



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

April 15, 2008

Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, 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
- Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
- Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Tracy Halstengard, Roseau River WD
- Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD
- Lance Yohe, Executive Director, RRBC
- Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Alvin Nybladh, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute
- Aaron Snyder, Project Manager, USACE
- Mark Meister, CR*CS
- Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator
- Keith Mykelseth, The Nature Conservancy
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Steve Dalen, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
- Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Mike Bakken, Engineer, JOR Engineering, Inc.
- Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering, Inc.
- Randy Gjestvang, Water Development, ND State Water Commission
- Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering, Inc.
- Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD
- Joe Spaeth, Wild Rice WD
- Marijo Vik, Recording Secretary, Citizens for Farmland Preservation (CFFP)

No additional items were added to the agenda.

Motion by Manager Wilkens 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.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Red River Basin Feasibility Study

Chuck Fritz, Director of the International Water Institute (IWI), announced that the Red River Basin Mapping Initiative (RRBMI) has begun. The initiative will collect and disseminate high accuracy digital elevation data using Light Detecting and Ranging (LiDAR) technology for the entire U.S. portion of the Red River Basin.

Aaron Snyder, Project Manager for the USACE Red River Basin Feasibility Study, explained that the USACE will complete a portion of Phase 1 of the RRBMI project beginning this fall. He stated that project sponsors, the North Dakota Red River Joint Water Resources Board (RRJWRB) and the Minnesota RRWMB are expected to sign the federal cost share agreement in May 2008.

Fritz noted that the remaining local partners' commitment (State of ND, State of MN, RRWMB, RRJWRB, Buffalo-Red River WD, and SE Cass County) will be used as non-federal match to the federal money appropriated to the USACE for this study by Senator Dorgan last year. He added that through this agreement, the local sponsors and the Institute will assure that the non-federal contribution for the LiDAR collection for the entire U.S. portion of the Red River of the North Basin will NOT exceed the amount originally committed by the non-federal RRBMI partners.

Fritz stated that all non-federal funding commitments will be channeled through the International Water Institute contracting mechanism and used to leverage federal money through the cost sharing agreement between the USACE and the two local sponsors. The project is expected to be completed within the 2 – 2 ½ year timeframe.

Snyder explained that although the RRWMB agreed to sponsor the USACE Red River Basin Feasibility Study at the previous monthly meeting, authorization is needed from the board for the Treasurer to sign a resolution for a cost share agreement and to proceed with the project. **Motion** by Manager Osowski to authorize the Treasurer to sign a resolution for a cost share agreement, and to request N. Erickson to collaborate with Louis Smith of Smith Partners to review the federal cost share agreement prior to execution, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Public Information Initiative

Mark Meister - CR*CS discussed the handout distributed regarding the RRWMB's Public Information Committee meeting conducted on April 8, 2008. The Committee recommends that the RRWMB retain Mr. Meister of CR*CS as the RRWMB Public Information Officer, and recommends the authorization of no more than \$31,200/year be allocated for public information initiatives, including the salaries of Meister, a hired college intern, and monthly expenses. The duties and responsibilities of the Public Information Officer will include engaging the recommendations of the Public Information Final Report Research document in coordinating short and long-term initiatives. **Motion** by Manager Deal to retain Mark Meister of CR*CS as the board's Public Information Officer, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

Project Coordinator Report

In the absence of Ron Harnack, the Project Coordinator Report was distributed. A bonding update stated that none of the board's initiatives were vetoed. The State's commitment of \$600,000 was secured for the Digital Elevation Model. Borrowing authority for watershed districts increased from \$200,000 to \$600,000 to reflect inflation and the significant increase in land values for flood damage reduction projects.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting with Randy Gjestvang, North Dakota State Water Commission, Lance Yohe, Executive Director - Red River Basin Commission (RRBC), and Aaron Snyder, Project Manager – USACE to discuss the Project Management Plan (PMP) of the Red River Basin Feasibility Study. The various phases of the study were discussed including Phase 1 – Digital Elevation Data Collection (LiDAR), Phase 2 – Red River Basin Modeling effort, and Phase 3 – Decision Support System. Representatives of the various organizations committed to the RRBMI agreed to conduct a sub-committee meeting with the USACE to determine whether there is consensus among the parties involved to proceed with Phases 2 and 3 upon completion of Phase 1. Following discussion, the board agreed to authorize a sub-committee of the TAC to participate in the aforementioned meeting with USACE.

Thul explained that in recent months the TAC evaluated the Star Value method. A discussion paper regarding the RRWMB cost per Star Value was distributed. Issues addressed by the TAC included whether the current \$20/Star Value is reasonable, the advantages/disadvantages of having a conservative maximum limit, and whether the limit should be based on the value associated with a project or the RRWMB's ability to fund the project. Following discussion, the TAC recommended that the maximum cost per Star Value remain at \$20.00. Member watershed districts were encouraged to develop future projects with the highest maximum cost per Star Value.

Nate Dalager discussed whether funding is available for project management for watershed districts. He noted the difficulty of some districts proceeding with projects prior to receiving state grants. He added that the state cost share should be recovered for most project expenses incurred throughout the life of a project, or at least when the project has been established and is proceeding through the step process of the RRWMB. Without this caveat, Districts must spend local funds in between grant agreements which can be difficult. Following discussion, the board agreed to recommend that this issue be addressed at the next Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group meeting.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

Wayne Goeken reported that he assisted with the development and posting of the Surface Water Quality staffing position. Application closing date is April 30th with interviews to soon follow.

Monitoring has begun for the 2008 sampling season with two sample events already completed in the southern basin and one in the north. The only site being sampled on the Red River mainstem this year will be the Pembina River.

Administrator Report

A) Red River Joint Water Resources Board

A joint meeting has been scheduled with the Red River Joint Water Resources Board and the RRWMB for July 15, 2008 in Casselton, ND. A tentative agenda was distributed for review.

B) Surface Water Quality Monitoring Position

N. Erickson reported that *Help Wanted Professional* ads are currently running in the Fargo Forum and Grand Forks Herald for the above-mentioned position. The application deadline for the position is April 30, 2008.

C) Public Information Committee Recommendation

Members of the RRWMB's Public Information Committee (Managers Deal, Wilkens, and Money) met on Tuesday, April 8, 2008. The Committee recommends that Mark Meister of CR*CS be retained as the RRWMB Public Information Officer, and recommends the authorization of no more than \$31,200/year be allocated for public information initiatives, including the salaries of Meister, a hired college intern, and monthly expenses. A handout was distributed.

D) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. May Board Meeting, Tuesday, May 20, 2008, Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, MN.
2. June Board Meeting, Tuesday, June 17, 2008, Bois de Sioux Watershed District, Wheaton, MN.
3. July Board Meeting, Tuesday, July 15, 2008, Meeting with the Red River Joint Water Resources Board, Fargo, ND.

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported on the Hay Creek / Norland Project. The District is currently seeking land acquisition along the Hay Creek corridor. Soil borings are being conducted throughout the project area. A meeting was conducted in April with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to discuss permitting requirements.
- The Two Rivers WD reported on the Ross No. 7 Impoundment Project. The project is 85% complete and is expected to be finished early in the upcoming construction season. The main dike, ring dikes, outlet structure, and inlet ditches have all been completed while a portion of the ridge dike needs to be finished. Seeding also remains to be completed. Although the project is not complete, should a summer flood occur the impoundment could be operated to in order to provide some flood control.

- The Red Lake WD reported on the Brandt Outlet Restoration Project 60E. The District received a \$50,000 grant through the "Working Lands Initiative" to continue with Phase 2 of the project, downstream of the Brandt Impoundment. This project will complete the restoration of approximately 2 miles of a coulee including the planting of buffer strips, installing inlet pipes and construction of setback levees.
- The Bois de Sioux WD reported on the North Ottawa Impoundment Project. Two open contracts remain for the project. Barry Construction of Fergus Falls, Inc. has approximately 25% of their contract left to complete, with Riley Brothers Construction has only 15%.

Additional work was added to the Riley Brothers Construction contract in February to include the building of a base at the center road intersection of the east dike, diverting lateral 2 north to lateral 3, and raising a road for North Ottawa Township by placing extra dirt from the diversion channel on the road alignment located on the west side of Section 10. These additions will extend the anticipated completion date to June 1, 2008.

Barry Construction will finish the intersection on the west dike and is expected to complete their portion of the south dike by a substantial completion date of July 3, 2008. The balance of the south dike will be let under a new contract this spring.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on May 20, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator