



Red River Watershed Management Board

Board of Managers

John Finney, President-Humboldt Steve Lee-Badger Dan Money-Hallock Ron Osowski-Oslo
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Naomi Erickson, Administrator-Detroit Lakes

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

March 20, 2007

Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, March 20, 2007, at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

Chairman John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

Steve Lee	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, 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
- Blake Carlson, Engineer, JOR Engineering, Inc.
- Jim Skaurud, Wild Rice WD
- Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office
- Lance Yohe, Executive Director, RRBC
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Steve Dalen, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
- Keith Mykelseth, The Nature Conservancy
- Todd Miller, Roseau River WD
- Don Buckhout, MNDNR Red River Basin Coordinator
- Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute

An additional item was added to the agenda under *Other Issues* regarding the basin-wide Digital Elevation Model (DEM) initiative.

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 Knott 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 Osowski, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **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. Harnack reported that legislation was introduced last week for the RRWMB including a one-time funding request for the Farmstead Ring Dike program to address the needs of landowners; and \$600,000 for the development of a high-resolution digital elevation model of the Red River Basin.

Manager Deal reported that in response to the Legislative Audit, discussion is occurring at the Capitol regarding the management of water on a basin-wide basis. No specific legislation has been introduced at this point with regard to this proposal.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting and discussed the possibility of reviewing completed projects in order to identify the total land area utilized. Thul noted that Jerry Bents had indicated previously that the amount of tillable acres utilized by flood control projects was becoming a concern for watershed districts.

Steve Dalen, Administrator – Wild Rice WD, added that he had discussed this issue with Ron Harnack who agreed that identifying the number of tillable acres utilized by projects could assist with eliminating project opposition. Following discussion, the board agreed to direct the TAC to review completed projects to identify total land area utilized by the projects.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

In the absence of Wayne Goeken, the project monitoring monthly report was distributed. A training session was presented March 7th at UMC. Monitoring partners from throughout the basin attended to learn and/or review standard monitoring protocols and equipment maintenance and use procedures.

All sites monitored through the RRWMB River Watch, Condition, TMDL and FDR monitoring programs were assessed for impairments of designated uses as per MPCA standards. This information was provided to the MPCA for the biennial review of water quality impairments. As expected, turbidity was the most common impairment found for sites in the Red River basin.

Red River Basin Commission

Lance Yohe, Executive Director-RRBC, reported on the status of the Mike 11 Model. He stated that notification was received from Manitoba Water Stewardship that recalibration of the model would be scheduled for either May or June of this year.

Administrator Report

A) Public Information Committee

The Public Information Committee met prior to the February board meeting and prepared an advertisement and a Request for Proposal (RFP) for public information consulting services. The closing date for accepting proposals was Friday, March 16, 2007. The committee plans to meeting following today's regular monthly meeting to review the RFPs submitted.

B) Committees & Membership

N. Erickson developed a list of board committees and membership as discussed at the February board meeting. The specific committees of the board and their membership are as follows:

Transition Team: Jerome Deal, Farrell Erickson, Vernon Johnson, and Daniel Wilkens.

Public Information Committee: Jerome Deal, Naomi Erickson, Dan Money, and Daniel Wilkens.

Human Resources Committee: Farrell Erickson, John Finney, Daniel Wilkens, and Robert Wright.

Following discussion, the board agreed to revise the committee membership as follows: Orville Knott to replace Farrell Erickson on the Human Resources Committee; and Robert Wright and Ron Osowski to replace Farrell Erickson and Vernon Johnson on the Transition Team. **Motion** by Manager Wright to update the committees as stated, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

C) International Water Institute

N. Erickson reported that she attended the Third International Water Conference and Red River Basin River Watch Forum conducted March 13-15, 2007 at the Alerus Center, Grand Forks, ND. Plenary speakers and concurrent sessions addressed some of the most problematic issues of water management, flood damage reduction/mitigation, and natural resource protection/development confronting policy makers, scientists, and citizens of the Red River Basin.

D) MIKE 11 Model

At the February board meeting, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed 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. The board accepted 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. N. Erickson distributed the revised letters for review.

E) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. March Conference, Thursday, March 29, 2007, Northland Inn, Crookston, MN.

Project Readiness and Compatibility Evaluation

Don Buckhout distributed a *Project Compatibility and Readiness Form*. He explained that the Work Group designated a committee charged with developing a method to rank projects in order to assist with establishing funding priorities. The form is designed to measure compatibility with the Mediation Agreement, as well as the projects readiness for construction. A workshop will be conducted with the participants at the March Conference with regard to completing the new form.

Basin-wide Digital Elevation Model

Charles Fritz, Director-International Water Institute (IWI), provided an update regarding the basin-wide Digital Elevation Model (DEM) initiative. He explained that he is confident that the non-federal commitment of \$2.5 million for the Red River Basin Mapping Initiative project will be secured in the coming weeks. He thanked the board for their efforts which led to securing the non-federal share of this project. He noted that the project also requires a \$2.5 million federal commitment and the current budget situation in Washington is certainly a significant hurdle to overcome.

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported that Request for Proposals (RFPs) were distributed regarding digitizing current ditch records. The District applied for a Challenge Grant through the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) for digitizing paper records, maps and benefited areas of each ditch system within their jurisdiction.
- The Two Rivers WD reported on snow survey and flow monitoring. The District has collected snow depth and water content data at various locations. Based upon this monitoring, moderate flooding is expected in the Two Rivers, however, this could change depending on the rate of melt and future precipitation.

During the runoff event, staff will be monitoring stream flow at over 20 locations. Volunteer staff gage readers have been enlisted to record water levels, and staff will be monitoring and recording stream velocity and volume. This information will be provided to the National Weather Service (NWS), emergency personnel, and other interested parties on a daily basis.

- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported on the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project (Helgeland Site). The Project Team continues to meet, with one final meeting anticipated. Permitting and finalizing the monitoring plan remain for the project. Construction is anticipated to begin this coming construction season.

USACE General Reevaluation, Twin Valley Lake/Dam Project, Wild Rice River

Steve Dalen reported that a meeting has been scheduled for March 29th to address the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' General Reevaluation of the Twin Valley Dam Project. He requested a letter of support from the RRWMB toward the reevaluation of the project. The board directed N. Erickson to prepare a letter from the RRWMB extending its full support toward the reevaluation of the project.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on April 17, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. at the City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator