



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

July 17, 2007

Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, July 17, 2007, at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota.

Chairman John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

Steve Lee	Dan Money
Ron Osowski	Orville Knott
Roger Hanson	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.
- Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator
- Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD
- Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC
- Joe Spaeth, Wild Rice WD
- Warren Seykora, Wild Rice WD
- Brian Borgen
- Mark Meister, CR*CS

No additional items were added to the agenda.

Motion by Manager Knott to approve the minutes as written with minor corrections, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **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 Deal, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Tax Levy Rate Determination

The Board discussed the tax levy rate determination. **Motion** by Manager Deal to maintain the levy at 100% for FY 2008, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

Consolidated Conservation Lands

Harnack discussed the proposed rules that the DNR intends to adopt that govern the criteria and procedures for determining drainage benefits to state-owned lands in con-con areas administered under Minnesota state law.

Harnack attended the public hearing conducted on June 26, 2007 at the Aitkin High School Auditorium and testified on behalf of the board. Draft comments in addition to the written testimony presented at the hearing were distributed relative to the proposed rules. A series of memos prepared by legal counsel retained by the Roseau River WD were also distributed for consideration.

Following discussion, the board agreed to approve the draft comment letter with minor corrections to forward on behalf of the board to the Administrative Law Judge. **Motion** by Manager Money to authorize N. Erickson to forward the approved comment letter relating to the proposed rules for determining drainage benefits/damages to state-owned lands in consolidated conservation areas, **Seconded** by Manager Lee, **Carried**.

Project Coordinator Report

Ron Harnack distributed the Project Coordinator Report. He reported that he attended a recent board meeting of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD which included discussion regarding a project settlement agreement. Following the meeting, he discussed the issue with the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) regarding their ability to support the contention that at least one of the landowners is in breach of a court endorsed settlement agreement regarding one of the District's projects. In addition, Harnack also discussed with BWSR staff that one or more managers of the watershed district may have a significant conflict of interest which might support the county commissioners requesting their resignation. The BWSR indicated that they would be corresponding with the District and the county by mid July on both issues.

Harnack reported that he attended the Minnesota Association of Watershed District's (MAWD) Summer Tour on June 28-29, 2007 and attended a meeting with Commissioner Brad Moore of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) scheduled in conjunction with the tour. The meeting with Commissioner Moore was scheduled to discuss alternatives to provide for sustainable funding for the River Watch program. He reported that following the meeting he was optimistic that the concerns of the RRWMB would be addressed.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul distributed the TAC recommendation regarding the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD's Step I Submittal for the Brandt-Angus Flood Control Project. In the absence of Nick Drees, the board decided to table discussion of the project until the next monthly meeting.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

Wayne Goeken distributed the project monitoring monthly report. Towards the end of June water levels were at or beyond flood stage for many rivers in the Red River Basin. Currently, most are back down to normal to below normal flows for this time of year.

Staff continues to attend Project Team meetings to assist with developing and implementing monitoring plans associated with each project. Regular monthly monitoring of flood damage reduction sites continues.

Administrator Report

A) Public Information Consulting Services

N. Erickson reported that at the June 19th board meeting, the Board of Managers accepted the proposal submitted by CR*CS for the position of Public Information Consulting Services. She proceeded to develop a contract in conjunction with Louis Smith of Smith Partners. The contract has been formally executed with CR*CS.

N. Erickson stated that Mark Meister and Ann Burnett of CR*CS will be meeting with the board following lunch today to discuss the following agenda items: an update on Watershed District visits; discussion on focus group research process; discussion of survey questions; and, conflict resolution strategies and argumentativeness.

B) Red Lake WD / Project No. 60 – Grand Marais Project

The Board of Managers of the Red Lake Watershed have scheduled a dedication ceremony for Project No. 60 – Grand Marais, Euclid East and Brandt Impoundments for Tuesday, August 21, 2007. The ceremony will be conducted in conjunction with the Red River Watershed Management Board meeting being hosted in the new office of the Red Lake WD, Thief River Falls, MN.

C) Mediation Negotiations

N. Erickson stated that 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 (BRRWD) 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. 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 BRRWD and Sen. Langseth and Rep. Lanning. The letter has been forwarded and a follow-up phone conversation with Bruce Albright, Administrator-BRRWD, confirmed that the letter was received and is on their next board meeting agenda.

D) Maple River Dam Dedication

An invitation was received from the Cass County Joint Water Resource District to attend the dedication of the Maple River Dam. The event will be held on site and is scheduled for today, July 17, 2007.

E) U.S. Geological Survey

At the May 15th board meeting, the Board of Managers authorized \$2,500 to assist with the development costs of an educational poster depicting the flood history of the Red River currently under development by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). A draft copy of the poster was received for review. Comments and recommendations regarding the draft copy are requested by July 20, 2007.

F) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, Wednesday, August 29, 2007, The Lodge on Lake Detroit, Detroit Lakes, MN.
2. Red River Basin Commission Board Meeting, Thursday, September 6, 2007.

Red River Basin Commission

Julie Goehring reported that the 25th Annual Conference will be on January 9-11, 2008, in Grand Forks, ND, with a theme of "The Power of a Dream." She noted that complete conference schedules will be mailed out in the fall.

Two Rivers WD / Ross No. 7

Manager Money distributed a funding analysis for the Ross No. 7 project. He explained that the project costs have exceeded the original estimate and inquired about how to submit for funding of the overruns.

Dan Thul referred to the funding procedures outlined in the Governing Documents publication. He noted that the Step III – Final Submittal states that "no additional fees or charges above actual project costs will be allowed." Manager Money noted that the project has only progressed through Step II, however, a Step III submittal could be prepared for consideration at the August board meeting. He requested N. Erickson to add the Two River WD's / Step III Submittal / Ross No. 7 to the agenda for the next board meeting.

Public Information Initiative

Mark Meister - CR*CS reported that he met on Monday, July 9th, with the Joe River WD in Humboldt, MN and Tuesday, July 10th, with the Sand Hill River WD in Fertile, MN. He obtained valuable information regarding various stakeholders associated with the watershed districts, including public officials, absentee landowners, and other media relations issues. Future meetings are scheduled with the Red Lake WD, Wild Rice WD, and the Bois de Sioux WD.

Meister discussed the objective of forming focus groups and how what he's learned from discussions with watershed districts will shape the groups. Draft copies of surveys and focus group questions were distributed. A plan was presented to recruit focus group members along with a preliminary timeframe for conducting the focus groups.

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported that the Board of Managers have met several times with Roseau County concerning con-con lands. Testimony was given by both the District and Roseau County at the June 27th public hearing in Warroad, MN. The Board of Managers are working in conjunction with Roseau County to develop a legal opinion to forward to the Administrative Law Judge by July 18th.
- The Two Rivers WD reported on the Ross No. 7 project. Gladen Construction is underway working on the main dike and ridge dike. Weather permitting, the District is hopeful that the project will be substantially completed this year. Finishing work and final inspections would be completed in 2008.

A funding shortfall is expected on this project of approximately \$840,000. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has committed an additional \$418,000 for their share of 50%. At this time, the District is requesting an additional commitment from the RRWMB of \$272,000 for the 32.5% commitment.

- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported on the Public Law 566 (Snake River Watershed) project. The District's "Wetmoor" mitigation site, the Native Grass Planting site and the Tree Mitigation site have all been approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Project implementation and monitoring will begin this summer.
- The Wild Rice WD reported on the South Branch Project No. 42. The Board of Managers are currently investigating the main stem of the South Branch River for possible sites to store water.
- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that the District received a grant from Minnesota Waters after participating in a workshop for writing a monitoring plan for the River Watch program. Jon Roeschlein, along with three teachers, attended the 3-day workshop and developed the monitoring plan for the District. The funds were used to purchase another YSI data sonde and other sampling equipment to assist with the coordination of sharing equipment between schools.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on August 21, 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 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator