



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 21, 2008

City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, October 21, 2008, in the City Council Chambers, Warren, 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
- Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
- Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering, Inc.
- Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute
- Brian Dwight, Board of Water & Soil Resources
- Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator
- Danni Halvorson, Monitoring Specialist
- Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
- Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC
- Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD
- Keith Mykelseth, The Nature Conservancy
- Jason Lambrecht, Supv. Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey
- Paul Swenson, MNDNR, Natural Resource Tribal Liaison
- Paul Wannarka, MNDNR Red River Basin Coordinator
- Joe Spaeth, Wild Rice WD
- Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD
- Marijo Vik, Recording Secretary, Citizens for Farmland Preservation (CFFP)

No additional items were added to the agenda.

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

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. **Motion** by Manager Money 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 Knott, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Public Information Initiative

In the absence of Mark Meister, the public information monthly report was distributed. In his report, Meister explained that he had previously agreed to conduct a presentation at a conference sponsored by the Board of Water & Soil Resources titled "Selling Your Good Works: Creating Your PR Kit."

Advertisements for a Communications Intern have been distributed to several colleges and universities throughout the Red River basin. The intern will assist the public information officer in designing and coordinating public affairs initiatives. The internship application deadline is December 1, 2008.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has developed a recommendation for a revision to the Red River Basin Watershed Feasibility Study, Phase 2 – Red River Basin Modeling effort. Phase 2 consists of modeling the main stem of the rivers in the basin and watershed modeling for the sub-watersheds. The modeling effort will include the completion of the MIKE 11 model at an estimated cost of \$35,000, and extending the cross-sections of the USACE HEC-RAS modeling on the lower end of the Red River main stem. The recommendation of the TAC would be to allow the \$35,000 utilized for the completion of the MIKE 11 model to be used as in-kind work for the Project Management Plan (PMP).

Motion by Manager Money to accepted the TAC recommendation regarding Phase II - Red River Basin Modeling Effort of the Project Management Plan (PMP) for the Red River Basin Watershed Feasibility Study, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Project Coordinator Report

Ron Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. He reported that the Drainage Work Group reviewed the drainage system modernization grant process. The deadline for applications is October 31, 2008. The grant is a 50/50 match with a maximum of \$50,000 per grant. The amount of the grant can be increased if there is more than one application where the counties and/or watershed districts are working together to complete the modernization process.

Harnack suggested that the RRWMB consider sponsoring a legislative briefing for area legislators in St. Paul in either January or February similar to the briefing conducted last year. Following discussion, the board agreed the briefing should be conducted in St. Paul in conjunction with the

February board meeting as the January board meeting could be conducted prior to the RRBC's Annual Conference scheduled for January 20-22, 2009 in Winnipeg, MB.

Administrator Report

A) Funding Commitments Worksheet

N. Erickson distributed a revised funding commitments worksheet.

B) Red River Valley U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) / COOP Meeting

N. Erickson reported that she attended the annual USGS Cooperator meeting on Wednesday, September 24, 2008, in West Fargo, ND. The agenda included an overview of the Minnesota and North Dakota streamflow monitoring programs, midwest flooding, updates on Homme, Orwell, and Baldhill Dams, and discussion of the Discovery Farms Project. Jason Lambrecht, Supervisory Hydrologist – U.S. Geological Survey, will conduct a presentation on the stream gaging network in the Red River basin later today during the board meeting.

C) Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

N. Erickson explained that MPCA is reviewing its various approaches to stakeholder involvement. Through joint efforts of the MPCA Basin Coordinators and the Governors' Clean Water Council, the agency is examining how well it engages with citizens and stakeholders. Their research has included literature search, presentations by experts and networking with practitioners in civic and social science.

The MPCA has requested the board to consider an invitation to Dr. Mark Meister to meet with their Basin Team on October 23, or at a subsequent meeting, to share his expertise and insights in communications and civic engagement to help them better coordinate their efforts in the Red River Basin. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize Dr. Meister to meet with the MPCA Basin Team, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**. Following discussion, the board agreed to nullify the previously adopted motion as they were concerned that Dr. Meister's participation in the development of a state agency adopted public information initiative could be perceived as receiving endorsement from the RRWMB. **Motion** by Manager Money to rescind the motion authorizing Dr. Meister to meet with the MPCA Basin Team, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

D) Legislative Briefing

N. Erickson further discussed sponsoring a legislative briefing in St. Paul in conjunction with the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group as was addressed previously by R. Harnack. As the board agreed the legislative briefing should be conducted in conjunction with the February board meeting, alternative locations were discussed to conduct the January 20, 2009 board meeting to facilitate those board members attending the RRBC's Annual Conference scheduled for January 20-22, 2009 in Winnipeg, MB. Following discussion, the board agreed to conduct the January 20, 2009 board meeting at the Two Rivers Watershed District in Hallock, MN.

E) Meeting Calendar

The Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group has begun scheduling their meetings in conjunction with the regular RRWMB monthly meetings. The Work Group typically meets on a quarterly basis, and has alternated meeting locations between Crookston and Detroit Lakes in order to provide centralized meeting locations for attendees.

N. Erickson stated that previously Dr. Meister had suggested that the board consider the development of an annual meeting calendar in order to provide a comprehensive meeting calendar for each year. She added that she discussed the development of the calendar with Dr. Meister who indicated that he could assist the board with pursuing the development of a calendar beginning in 2009 depicting the meeting locations for the year.

F) Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

N. Erickson reported that Don Buckhout, BWSR, requested that the Board of Managers consider partnering with BWSR in offering funding assistance to provide facilitation services for the Middle Snake Tamarac Rives WD. Brian Dwight, BWSR, explained that the facilitation services are regarding the recommendations developed in conjunction with the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) report presented to the District.

Following discussion, the board agreed to table discussion of providing funding assistance for facilitation services to the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD until their Board of Managers have discussed the issue.

G) Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group / Funding Committee

The Funding Committee met on Thursday, October 9, 2008 via conference call to develop an amended recommendation for reallocating remaining funds from fiscal years 2007 and 2008. The recommendation will be submitted to the Work Group for consideration today at their meeting following the regular monthly RRWMB meeting.

H) Data Practices Act Policy

N. Erickson distributed the revised Data Practices Act policy authorized at the September 16, 2008 board meeting.

I) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. MAWD Annual Meeting & Trade Show, December 4-6, 2008, Arrowwood Conference Center, Alexandria, MN.
2. Red River Basin Commission's 26th Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference, January 20-22, 2009, Hotel Fort Garry, Winnipeg, MB.

Red River Basin Commission

Julie Goehring reported that the RRBC board meeting and retreat is scheduled for November 5-6, 2008 at the Ramada Grand Forks, in Grand Forks, ND.

The 26th Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference is scheduled for January 20-22, 2009 at the Hotel Fort Garry, Winnipeg, MB.

Wayne Goeken distributed the project monitoring monthly report. He reported that new River Watch programs were initiated at Herman and Park Christian (Moorhead). Waubun and Thief River Falls schools have also expressed an interest in establishing the program.

An application was prepared and submitted to the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) to nominate the River Watch Program as Program of the Year for the annual meeting scheduled for December.

U.S. Geological Survey

Jason Lambrecht, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), presented an update on the stream gaging network that the RRWMB participates in as a funding partner with USGS. He explained that the network is vital to the National Weather Service's river forecast and warning program and the goal to reduce flood damages and loss of life. Without the data from this network, increased losses from floods of both life and property would occur.

N. Erickson distributed a handout depicting the funding contributions for the stream gaging network by the various agencies in the Red River basin. A proposed change to the gage network is to incorporate the Snake River gage above Radium, MN into the RRWMB's network. The change would involve a one-time cost of \$2,200 (\$1,100 USGS / \$1,100 RRWMB) to move the gage and install it a new location, and changing the cooperator share of the gage from the MSTRWD to the RRWMB. As the board meeting of the MSTRWD scheduled for October 20th was canceled, the Board of Managers agreed to table discussion of incorporating the Snake River gage above Radium into the RRWMB's network until the local watershed district could address the issue.

District Reports

- The Red Lake WD reported that construction has been substantially completed on the Brandt Outlet Restoration Project 60E Phase II. Seeding of the channel was completed in September along with implementation of erosion control measures. Ditch plugs will be removed next spring to allow the restored channel time to stabilize.

The Board of Managers have authorized the District to apply for a Drainage Records Modernization Grant through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). The District has elected to partner with the Pennington County Highway Department for the initiative.

The District is investigating options to develop wetland banking credits in excess of 11 acres within the Louisville/Parnell Impoundment Project. This area was defined as a possible banking site when the original project was constructed. There are presently two wetland banking sites within the impoundment which were given to the Minnesota Department of Transportation as part of their cost share to the project.

District's Funding Requests

1. Bois de Sioux WD / Redpath Project / Step I Submittal

The information required for a Step I submittal was distributed. Charlie Anderson conducted a presentation of the proposed project. A tour of the project area was conducted previously prior to the June 19, 2008 regular monthly meeting at the Dakota Magic Casino & Hotel, Hankinson, North Dakota.

The next meeting will be on November 18, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:00 p.m. following lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator