



## 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

October 16, 2007

Bois de Sioux Watershed District, Wheaton, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, October 16, 2007, at the Bois de Sioux Watershed District, Wheaton, Minnesota.

Chairman John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were: Dan Money 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.  
Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD  
Joe Spaeth, Wild Rice WD  
Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD  
Warren Seykora, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts  
Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD  
Steve Dalen, Administrator, Wild Rice WD  
Don Davenport, Bois de Sioux WD  
Dan Ellison, Bois de Sioux WD  
Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering, Inc.  
Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office  
Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC

No additional items were added to the agenda.

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

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

Thul reported that the TAC had scheduled a meeting for October 11, 2007 with Dr. Gary Sands of the University of Minnesota to further discuss the design criteria developed for tile drainage systems in the Red River Basin, however, Dr. Sands was unable to attend and the meeting was cancelled.

The TAC recommendation regarding the Bois de Sioux WD's Step I Submittal for the Eldorado 7 Impoundment Project was distributed. Thul explained that with a Star Value ranking score for the project of 16, the TAC recommended authorizing the Step I Submittal for the project.

Manager Finney inquired whether the TAC had discussed reevaluating the Star Value method. Thul responded that this issue would be addressed at the next TAC meeting.

### **Project Coordinator Report**

Harnack reported that he met with representatives from both the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) to discuss House File No. 2536, basin-wide watershed legislation. The three pilot regions that have general support include the Red River, Minnesota River, and Lower Mississippi.

Harnack stated that he met with Congressman Oberstar's staff person to discuss the proposed Clean Water Act amendment. Discussion occurred relative to how the proposed amendment could impact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permitting process.

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

In the absence of Wayne Goeken, the project monitoring monthly report was distributed. The RRWMB proposal to provide training to resource managers in the Red River Basin in the use of methods to assess channel stability and biological monitoring made it through the first round of cuts with the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources' (LCCMR). A presentation to LCCMR was conducted on October 15, 2007 in St. Paul by Wayne Goeken, Molly MacGregor, and Ron Harnack. The next round of cuts are scheduled to occur October 29-30<sup>th</sup>.

Manager Wilkens explained that he is a member of the committee that provides direction to the staff members associated with the Water Quality Project Monitoring initiative. He stated that annual reviews are currently underway for the water quality staff, and inquired whether the Human Resources Committee of the RRWMB could schedule a meeting to discuss the cafeteria plan of the board. The staff members of the water quality effort are RRWMB employees and, as such, adhere to the policies of the board. Following discussion, the board agreed to schedule a Human Resources Committee meeting prior to the November board meeting.

### **Red River Basin Commission**

Julie Goehring reported that the 25th Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference is scheduled for January 22-24, 2008 at the Ramada Plaza Suites, Fargo, ND.

### **Administrator Report**

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

N. Erickson reported that Mark Meister of CR\*CS forwarded an update relative to the progress on the public information initiative. A handout was distributed.

#### **B) Red River Basin Mapping Initiative**

N. Erickson explained that a Steering Committee has been designated for the above-referenced initiative. A conference call was scheduled for October 16, 2007 from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. to discuss the project's goals and deliverables, reviewing the ground rules of the Steering Committee, and reviewing the Request for Proposals (RFPs).

#### **C) Red River Valley U.S. Geological Survey / COOP Meeting**

The Annual USGS Cooperator meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. in West Fargo, ND. The proposed agenda includes a budget discussion, new and/or discontinued gages, new technology, discussion of flood operations during spring/summer, and discussion of current conditions. Following discussion, the Board of Managers requested that N. Erickson attend the meeting.

#### **D) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences**

1. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, Tuesday, October 30, 2007, location to be announced.
2. MAWD Annual Meeting & Trade Show, November 29 – December 1, 2007, Arrowwood Conference Center, Alexandria, MN.

### **District Reports**

- The Roseau River WD reported on the West Intercept project. Closeout of the project is anticipated to occur in early winter. Construction is complete and mowing has been done this year.

The Board of Managers established a sub-committee to begin land purchases associated with the Hay Creek / Norland project. Anticipated land acquisition will begin in November. Preliminary plans and specifications by HDR Engineering, Inc. will be presented at the November board meeting.

- The Bois de Sioux WD reported on the North Ottawa Impoundment Project. Phases III A and B are well underway. The District is currently administering two construction contracts for a total of ~ \$3,000,000. Barry Construction of Fergus Falls has completed more than half of their contract, and Riley Brothers are about 80% complete on the borrow excavation portion and 50% on the haul excavation of their contract.

One mile of the perimeter dike has been completed including seeding. Work has been progressing well despite conditions being too wet at times. Although currently rain has stopped the project, overall contract work on the project is about 60% complete.

### **District's Funding Requests**

#### **1. Bois de Sioux WD / Step I Submittal / Eldorado 7 Impoundment Project**

The information required for a Step I submittal was distributed to the board for review at the previous monthly meeting. Charlie Anderson conducted a presentation of the proposed project prior to a tour of the project following the board meeting.

The next meeting will be on November 20, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert Wright  
Secretary

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Naomi L. Erickson  
Administrator