



## **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**

**May 20, 2008**

**Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota**

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, May 20, 2008, at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota.

In the absence of the President, Orville Knott-Vice President called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Todd Miller   | Dan Money      |
| Ron Osowski   | Daniel Wilkens |
| Robert Wright | Jerome Deal    |

Others present were:

- Naomi Erickson, Administrator
- Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
- Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator
- Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute
- Aaron Snyder, Project Manager, USACE
- Mark Meister, CR\*CS
- Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Steve Dalen, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
- Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office
- Jim Lyons, Red River Joint Water Resources Board
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
- Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC
- Paul Wannarka, MNDNR Red River Basin Coordinator
- Brian Dwight, Board of Water & Soil Resources
- Randy Gjestvang, Water Development, ND State Water Commission
- April Swenby, Administrative Asst., Sand Hill River WD
- Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD
- Warren Seykora, Wild Rice WD
- Don Vellenga, Wild Rice WD
- Brian Borgen
- Brent Kappes

No additional items were added to the agenda.

**Motion** by Manager Wright to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as written, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. **Motion** by Manager Wright to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Manager Miller, **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.

### **Public Information Initiative**

Mark Meister distributed the public information monthly report. He stated that he developed and distributed a news article "*Watershed Board Focuses on Flood Protection*" which was printed in 16 of the 22 newspapers in the media database.

Meister referred to the press conference he attended on Monday, May 5, 2008 conducted at the Fargo Air Museum, Fargo, ND regarding the Red River Basin Mapping Initiative. He stated that he met Paul Swenson at the conference who inquired about scheduling a meeting with the Regional Information Officer for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to discuss possible collaborative efforts between the DNR and the Board. Following discussion, the board agreed that Mr. Meister should pursue the meeting.

Meister noted that he has met with the Bois de Sioux WD regarding the 2008 MAWD Summer Tour sponsored by their District and offered assistance in preparation of the tour.

### **Project Coordinator Report**

Ron Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. He reported that he has had numerous discussions with Kent Lokkesmoe-Director Division of Waters and Pat Lynch-Floodplain Hydrologist of the DNR regarding the status of funding for projects progressing through the RRWMB. An agreement was reached with the DNR that \$3,000,000 of state funding would be allocated to the Agassiz Valley Water Management Project of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD and \$2,000,000 to the North Ottawa Impoundment Project of the Bois de Sioux WD so that bids could be let later this month and construction could begin by mid June.

Harnack noted that due to the significant funding requirements for both of the above-mentioned projects, interim financing could be needed from the RRWMB. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize N. Erickson and R. Harnack to proceed in conjunction with the board's attorney to prepare funding agreements for the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project and the North Ottawa Impoundment Project, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

Harnack reported that the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) may be conducting an assessment of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD in response to issues and concerns raised by several organizations. He added that following discussion with Manager Finney, a resolution for

consideration by the Board was prepared by Louis Smith. **Motion** by Manager Osowski to authorize the resolution requesting the Board of Water & Soil Resources to conduct a performance review and assessment of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, **Carried**.

### **Website Calendar Link**

April Swenby, Administrative Assistant-Sand Hill River WD, discussed the web-based calendar services available through DynaCal. She demonstrated the various options available through the subscription service and requested the RRWMB consider sponsoring the services for the Board and member watershed districts.

**Motion** by Manager Money to authorize funding a one-time setup fee of \$550.00 for the web-based calendar services, and \$300.00 for an annual subscription thereafter for the RRWMB and member watershed districts, **Seconded** by Manager Miller, **Carried**.

Ms. Swenby agreed to be the contact person for the web-based calendar services for the member districts.

### **Red River Basin Commission**

Julie Goehring distributed a schedule for the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) Board Tour and Meeting scheduled for June 4 – 5, 2008 in Winnipeg, MB. The tour highlights include the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation and the Winnipeg Floodway. Those attending the tour are encouraged to use the bus transportation available from Fargo to Winnipeg.

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

Wayne Goeken distributed the project monitoring monthly report. He noted that interviews were conducted on May 16<sup>th</sup> for the new monitoring position for the RRWMB. Evelyn Ashiamah-Finch was offered and has accepted the position. She is a graduate of Bemidji State University with a B.S. in Aquatic Biology and a M.S. in Environmental Management. She will begin work on Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be primarily responsible for monitoring coverage in the southern portion of the Red River Basin.

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

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) did not meet this month. He discussed the modeling effort currently being developed by the RRBC which utilizes both the MIKE 11 model and a HEC RAS model. He added that once the modeling efforts of the North Dakota State Water Commission (NDSWC) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have been completed, the MIKE 11 model would be recalibrated and utilized to obtain tributary hydrologic information.

## **Administrator Report**

### **A) Funding Commitments Worksheet**

N. Erickson distributed a revised funding commitments worksheet.

### **B) Resolution for LiDAR Agreements**

N. Erickson reviewed the resolution prepared by Louis Smith regarding conditional approval of the LiDAR agreements. The resolution seeks to limit the Board's cost participation through a separate agreement with IWI and Tri-College. The USACE has agreed to wait to execute the Cost Share Agreement upon receiving notice that the Board's agreement with Tri-College is completed. The resolution also authorizes the Vice Chair to execute the Agreements under the conditions noted.

**Motion** by Manager Money to authorize the resolution for the LiDAR Agreements, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

### **C) RRWMB Co-sponsoring IWI Basin Mapping Initiative**

N. Erickson reported that she attended the press conference on Monday, May 5, 2008 conducted at the Fargo Air Museum, Fargo, ND. A press release was prepared by Mark Meister which will be featured in the next newsletter.

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

1. June Board Meeting, Thursday, June 19, 2008, Dakota Magic Casino & Hotel, Hankinson, ND.
2. July Board Meeting, Tuesday, July 15, 2008, Meeting with the Red River Joint Water Resources Board, Fargo, ND.

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

Chuck Fritz, Director of the International Water Institute (IWI), discussed the separate agreement currently under development between the RRWMB and IWI and Tri-College. The agreement will limit the RRWMB's cost participation for the Red River Basin Mapping Initiative. The agreement has been agreed to in concept with IWI and Tri-College, however, a number of issues in terms of the specific agreement provisions need to be resolved.

Aaron Snyder, Project Manager for the USACE Red River Basin Feasibility Study, reiterated that the Agreement with the USACE would not be executed until the RRWMB provides notice to the Corps that it has executed the agreement with IWI and Tri-College referred to above.

Jim Lyons, Red River Joint Water Resources Board and Orville Knott-Vice President of the RRWMB signed the feasibility cost share agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, as co-sponsors of the basin wide watershed management plan for the Red River of the North.

## **District Reports**

No Watershed District reports were submitted this month.

## **District's Funding Requests**

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2008 MAWD Annual Summer Tour hosted by the Bois de Sioux Watershed District on *Thursday*, June 19, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the Dakota Magic Casino & Hotel, Hankinson, ND.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:00 p.m. following lunch and a tour of Project No. 42.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert Wright  
Secretary

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Naomi L. Erickson  
Administrator