



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

November 18, 2008

Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, November 18, 2008, at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

President John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

Todd Miller	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.
- Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator
- Blake Carlson, Engineer, JOR Engineering, Inc.
- Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
- Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC
- Keith Mykleseth, The Nature Conservancy
- Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office
- Mark Meister, CR*CS
- Steve Dalen, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
- Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD

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 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 Money, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Public Information Initiative

Mark Meister discussed the public information monthly report. Previously, he had suggested the board consider developing a comprehensive meeting calendar by scheduling their meetings a year in advance. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize Dr. Meister to proceed with the development of a yearly calendar beginning in 2009, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

Meister explained that he conducted a presentation at the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Academy of the North titled "Selling Your Good Works: Creating Your PR Kit." Copies of the presentation were distributed.

Meister added that advertisements for a Communications Intern have been distributed to several colleges and universities throughout the Red River basin. Following the application deadline of December 1, 2008, a meeting will be scheduled with the Public Information Committee (Jerome Deal, N. Erickson, Dan Money, and Dan Wilkens) to review the applications.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul distributed the TAC recommendation regarding the Bois de Sioux WD's Step I Submittal for the Redpath Project. He explained that the RRWMB's cost per Star Value for the project is currently \$14.17 which results in a ranking score of 16. Therefore, the TAC supports Step I approval for the Redpath Project.

Manager Finney inquired whether the project could be constructed in phases. Charlie Anderson responded that the project could be constructed over a two-year period.

Thul suggested that should the Board of Managers consider reviewing the Governing Documents publication, Section 5 – Star Value Method should be updated as well. Manager Finney requested N. Erickson to determine when the next update to the Governing Documents is scheduled.

Thul referred to the initiative with the University of Minnesota to develop design criteria for tile drainage systems in the Red River Basin. Following discussion, the board directed D. Thul and N. Erickson to develop a letter requesting documentation regarding the results of the study.

Project Coordinator Report

Ron Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. The proposed Red River Valley RIM Reserve Stream/River Restoration initiative has been presented to BWSR's advisory committee. The objective of the initiative is to achieve priority river/stream restoration and flood damage reduction outcomes consistent with the Mediation Agreement.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) continues to conduct meetings on the development of non-degradation rules and rules for pollution credit trading. The plan is to have the final rules developed in 2010.

A ring dike assessment has been completed for 2009-10. A total of thirteen ring dikes have been requested by member districts for a biennial request for fiscal years 2010-11 of \$214,000/yr. (\$428,000).

Administrator Report

A) Funding Commitments Worksheet

N. Erickson distributed a revised funding commitments worksheet.

B) Legislative Briefing

The Board of Managers agreed at the October board meeting that the upcoming legislative briefing would be conducted in St. Paul in conjunction with the February board meeting. In previous years, the briefing has been sponsored in conjunction with the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group.

C) U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Stream Gaging Network

N. Erickson reported that at the October 21, 2008 board meeting a proposed change to the gage network was discussed. The proposal was to incorporate the Snake River gage above Radium 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 in 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.

Nick Drees stated that the MSTRWD Board of Managers had discussed the proposed change at their November board meeting and requested that the RRWMB reconsider the proposal at today's meeting. **Motion** by Manager Osowski to authorize the one-time cost of \$2,200 to be shared equally between USGS and the RRWMB to move the gage and install it in a new location, and change the cooperator share of the gage from the MSTRWD to the RRWMB, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

D) Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) Report / MSTRWD

N. Erickson referenced the Level III review of the MSTRWD's operation and execution of planned projects and programs conducted by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). A letter developed by Ron Harnack and N. Erickson regarding the PRAP report conducted by BWSR was distributed. Following discussion, the board agreed to forward the letter from the RRWMB to BWSR for consideration.

E) 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 distributed the conference program for the 26th Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference.

The Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) Proposal developed by the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) was distributed. The proposal includes a request of \$5 million in funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for a pilot project that would be a model for the Red River Basin funds under AWEP to be utilized for the duration of the current farm bill.

Goehring requested that the Board of Managers consider co-sponsoring the AWEP Proposal along with the Red River Joint Water Resources Board. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to co-sponsor the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) proposal of the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC), **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

Wayne Goeken distributed the project monitoring monthly report. He reported that final sample runs wrapped up in October and November for River Watch. After the 2008 monitoring data is received from the participating schools, it will be submitted to MPCA. Once all the data is received, the water quality staff will begin working the schools to assist with data analysis and interpretation as they prepare for the River Watch Forum in the spring of 2009. The schools will be encouraged to make their results available for public display and presentation at local venues.

District Reports

- The Red Lake WD provided an update regarding the water levels in impoundments. Due to recent rainfalls, the water levels remain high throughout the District. Most impoundments are above the optimum winter levels. The District is continuing to release water from the impoundments in an effort to reach the winter levels within the next couple of weeks.

On October 23, 2008, a preliminary hearing was held for the establishment of a lateral to Pennington County Ditch No. 75. The Board of Managers found the project feasible, appointed three viewers and directed the engineer to prepare a detailed study and final report. A final hearing for the project is planned for March or April of 2009.

- The Bois de Sioux WD reported on the North Ottawa Impoundment Project. Work has been progressing slowly due to weather related delays.

Phase IV construction began this fall and has been a struggle, with regular precipitation and shorter drying days hampering progress. Currently the drainage area delivering water to the impoundment is 19 square miles. The dike elevations are adequate to control the runoff from this drainage area. As the dikes near their completed elevation, more of the drainage area is

“connected” to the impoundment. The plans of substantially completing this phase by November 1, 2008 were not realized due to the late season rains. The construction sites will be stabilized for winter and work will resume in the spring of 2009.

This coming winter, the District will work with the local resource managers to develop the plans for completing Phase V, which includes installing the natural resource enhancement components of the project. A plan for completion as well as a funding strategy with the State of Minnesota will be developed. The completion date of this phase is dependent on the receipt of state funding.

District’s Funding Requests

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

The information required for a Step I submittal was distributed at the October 21, 2008 board meeting.

The impoundment will store 16,200 acre-feet of floodwater, which is 1.5 inches of runoff from the 208 square mile drainage area. Of the 16,200 total acre-feet of storage, 13,100 acre-feet is gated and 3,100 acre-feet is ungated. The flood controls for this project are to reduce flow rates on the Mustinka River to more closely match channel capacity, reduce breakout flows from the Mustinka River to the Rabbit River, and to reduce the volume of water entering Lake Traverse during major floods to more closely match its storage capacity resulting in reduced floodwater outflows downstream of Lake Traverse.

Multiple natural resource enhancement benefits have been designed into the project including downstream flow augmentation, ~ 8.8 miles of restored/created natural channel, semi-permanent wetland area for waterfowl production and migration, and spawning habitat for northern pike. The project is consistent with the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee’s (TSAC) Technical Paper No. 11 and the District’s Overall Watershed Management Plan.

Motion by Manager Deal to approve the Step I submittal for the Redpath Project, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

The next meeting will be on December 16, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator