



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

June 19, 2007

City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, June 19, 2007, at the City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota.

Chairman John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

Steve Lee	Ron Osowski
Orville Knott	Daniel Wilkens
Robert Wright	Jerome Deal

Others present were:

- Naomi Erickson, Administrator
- Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
- Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator
- Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
- Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD
- Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Don Buckhout, MNDNR Red River Basin Coordinator
- Mike Carroll, MNDNR, Regional Director
- Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator
- Jim Ziegler, Unit Supervisor-MPCA

No additional items were added to the agenda.

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

Consolidated Conservation Lands

Mike Carroll, MNDNR-Regional Director, discussed the proposed rules governing drainage projects impacting state-owned lands in consolidated conservation (con-con) areas. The DNR intends to adopt rules that govern the criteria and procedures for determining drainage benefits to state-owned lands in con-con areas administered under Minnesota state law.

Public hearings will be held at the following locations: June 26, Aitkin High School Auditorium; June 27 (12:30 p.m.), Bemidji State University; June 27 (4:00 p.m.), Grygla High School gym; and June 28, Warroad Middle School lunchroom.

Manager Finney stated that the RRWMB should be represented at the hearings to present testimony. Mike Carroll noted the importance of obtaining public input at the hearings. Manager Wilkens suggested that the board could direct their attorney to prepare a statement. Following discussion, the board directed Ron Harnack to attend the hearing at Aitkin, MN to testify on behalf of the board. The board further agreed that following the hearings, a written response could be prepared in conjunction with the board's attorney to forward to the DNR for consideration.

Project Coordinator Report

Ron Harnack distributed the Project Coordinator Report. He reported that he met with Senator Langseth and Representative Lanning, along with Managers Deal and Wilkens to discuss the RRWMB's perspective relating to the Buffalo-Red River WD's issues regarding rejoining the RRWMB. Based on the discussion, suggested changes were developed regarding the response letter approved by the board at their April board meeting. Following a review of the proposed changes, the board agreed to send the final draft of the letter to the Buffalo-Red River WD and Sen. Langseth and Rep. Lanning.

The Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) has published the final draft emergency rules for the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). Remaining issues will be addressed in the final rule during the next year.

A meeting has been scheduled in conjunction with the MAWD Summer Tour with Commissioner Brad Moore of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to discuss alternatives to provide for sustainable funding for the River Watch program. Harnack reported that a lunch meeting is scheduled today with Wayne Goeken, Jim Ziegler, Jerome Deal, Daniel Wilkens, John Finney, and N. Erickson to further prepare for the meeting.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul reported that discussions have occurred with Kent Lokkesmoe, Director-Division of Waters, Bob Bezek, Regional Hydrologist and himself regarding discontinuing the contract between the State of Minnesota and the RRWMB relative to the position of Red River Coordinator. He explained that Lokkesmoe had indicated that due to recent retirements within the DNR, additional funding is available to fund the position entirely through the DNR.

Thul noted that his involvement with the RRWMB would remain at the same level, with the only change being that of eliminating the cost-share for the position. Manager Finney noted that the board would like to consider the proposed change prior to taking action.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

Wayne Goeken distributed the project monitoring monthly report. The past few weeks have experienced excess precipitation which has caused multiple crests on area rivers, flooding and erosion issues. Extra sample runs have been made to monitor conditions during these high flow events. Many locations in the middle portion of the basin have gone from record low flows a month ago to record high flows as of June 18, 2007.

Administrator Report

A) Public Information Consulting Services

Resignations were received from Holly Johnson of TeamWorks International and Rick Foy of LaBreche Murray. On Monday, June 11, 2007, the RRWMB elected to terminate the public information consulting services from TeamWorks International and LaBreche Murray, effective immediately. **Motion** by Manager Deal to terminate the public information consulting services agreement with TeamWorks International, Inc. and LaBreche Murray, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

B) Red River Water Resources Council

At the previous monthly meeting, Ron Harnack reported on the Red River Water Resources Council. The board requested additional information with regard to replacing Dick Nelson on the council. I contacted Linda Weispfenning of the North Dakota State Water Commission (NDSWC) and she indicated that state representatives on the council appoint citizen advisory members. Since the RRWMB is not a state agency, membership on the council would be at the discretion of current state agency council members.

C) Farmstead Ring Dike Program

I discussed the above-referenced program with Ed Fick, DNR, on Tuesday, June 12, 2007. Fick stated that he recently met with several member watershed districts earlier this summer to discuss the remaining ring dike needs and the potential for cost-share. He reiterated that although he is aware of the urgency to begin construction of the ring dikes, the State of Minnesota is unable to forward any funding to member watershed districts until a grant agreement has been executed.

Legislative funding for the Farmstead Ring Dike Program was secured in the most recent legislative session as follows: \$200,000 each year for two years (beginning 07/01/07), with the second year's funding available in the first year. Fick indicated that these funds would not be available from the State until August.

Please refer to the letter dated June 15, 2007 from the Wild Rice WD regarding a request for the board to consider drafting a letter of support for special consideration as to the speed of accessing the appropriated funds for ring dikes. Following discussion, the board agreed that due to N. Erickson's conversations with Ed Fick, a letter of support from the board would not be forthcoming.

D) Drainage Work Group

On June 13, 2007 I spoke with Ray Bohn, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Coordinator, regarding membership on the Drainage Work Group. He stated that Dan Wilkens, Treasurer of the RRWMB, currently attends the meetings representing the Minnesota Association of Drainage Inspectors (MADI). He invited the board to designate a member for the committee to

represent the RRWMB. **Motion** by Manager Knott to authorize Ron Osowski to represent the RRWMB on the Drainage Work Group, **Seconded** by Manager Lee, **Carried**.

E) Mediated Negotiations

At the April 17, 2007 board meeting, the board approved a response relative to the letter dated January 8, 2007 received from the Buffalo-Red River WD and agreed to proceed with pursuing a meeting with Rep. Lanning and Sen. Langseth. A meeting was conducted with the above-mentioned legislators with Managers Deal and Wilkens, and Ron Harnack. Please refer to the handout outlining the proposed changes to the letter.

F) Funding Commitments Worksheet

An updated spreadsheet was distributed of RRWMB committed funds to member watershed districts and/or other organizations relative to project and/or program funding for 2007. Member districts were requested to review the spreadsheet for accuracy relative to pertinent information for their respective watershed districts.

G) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Summer Tour, June 29-30, 2007, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, Little Canada, MN.
2. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, Wednesday, August 29, 2007, The Lodge on Lake Detroit, Detroit Lakes, MN.
3. Red River Basin Commission Board Meeting, Thursday, September 6, 2007.

Public Information Committee

Manager Deal, Chair of the Public Information Committee, reported that in response to the resignations received from Holly Johnson of TeamWorks International and Rick Foy of LaBreche Murray, the Public Information Committee met following the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group meeting on June 14, 2007.

Manager Deal stated that during the meeting on June 14th, the committee members met with Mark Meister of Communication Research & Consulting Services (CR*CS) to review their proposal to conduct a community-based social marketing initiative for the board in order to develop a strategic plan. Following discussion, the committee members agreed to recommend to the Board of Managers that CR*CS be offered the position of Public Information Consulting Services. **Motion** by Manager Deal to accept the proposal submitted by CR*CS, authorize N. Erickson to proceed with developing a contract in conjunction with the board's attorney, and execute a contract with CR*CS, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

Computer Purchase

Manager Finney suggested that N. Erickson obtain specifications to purchase a new laptop computer for use with her position as her current laptop was in excess of three years old. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize N. Erickson to purchase a new laptop computer, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

District Reports

- The Red Lake WD reported that the District received four quotes for the construction of a ring dike located in Section 27, Esther Township of Polk County. The low construction quote in the amount of \$34,589.01 was submitted by T.S. Holte Construction of Oslo, MN. The engineer's estimate on this project was \$41,097.20. Notice was received from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) concerning the approval of the General Storm Water Permit with construction scheduled to begin the week of June 18th, weather permitting.

Due to the wet conditions experienced throughout the District, the completion of the Brandt and Euclid East Impoundments have been delayed. It was hoped to have the final payment hearing by the last week of June, but it appears that mid-July will be more likely. To date, based on the 2004 estimate, the District has billed the RRWMB a total of \$1,915,075.18 of the \$1,929,694.00 authorized for this project.

- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported on the Public Law 566 (Snake River Watershed) project. The District received the signed Mediation and Mitigation Agreement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the project. Implementation and monitoring of the project will begin this summer.

The public comment period for the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project (Helgeland Site) for the USACE 404 permit has closed with only one response received. The response was received from MSTRWD Board Manager Elden Elseth requesting a hearing on the permit. The request may delay the project for an undetermined length of time. Construction is still expected to begin in the 2007 construction season.

District's Funding Requests

1. Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD / Step I Submittal / Brandt-Angus Flood Control Project

The information required for a Step I submittal was distributed to the board for review. A tour of the above-mentioned project will be conducted following today's board meeting.

The next meeting will be on July 17, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator