



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

February 20, 2007

Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, February 20, 2007, at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

In the absence of the President, Orville Knott-Vice President called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

Steve Lee	Dan Money
Alvin Nybladh	Daniel Wilkens
Robert Wright	Jerome Deal

Others present were:

- Naomi Erickson, Administrator
- Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
- Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering, Inc.
- Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
- Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD
- Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD
- Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD
- Jim Skaurud, Wild Rice WD
- Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office
- Lance Yohe, Executive Director, RRBC
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake 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 Deal, **Carried**.

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. **Motion** by Manager Deal to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, **Carried**. A one-page handout of monthly bills to be approved was distributed. **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Money, **Seconded** by Manager Nybladh, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Project Coordinator Report

In the absence of Ron Harnack, the Project Coordinator Report was distributed. The report stated that following the legislative briefing held in conjunction with the January board meeting in St. Paul, Harnack met individually with legislators from the Red River Basin to provide additional information regarding the issues discussed at the briefing.

Several bills were introduced for the RRWMB as well as the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group. Some of the funding initiatives sought in the biennial budget include: \$800,000 over two years for the Farmstead Ring Dike program; \$600,000 for the development of a high-resolution digital elevation model of the Red River Basin; and an increase in the annual appropriation for Work Group operating expenses from \$210,000 to \$310,000 each year.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator, distributed a handout regarding Flood Damage Reduction, Condition, and TMDL monitoring activities. Planning continues for staff coverage to meet sampling needs in 2007 including water quality and flow monitoring. Additional training is needed in the use of new flow monitoring equipment.

Preparations continue for the River Watch Forum on Tuesday, March 13th, just prior to the International Water Institute's Third International Water Conference at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, ND. Data reviews continue with the schools as displays are prepared for the forum.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting and reviewed the draft letters to be forwarded to the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding the MIKE 11 model. Following discussion, the board agreed to accept the revisions recommended by the TAC, and directed N. Erickson to make any additional changes needed prior to forwarding the letters to the RRBC and the USACE.

Thul noted that he has tried unsuccessfully via email to contact Dr. Gary Sands of the University of Minnesota relative to the design criteria developed with funding assistance from the RRWMB for tile drainage systems in the Red River Basin. He added that he would attempt to contact Dr. Sands by phone in order to schedule a meeting to discuss the results of the study with the TAC.

Thul referred to the funding sought by the International Water Institute to develop a high-resolution digital elevation model of the Red River Basin. He added that Chuck Fritz had requested TAC participation in conference calls scheduled with various agencies to offer technical justification for the model.

Red River Basin Commission

Lance Yohe, Executive Director-RRBC, stated that he had just returned from a trip to Washington D.C. with Dan Wilkens, Past Chair. The purpose of the trip was to secure future federal funding for the RRBC, as well as offer support for the digital elevation model of the Red River Basin proposed by the International Water Institute.

Yohe reported on the progress of the MIKE 11 model. Recalibration of the model is necessary, and upon its completion, the model will be used towards the application of developing specific tributary flood flow reduction goals.

The RRBC is in the process of hiring a part-time employee whose duties will include securing funding to establish a River Watch program on the North Dakota side of the Red River.

Administrator Report

A) Information Policy Analysis Division

A letter was received dated February 8, 2007 from the Commissioner of Administration regarding an advisory opinion requested from a citizen relative to a letter dated October 13, 2006. The letter requested the following information:

1. The adopted loan guidelines of the (Board).
2. All loan requests received from member districts prior to January 1, 2006.
3. All Minnesota Statutes that govern the (Board) powers to make loans.
4. The section of the (Board) governing bylaws that allows loans to be made.

The advisory opinion is as follows: *The Red River Watershed Management Board did not comply with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13, regarding the first two items requested on October 13, 2006. It appears the third and fourth items requested are questions not subject to the requirements of Chapter 13.*

B) Public Information Committee

N. Erickson reported that the Public Information Committee met on January 24, 2007, and again prior to today's board meeting to prepare an advertisement and a Request for Proposal for public information consulting services. The proposed ad and Request for Proposals were distributed to the board for review. **Motion** by Manager Money to authorize N. Erickson to forward the ad to the Star Tribune, Grand Forks Herald, and Fargo Forum for publication for a two-week time period, **Seconded** by Manager Nybladh, **Carried**.

At the January 24, 2007 meeting, the committee reviewed the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) board member expense policy which was previously adopted by the board. The committee proposed adding a section titled *Meal Allowances* to the expense policy, and also revising the disbursement voucher currently utilized by the board to include a section for completing meal allowance reimbursements. Following discussion, the board agreed to add a new section to the Governing Documents publication to include guidelines on expense reimbursements. **Motion** by Manager Deal to add Section 11 to the Governing Documents titled *Expense Reimbursement*, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, **Carried**.

C) Signature Cards

N. Erickson reported that due to the annual board organization which occurred at the previous monthly meeting, an update of the signature cards for the bank accounts is necessary. The following individuals were listed as signors on the accounts: John Finney-President, Farrell Erickson-Vice President, Robert Wright-Secretary, and Daniel Wilkens-Treasurer. Since Manager Knott filled the vacated position of Manager Erickson as Vice President, his name will be added to the signature card while Manager Erickson's name will be removed.

D) Red River Basin Turbidity Impairment Year Three Contract

At the November 21, 2006 board meeting, the board authorized 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; Clean Water Legacy Act (CWLA) - \$100,000; and, RRWMB - \$41,500.

The project summary for year three states that the above-mentioned CWLA funds will be used to fund the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) modeling in one selected watershed (Wild Rice) to be conducted by the Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) under contract to the RRWMB. An agreement was developed by the EERC, under the direction of Senior Research Manager Bethany Kurz and forwarded to the RRWMB.

The proposed agreement was forwarded to Louis Smith of Smith Partners for review. Mr. Smith recommended that the agreement be revised to meet more standard requirements of a professional services contract. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize the President to execute a professional services agreement prepared by legal counsel that provides for payment not to exceed \$50,000 and is consistent with the proposed Scope of Work, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

E) Office of the Legislative Auditor

On January 25, 2007, the Evaluation Report on Watershed Management was released. In Minnesota, watershed management is carried out by a complex network of federal, state, and local units of government. Some legislators expressed concern about the effectiveness of this complex structure. Others voiced concern about how well the state is holding local units of government accountable for their watershed management activities. To examine these concerns, the Legislative Audit Commission directed the Office of the Legislative Auditor to evaluate watershed management in Minnesota. To view the complete report in its entirety, visit www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us/ped/2007/watersheds.htm

F) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. Third International Water Conference, March 13-15, 2007 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, ND.
2. 2007 MAWD Legislative Breakfast & ADA Meeting, March 14-15, 2007.
3. March Conference, Thursday, March 29, 2007, Northland Inn, Crookston, MN.

District Reports

- The Red Lake WD reported on the Thief River Watershed Sediment Investigation Grant. The District received a signed grant agreement from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for \$96,500. The MPCA encouraged the District to apply for the grant received through the Clean Water Partnership Resource Investigation Grant. The grant will assist the District and its partners to identify water quality issues including sedimentation in the Thief River Falls Reservoir, suspended solids and nutrients, streambank/ditch erosion, channelization, flooding, low dissolved oxygen and hydrogen sulfide. The project originated through the Marshall County Water Resources Advisory Committee, the Red River Basin

Water Quality Team and through the development of the Marshall County Water Plan and the District's Comprehensive Water Management Plan Update.

The RLWD also reported that in 2005, the District received a \$25,000 cost share grant from the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) to complete a comprehensive inventory and mapping system of all the legal drainage ditches under the jurisdiction of the District. The project includes the development of maps using Arc View and GIS format as well as entering culvert inventories, ditch grades, side slopes, buffer strip and maintenance schedules for each ditch system. To date, the District has completed ~ 80% of the project, with plans to have the entire project completed by June of 2007.

- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported that the District anticipates construction of several ring dikes during the 2007 construction season. To date, 72 farmstead ring dikes have been built throughout the District.

North Ottawa Project Update

Jon Roeschlein distributed a handout outlining the schedule of completion for the North Ottawa Impoundment Project of the Bois de Sioux WD. He requested an additional \$200,000 commitment from the board due to inflation and the increasing cost of fuel. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize an additional \$200,000 for project funding for the North Ottawa Impoundment Project, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on March 20, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator