations
- Holly Johnson, TeamWorks International
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Scott Kahan, District Manager, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

No additional items were added to the agenda.

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

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. Discussion occurred regarding revising the Investment section of the Treasurer's report. **Motion** by Manager Money to approve the Treasurer's Report and revise the Investment section of the 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 Osowski, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Annual Board Organization

The Annual Board Organization was conducted. In the absence of the Vice President, President Finney turned the meeting over to Secretary Wright who asked for nominations for President of the Board. Manager Deal nominated Manager Finney for President. Nominations were called for three times by Manager Wright. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for John Finney for President by Manager Deal, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

President Finney asked for nominations for Vice President of the Board. Manager Osowski nominated Manager Knott for Vice President. Nominations were called for three times by President Finney. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Orville Knott for Vice President by Manager Deal, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, **Carried**.

President Finney asked for nominations for Secretary of the Board. Manager Deal nominated Manager Wright for Secretary. Nominations were called for three times by President Finney. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Robert Wright for Secretary by Manager Knott, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

President Finney asked for nominations for Treasurer of the Board. Manager Money nominated Manager Wilkens for Treasurer. Nominations were called for three times by President Finney. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Daniel Wilkens for Treasurer by Manager Deal, **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**.

Resolution Authorizing the Regular Monthly Meeting Date and Time

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the designation of the regular monthly meeting date and time at the regular board meeting held in St. Paul, MN, on Tuesday, January 16, 2007.

On a **motion** by Manager Knott, **seconded** by Manager Money, and on a vote of 7 for and 0 against, the motion passed to designate the third Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. as the regular monthly meeting date and time for the Red River Watershed Management Board.

Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Per Diem/Mileage to Managers

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the authorization of payment of per diem/mileage to Managers at the regular board meeting held in St. Paul, MN, on Tuesday, January 16, 2007.

On a **motion** by Manager Deal, **seconded** by Manager Osowski, and on a vote of 7 for and 0 against, the motion passed to allow the maximum per diem by state law which is currently \$75.00 per day and the maximum IRS limit for mileage which is currently .485 per mile unless a change occurs.

Resolution Authorizing Deposit/Investment of Funds

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the authorization of deposit/investment of funds at the regular board meeting held in St. Paul, MN, on Tuesday, January 16, 2007.

On a **motion** by Manager Deal, **seconded** by Manager Money, and on a vote of 7 for and 0 against, the motion passed to authorize the Red River Watershed Management Board to reaffirm the adoption of the Treasurer's Manual originally adopted on 4/19/91 and amended on 8/08/95, 1/18/00, and 3/16/04.

Resolution Authorizing Legal Counsel

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the authorization of legal counsel at the regular board meeting held in St. Paul, MN, on Tuesday, January 16, 2007.

On a **motion** by Manager Deal, **seconded** by Manager Osowski, and on a vote of 7 for and 0 against, the motion passed to obtain legal counsel on a case-by-case basis for the Red River Watershed Management Board.

Resolution Appointing Representatives to RRBFDWRWG

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the appointment of representatives to the RRBFDWRWG at the regular board meeting held in St. Paul, MN, on Tuesday, January 16, 2007.

On a **motion** by Manager Deal, **seconded** by Manager Knott, and on a vote of 7 for and 0 against, the motion passed to appoint Ron Osowski to the RRBFDWRWG to fill the vacated position of Farrell Erickson.

Project Coordinator Report

Harnack reported that he is looking forward to working with the board and member watershed districts. He plans to schedule meetings with each member watershed district to introduce himself

and discuss items currently being pursued in the legislature as well as those initiatives progressing in the respective watershed districts.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

In the absence of Wayne Goeken, the project monitoring monthly report was distributed. Preparations are underway for the River Watch Forum scheduled for March 13, 2007 held in conjunction with the International Water Institute's *International Water Conference* at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, ND. High school students involved with water quality monitoring of rivers throughout the Red River of the North Basin will share their perspectives and findings on the health of the basin's waters.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

In the absence of Dan Thul, there was no TAC meeting this month. Manager Wilkens referred to the discussion that occurred by the TAC regarding the development of a generic purpose and needs statement in support of impoundments in the Red River basin. The statement could be used by member watershed districts when preparing step applications for consideration by the board.

Nate Dalager noted that the TAC determined that the development of a generic purpose and needs statement should be tabled until the completion of the MIKE 11 model by the Red River Basin Commission.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to authorize a letter from the board be forwarded to the Red River Basin Commission encouraging the completion of the MIKE 11 model, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

Red River Basin Commission

Lance Yohe, Executive Director-RRBC, discussed the aforementioned MIKE 11 Hydrologic Model. Several engineers from throughout the basin have been requested to assist with the modeling effort. In terms of achieving basin-wide goals, a 20% flow reduction was agreed upon as an initial starting point for targeted main stem flow reduction.

Buckhout concurred with the board regarding forwarding a letter to the RRBC. He noted that in previous discussions with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, they have indicated that they would accept the MIKE 11 modeling results as determinative for tributary flow reduction goals.

Buckhout further suggested that another letter be forwarded from the board to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers relative to the board's decision regarding the Corps' proposal to consider various options for enhancing the permit coordination process. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize a letter from the board be forwarded to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding options for enhancing the permitting process, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

Administrator Report

A) IRS Standard Mileage Rate

N. Erickson reported that beginning January 1, 2007, the standard mileage rate for the use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be 48.5 cents per mile for business miles driven. The new rate for business miles compares to a rate of 44.5 cents per mile for 2006.

B) Year-end Tax Information

The 2006 year-end tax information has been prepared. The W-2's and 1099's for the board have been distributed. Please review the tax information for accuracy and report any discrepancies that should be corrected.

C) Ring Dike Funding Needs Assessment

On December 11, 2006, member districts were requested to compile a list of ring dikes that remain to be constructed within their respective district. The list was to include cost estimates and numbers of *both* applications on hand **and** potential eligible applicants with the goal of providing the legislature with a total number of ring dikes remaining to be constructed over the next two years. Responses are shown in the following table.

<u>Watershed District</u>	<u>Post FY07 Applications On-Hand</u>	<u>Potential Potential Applications</u>	<u>Total Construction Costs</u>
RLWD	Not Provided	Not Provided	\$ 75,500
MSTRWD	Not Provided	2	\$ 70 - 80,000
RRWD	6	0	\$ 280,000
TRWD	0	0	\$ 0
BdSWD	0	3	\$ 120,000
WRWD	21	0	\$ 735,000
Total			\$~ 1,290,500

D) Stream Gaging Program

The cost share payments for USGS Stream Gages for the 2006-2007 contracts have been forwarded to the member watershed districts for reimbursement.

E) Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

N. Erickson reported that she received the Professional and Technical Services contract between the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the RRWMB for the Red River Basin Turbidity Impairment Project for the term of January 30, 2007 through December 31, 2008. The budget period is from November 1, 2006 – December 31, 2008 and the project amount is as follows: 319 TMDL - \$100,000; CWLA - \$100,000; and, RRWMB - \$41,500.

F) Information Policy Analysis Division

N. Erickson reported that a letter dated December 22, 2006 was received from the Commissioner of Administration regarding an advisory opinion requested from a citizen relative to a letter dated October 13, 2006. The data request related to adopted loan guidelines of the RRWMB.

Louis Smith of Smith Partners prepared a response and it was forwarded to the Commissioner of Administration regarding the citizen inquiry.

G) Farrell Erickson Resignation

N. Erickson stated that it is with great regret that she informs the Board that Manager Farrell Erickson has tendered his resignation as the Roseau River Watershed District representative to the RRWMB. Mr. Erickson served as their representative for over a 10-year period. The RRWMB will recognize Mr. Erickson in the near future for his years of dedicated service.

At their January 9, 2007 board meeting, the Roseau River Watershed District Board of Managers designated Steve Lee, of Badger, MN as their RRWMB representative. The RRWMB welcomes Mr. Lee as its newest member.

H) Public Information Committee

The Public Information Committee met following the December 19, 2006 board meeting. The Committee discussed developing a Request for Proposal with regard to obtaining consulting services to assist the board and/or its member districts. The Committee agreed to schedule another meeting prior to the January 16, 2007 board meeting in order to develop a Request for Proposal for consulting services.

I) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. 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.
2. March Conference, Thursday, March 29, 2007, Northland Inn, Crookston, MN.
3. 2007 MAWD Legislative Breakfast & ADA Meeting, March 14-15, 2007.

District Reports

- The Red Lake WD reported on the Project No. 60 – Grand Marais project.
 1. **Grand Marais Outlet Restoration:** The Board of Managers have decided to try to find funding partners for the Preliminary Engineer’s Report for the project. It is estimated that the report may cost approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000. The project is another phase of the Governor’s Clean Water Cabinet Pilot Project which among many things will restore portions of the Grand Marais Creek Channel which were abandoned in the early 1900s. The District will try to develop the project with the cooperation of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District and a Project Team comprised of agencies and landowners in the project area.
 2. **Brandt Channel Restoration:** This project is a channel restoration project to a coulee downstream of the Brandt Impoundment. The project at one time included restoring the approximately 2 miles of the coulee to its original course, the implementation of setback levees and buffer strips. Due to insufficient funding, the District and Project Team have scaled the project back to include the first ½ mile. The District has started negotiations with landowners along the coulee and anticipates having agreements by early spring.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

TeamWorks International, Inc. / LaBreche-Murray Public Relations

Representatives Holly Johnson of TeamWorks International, Inc., and Rick Foy of LaBreche-Murray discussed strategic thinking and adaptive strategy development concepts relative to developing a communications plan for the board.

Legislative Briefing

Don Buckhout, MDNR, reported that the briefing is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. following today's regular monthly meeting of the RRWMB. He added that another meeting has been scheduled just prior to the legislative briefing with various agriculture groups to provide project updates.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act

Scott Kahan, District Manager, Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, discussed the North American Wetlands Conservation Act Small Grant program. The Act is nonregulatory and calls for voluntary partnerships to develop and implement wetland conservation projects to benefit wetland-associated wildlife. Projects must meet certain biological criteria to be considered for funding, and partners must be able to match federal funds 2:1 with nonfederal funds. For more information about the grant program, visit www.fws.gov.

The next meeting will be on February 20, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator