



## 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

February 19, 2008

Kelly Inn, St. Paul, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, February 19, 2008, at the Kelly Inn, St. Paul, Minnesota.

President 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
- Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator
- Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office
- Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering, Inc.
- Lance Yohe, Executive Director, RRBC
- Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD
- Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator
- Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Warren Seykora, Wild Rice WD
- Steve Dalen, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
- Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute
- Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC
- Gene Tiedemann, Red Lake WD
- Ben Kleinwachter, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Louis Smith, Attorney, Smith Partners, PLLP

An update from Louis Smith, Smith Partners, was added to the agenda under *Other Issues*.

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

### **Project Coordinator Report**

Harnack distributed a revised copy of House File No. 2536 authored by Lanning, Hansen, Ozment, Eken and McNamara. The legislation involves the establishment of river basin authorities throughout the state, and provides for levy authority similar to the RRWMB. The legislation also assigns additional responsibilities to the Board of Water and Soil Resources in the oversight and support of the newly established authorities. A hearing on the bill has been scheduled with Rep. Kent Eken's committee later today.

Harnack reported that he met with Rep. Alice Hausman - Chair of the House Capital Investment Committee and Rep. Jean Wagenius - Chair of the House Environmental & Natural Resource Budget Committee regarding the bonding needs for member districts of the RRWMB. He stated that Rep. Kent Eken has agreed to introduce a bill for \$21,725,000 for funding projects endorsed by the RRWMB and the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group.

Harnack explained that \$845,000 is being requested from the General Fund for the following initiatives: \$245,000 in FY09 to complete the remaining Farmstead Ring Dikes, and \$600,000 for Minnesota's portion of funding for the Digital Elevation Model.

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

In the absence of Dan Thul, Nate Dalager reported on the Red Lake WD's Field to Stream Tile Drainage Study which received partial funding from the RRWMB. He reported that the study is complete with a preliminary version of the report available on the District's website – [www.redlakewatershed.org](http://www.redlakewatershed.org). The RLWD with its project partners have been studying the water quality characteristics of tile drainage within the Red River Basin. The net result of conversion to tile drainage from surface drainage appears to be less sediment and phosphorus loss due to water erosion, but increased total nitrogen loss due to excessive leaching of nitrates.

Dalager stated that he had discussed working with Corey Hanson, Water Quality Coordinator, to review the study results and finalize the report with Myron Jesme, Administrator-RLWD. Dalager requested that the board consider reimbursing the RLWD for Hanson's time when working with him to complete the final report. Following discussion, the board agreed to reimburse the RLWD for Corey Hanson's participation with Nate Dalager for completing the report of the Field to Stream Tile Drainage Study.

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

Wayne Goeken reported that preparations continue for the River Watch Forum scheduled for Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at the University of Minnesota – Crookston campus. He inquired whether the

board would consider conducting their March board meeting in conjunction with the River Watch Forum. Following discussion, the board agreed to reschedule their regular monthly meeting from Tuesday, March 18, 2008 to Wednesday, March 19, 2008.

Goeken reported that he met earlier today with Brad Moore, MPCA Commissioner. He has been working on the final draft of a Surface Water Assessment Monitoring Grant. He requested the Board of Managers to authorize a resolution in conjunction with the grant application. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize a resolution for the Surface Water Assessment Monitoring Grant, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

### **Red River Basin Commission**

Lance Yohe, Executive Director – RRBC, reported on the modeling effort currently under development by the RRBC. The model has been revised from the border north to the Winnipeg Floodway. Upon completion, a workshop will be conducted to discuss the results of the study.

### **Red River Basin Turbidity Impairment Project**

Jim Ziegler-MPCA, explained that at the November 21, 2006 board meeting, the board authorized the Professional and Technical Services contract between the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the RRWMB for the Red River Basin Turbidity Impairment Project for the term of January 30, 2007 through December 31, 2008. The budget period is from November 1, 2006 – December 31, 2008 and the project amount is as follows: 319 TMDL - \$100,000; Clean Water Legacy Act (CWLA) - \$100,000; and, RRWMB - \$41,500.

The project summary for year three states that the above-mentioned CWLA funds will be used towards the following: 1. To fund the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) modeling in one selected watershed to be conducted by the Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) under contract to the RRWMB and, 2. To fund the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Agriculture Research Service to conduct a study to estimate sediment loading rates to streams and establish stream reference conditions through geomorphic assessments and data analysis under contract to the RRWMB.

Ziegler requested that the board consider an amendment to the Red River Basin Turbidity Impairment Project to include additional activity by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to include more field reconnaissance on additional reaches within the Red River Basin, with funding to be secured by other grant sources with no local match or additional costs to the board required. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to amend the contract for the Red River Basin Turbidity Impairment Project to include additional activity by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at no additional cost to the board, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

Ziegler addressed the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) conducted by MPCA. He reported that discussions have occurred relative to conducting TMDLs on entire watersheds rather than only small reaches. He stated that in order to expand the parameters of TMDL monitoring, additional staffing may be required. He noted that the committee that provides direction to staff members of the RRWMB associated with the Water Quality effort is discussing the possibility of adding an additional staff person to conduct monitoring in the southern part of the Red River Basin.

## **Administrator Report**

### **A) Annual Audit**

Information has been provided to Joseph Martin, CPA of the auditing firm of Brady, Martz & Associates, P.C., Grand Forks, ND. The Annual Report will be published and distributed after receiving the completed financial information.

### **B) Project Team Reminder**

N. Erickson reported that Project Teams have been requested to present a 10-minute summary of activities and/or accomplishments from the past year at this year's March Conference. She requested that Project Teams forward their presentations to Paul Wannarka, Red River Basin Coordinator, prior to the conference.

### **C) Funding Commitments Worksheet**

N. Erickson distributed two revised worksheets that depict Project and Program funding commitments of the board. The previous spreadsheet was updated annually and included projects of member districts progressing through the Step Process of the board, as well as programs that have received funding approval from the board. The revised spreadsheets reflect changes in fund balances on a monthly basis to provide more timely data to assist the board with financial decision-making.

### **D) Legislative Briefing**

At the January board meeting, the Board authorized sponsoring a legislative briefing scheduled in St. Paul on February 19, 2008 in conjunction with the February RRWMB board meeting. The legislative briefing will be conducted in the St. Anthony Room at the Kelly Inn from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

In cooperation with Watershed District Administrators, Ron Harnack, Dan Thul, and myself, I've updated the Project Catalog that was distributed last fall to the House of Representatives' Capital Investment Committee and Senate Bonding Committee. The catalog includes projects requesting Capital Bonding Funds and General Fund requests for the 2009-10 biennium.

### **E) Public Information Consulting Services**

N. Erickson stated that Mark Meister, CR\*CS, facilitated a board retreat conducted on January 21, 2008 that focused on the guiding theme: Protecting Our Good Work from Negative Public Perceptions: Communicating Consistency in Water Management Decisions. A summary of the discussions at the retreat were distributed to board members and member districts.

Focus groups are currently being conducted throughout the Red River basin. The protocol for the focus groups begins with introductions and requesting the participants to complete a survey. Following a meal, questions are presented to the group for discussion.

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

1. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, Wednesday, March 19, 2008, Northland Inn, Crookston, MN.
2. March Conference, Thursday, March 20, 2008, Northland Inn, Crookston, MN.

**District's Funding Requests**

**1. Wild Rice WD / Step I Submittal / Project No. 42**

Jerry Bents, Houston Engineering, Inc. stated that the information required for a Step I submittal was distributed to the board for review and at the January 22, 2008 board meeting, the Board of Managers accepted the Step I submittal for Project No. 42.

N. Erickson referred to the two Project and Program funding commitments worksheets distributed earlier. She inquired about the RRWMB's funding commitment to the WRWD for the Felton Ditch Storage Project that received Step I approval of \$1,560,000 on July 19, 2005 and whether the Step I Submittal for Project No. 42 was a revision to the original Step application for the Felton Ditch Storage Project. Bents responded that the Felton Ditch Storage Project and Project No. 42 are separate projects. Louis Smith referred to the Governing Documents publication of the board and noted that the project site must be toured by the board prior to a decision to act on the Step I Submittal. Following discussion, the board agreed to conduct their May 20, 2008 board meeting at the WRWD in Ada, MN to facilitate a tour of Project No. 42.

N. Erickson referred to the Step I Submittal criteria in the Governing Documents publication and inquired about updating the funding commitments worksheet to reflect that the Felton Ditch Storage Project has not progressed to a Step II Submittal. Following discussion, the board agreed that no action was needed at this time.

N. Erickson distributed a letter received from Brian Borgen, a resident of the WRWD, regarding short-term financing for Project No. 42 and funding for the Mahnomen Drainage Project authorized at the December 18, 2007 board meeting. Following discussion, the board agreed to forward the letter to the WRWD for consideration.

**Other Issues**

Louis Smith, board attorney, discussed the revisions to the Governing Documents recently distributed. He referred to Section 3 - Joint Powers Agreement, specifically Item XIII - Effective Date. This section provides signature blocks for each member watershed district to execute the Agreement "in accordance with Minnesota Statutes." Mr. Smith recommended distributing the signature pages to the respective member districts for current signatures. The board directed N. Erickson to distribute the signature pages as suggested.

The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the Annual River Watch Forum on Wednesday, March 19, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. on the University of Minnesota – Crookston campus.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert Wright  
Secretary

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Naomi L. Erickson  
Administrator