



## 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

August 21, 2007

Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, August 21, 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 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
- Danni Halvorson, Monitoring Specialist
- Bob Bezek, MNDNR Regional Hydrologist
- Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD
- Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC
- Joe Spaeth, Wild Rice WD
- Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD
- Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
- Keith Mykkelseth, The Nature Conservancy
- Arnold Stanley, Red Lake WD
- Farrell Erickson

No additional items were added to the agenda.

**Motion** by Manager Knott 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 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.

### **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 distributed a spreadsheet outlining the funding commitments received to date. Although ~ \$575,000 remains to be appropriated from the Minnesota Legislature, plans are to begin data collection this fall.

### **Project Coordinator Report**

Ron Harnack distributed the Project Coordinator Report. He reported that he attended a recent meeting to discuss the expansion of the existing River Watch program. The attendees suggested that the RRWMB could apply for a Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources' (LCCMR) grant in cooperation with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR). The function of the LCCMR (formerly LCMR) is to make funding recommendations to the legislature for natural resource projects primarily from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. These projects are to help protect and enhance Minnesota's natural resources. The LCCMR application deadline is September 4, 2007. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize forwarding the grant application to LCCMR and designating Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator, as the project manager, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

Harnack reported on the House of Representatives' Capital Investment Committee Fall Tour. A tour has been scheduled for September 19, 2007 with a dinner scheduled at the Northland Community & Technical College in Thief River Falls, MN.

Harnack also noted that the Senate Capital Investment Bonding Tour is scheduled for Friday, September 28, 2007 with a presentation scheduled at the Bois de Sioux WD in Wheaton, MN.

### **Red River Coordinator/TAC Report**

Thul introduced Bob Bezek, the new regional hydrologist hired to fill the vacated position of Larry Kramka. Bezek will serve in Bemidji as the DNR's regional hydrologist for northwestern Minnesota.

Thul discussed the TAC's recommendation regarding the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD's Step I Submittal for the Brandt-Angus Flood Control Project. He explained that the RRWMB's cost per Star Value for the project is currently \$22.65 which results in a ranking score of 10. A score of 16 is the minimum recommendation in the prioritization process. Therefore, the TAC recommendation to the RRWMB is to direct the MSTRWD to revise the proposal to achieve a more favorable cost per Star Value.

Thul reported that a meeting has been scheduled for Friday, August 24, 2007 at Houston Engineering, Inc. in Fargo, ND with Dr. Gary Sands of the University of Minnesota. The meeting is regarding the design criteria developed with funding assistance from the RRWMB for tile drainage systems in the Red River Basin.

Thul added that a request was received from the International Water Institute (IWI) regarding designating a representative from the TAC to a steering committee for the Basin-Wide Digital Elevation Model (DEM) initiative. He recommended that the RRWMB designate Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering, Inc. to the steering committee due to his prior experience with the Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) collect for the Wild Rice WD.

### **Water Quality Project Monitoring Report**

Wayne Goeken distributed the project monitoring monthly report. With low water levels, condition monitoring is being reduced to once per month for the remainder of the year unless significant rain events bring water levels up. Up to 19 samples have been collected for each primary condition site thus far.

Goeken discussed the LCCMR grant application. He explained that he is developing a proposal to incorporate training and procedures from a recent channel stability workshop held in the Red River Basin into activities conducted by River Watch teams and resource managers in the Minnesota portion of the Red River Basin. If funded, training will be provided to River Watch teams and resource managers in the basin in the use of Rapid Geomorphic Assessments to assess channel stability. These assessments would be done twice yearly at each site being monitored. More detailed geotechnical data will be gathered at 24 primary condition monitoring sites in the basin.

### **Administrator Report**

#### **A) Public Information Consulting Services**

The following documents were forwarded from CR\*CS relative to the progress on the public information initiative: 1. Progress Report; 2. Revised survey questions; and 3. Informed consent form to be sent with survey questions when data collection begins.

#### **B) Consolidated Conservation Lands**

At the previous monthly meeting, the board authorized forwarding a draft comment letter on behalf of the board to the Administrative Law Judge relating to the proposed rules for determining drainage benefits/damages to state-owned lands in consolidated conservation areas. Please refer to handout.

#### **C) Service Award**

Farrell Erickson will be recognized at today's board meeting with a thirteen-year service award for his devoted service given to the Red River Watershed Management Board.

#### **D) Nametags**

The following price quote was received from FRS Industries, Inc. for nametags for the board: 2 x 3 full color digital printed nametags, with magnetic grips, \$50.00 initial set up charge, \$14.75 per

nametag. A sample nametag was distributed. **Motion** by Manager Wright to authorize purchasing nametags for board members and staff, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

#### **E) Supplemental Project Team Funding**

At the September 20, 2005 board meeting, the board authorized the following motion to provide supplemental funding for member watershed district project teams:

**Motion** by Manager Seykora to authorize an additional \$5,000 for project teams of member districts for FY 06, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**.

N. Erickson reported that due to several watershed districts submitting for reimbursement in excess of the Work Group FY 07 allocated amount of \$15,000 per project team, the board may want to consider entertaining a similar motion for this fiscal year. **Motion** by Manager Knott to authorize an additional \$5,000 for project teams of member districts for FY 07, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

#### **F) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences**

1. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, Wednesday, August 29, 2007, Holiday Inn - Lakeside, Detroit Lakes, MN.
2. Red River Basin Commission Board Meeting, Thursday, September 6, 2007.
3. House of Representatives' Capital Investment Committee Fall Tour, Wednesday, September 19, 2007, at the Northland Community & Technical College, Thief River Falls, MN.
4. Senate Bonding Tour, Friday, September 28, 2007.

#### **Red River Basin Commission**

Julie Goehring distributed an agenda for the September 6, 2007 RRBC board meeting. Topics on the agenda include Water Quality: Red River nutrient reduction goals; Panel Discussion: Nutrient Reduction Strategies (Agency Assistance – Avenues of Cooperation); Water Supply; and Agency Report Updates.

#### **District Reports**

- The Red Lake WD reported that the District has received two petitions for the improvement and construction of a lateral to Polk County Ditch No. 53. This ditch system is located in Tynsid and Bygland Townships of Polk County, approximately 13 miles west of Crookston, MN.
- The Wild Rice WD reported on the Water Resource and Development Act (WRDA) Bill. The bill includes \$82 million in funds for the State of Minnesota and is awaiting President Bush's signature. Verbiage is included in the bill that would re-evaluate the Twin Valley Dam and other possible alternative projects that would reduce flooding on the main stem of the Wild Rice River. The \$20 million price tag that accompanies the verbiage would boost the District's flood damage reduction goals tremendously if appropriated.
- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that the North Ottawa Impoundment project has progressed to Phase III. A contract was awarded to Riley Brothers Construction of Morris, MN with a bid of

\$1,656,319.30 for Phase III (a). Funding is available from the State of Minnesota to bid Phase III (b). The Phase III (b) contract was awarded to Barry Construction of Fergus Falls, MN with a bid of \$1,396,184.30. Both bids were under the Engineer's estimate by ~ \$300,000.00.

Work has begun on both contracts as of August 6, 2007. Between both contractors there are 15 scrapers, 4-5 off-road haul trucks, 4 belly-dump semi-trucks, 1 side dump semi-truck, backhoes, dozers, motor patrols, packers, and numerous other pieces of equipment.

### **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 at the June 19, 2007 board meeting with a tour of the project conducted following the board meeting.

The project would divert waters from an unnamed tributary of Polk County Ditch No. 44 (and Judicial Ditch No. 75) into an off-channel storage site and hold it for release during periods of less damaging flows. The proposed project involves the construction of approximately 3 miles of embankment, an inlet channel about 1 mile in length, an outlet channel; and the associated outlet works. It is anticipated that the structure would be gated so that most of the storage would be controlled by the operation of gates.

**Motion** by Manager Osowski to approve the Step I submittal for the Brandt-Angus Flood Control Project, **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**.

2. **Bois de Sioux WD – Step I Submittal / Eldorado 7 Impoundment**

The information required for a Step I submittal was distributed to the board for review. Jon Roeschlein invited the Board of Managers to conduct their regular October board meeting in Wheaton, MN in order to conduct a tour of the project. Following discussion, the board agreed to schedule the October 16, 2007 board meeting at the Bois de Sioux Watershed District office in Wheaton, MN.

3. **Two Rivers WD – Step III Submittal / Ross No. 7 Impoundment Project**

The information required for a Step III submittal was distributed. Dan Money explained that the TRWD was approved for funding of \$625,000 from the RRWMB in the Step II Submittal at the June 17, 2003 board meeting. The funding commitment authorized in the Step II Submittal was based upon the project cost estimate at that time of \$2 million. General costs of construction have unfortunately risen dramatically during the past four years. Therefore, the current cost to complete the project is estimated to be ~ \$3,172,027 which exceeds the 2003 estimate by \$1,172,027.

The TRWD requested modifying the RRWMB funding commitment to reflect the new estimate, and asked the board to consider revised funding of \$991,258 for the Step III Submittal. **Motion** by Manager Osowski to authorize the Step III submittal of the Ross No. 7 Impoundment Project, **Seconded** by Manager Lee, **Carried**.

In addition, the TRWD asked the RRWMB to consider another request. Currently, the TRWD does not have enough available cash flow to handle the large monthly pay requests that are

expected in the next few months, and requested the board disburse the remaining committed funds that were previously authorized in the Step III Submittal. **Motion** by Manager Knott to advance the remaining funds committed by the RRWMB to the TRWD for the Ross No. 7 Impoundment Project, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

Alternative meeting dates were discussed in order to schedule the next monthly meeting to coincide with the House of Representatives' Capital Investment Committee Fall Tour. **Motion** by Manager Deal to reschedule the regular monthly meeting of the RRWMB for Wednesday, September 19, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. following the dedication ceremony for Project No. 60 – Grand Marais, Euclid East and Brandt Impoundments.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert Wright  
Secretary

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Naomi L. Erickson  
Administrator