



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 17, 2009

Kelly Inn, St. Paul, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at the Kelly Inn, St. Paul, Minnesota.

President John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

Steve Lee	Dan Money
Orville Knott	Daniel Wilkens
Robert Wright	Jerome Deal

Others present were:

- Naomi Erickson, Administrator
- Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator
- Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Lance Yohe, Executive Director, RRBC
- Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator
- Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Warren Seykora, Wild Rice WD
- Steve Dalen, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
- Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC
- Ben Kleinwachter, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Louis Smith, Attorney, Smith Partners, PLLP
- John Jaschke, Executive Director, Board of Water & Soil Resources
- Jim Ziegler, Unit Supervisor-MPCA
- Ray Bohn, MAWD
- Paul Swenson, MNDNR, Natural Resource Tribal Liaison
- Kent Lokkesmoe, MNDNR, Director – Division of Waters
- Pat Lynch, MNDNR Floodplain Hydrologist
- Michelle Walker, MNDNR, Hydrologist

Motion by Manager Deal to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as written, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **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 Deal, **Carried**. A one-page handout of

monthly bills to be approved was distributed. **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Money, **Seconded** by Manager Lee, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Attorney's Report

Louis Smith, board attorney, reported that a letter dated January 22, 2009 was forwarded to the Minnesota Attorney General to request an opinion regarding several issues relating to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law. A response has not yet been received.

Project Coordinator Report

R. Harnack discussed the Project Coordinator Report. He reported that he attended the *Time to Build II* meeting sponsored by the Wild Rice Watershed District in Ada, MN. He conducted a presentation of the Red River Valley RIM Reserve Initiative of \$3,000,000, of which the Wild Rice WD is requesting \$400,000 for the Lower Wild Rice River Corridor Project.

R. Harnack added that he has been working in cooperation with Watershed District Administrators, District Engineers, and Henry Van Offelen of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) to develop a proposal to submit to the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council (LOHC) regarding funding for projects including wetland and stream restorations. The proposal will be submitted at their February 23, 2009 meeting.

Public Information Initiative

In the absence of Mark Meister, the public information monthly report was distributed. A feature article titled "*Using Farmland for Flood Control Benefits Everyone*" was developed. A copy of the article will be distributed to newspapers for publication.

Extending the internship deadline yielded two applications. The applications have been forwarded to the Public Information Committee for review. A recommendation will be submitted to the Board of Managers for their consideration at the March board meeting.

Confirmations were received from several individuals who were invited to participate on the leadership steering committee regarding the River Watch and Water Quality Project Monitoring initiatives. A meeting will be scheduled with the committee members in late March.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

Wayne Goeken reported that data from all monitoring programs that the RRWMB was involved with in 2008 was submitted to MPCA. The data has been finalized and is available via STORET.

Goeken stated that he conducted a presentation at the RRBC's annual conference in Winnipeg, MB. The presentation included water quality monitoring in the Minnesota portion of the Red River Basin with emphasis on River Watch involvement.

Goeken discussed a resolution for a proposal developed for a 2009-2010 Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). 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 2009-2010 Surface Water Assessment Monitoring Grant, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

Red River Basin Commission

Lance Yohe, Executive Director – RRBC, reported on the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) Proposal. The proposal includes funding 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.

Administrator Report

A) Legislative Briefing

Preceding today's board meeting, the Legislative Briefing was conducted in conjunction with the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group. Several legislators, as well as federal and state agency representatives were in attendance. N. Erickson discussed the revised 2009 Legislative Briefing funding request handout developed for the briefing. The handout included funding requests for projects ready for immediate expenditure of capital bonding funds and other program funding considerations. Thanks to Ron Harnack, Dan Thul, Watershed District Administrators, and other contributors for their efforts in revising the handout.

B) Federal Economic Stimulus Initiative

N. Erickson reported that letters requesting funding provided through the Federal Economic Stimulus Initiative were forwarded to members of the federal congressional delegation including Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Rep. James Oberstar, and Rep. Collin Peterson.

C) 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.

D) Funding Commitments Worksheet

N. Erickson distributed a revised funding commitments worksheet.

E) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. March Conference, Tuesday, March 31, 2009, Northland Inn, Crookston, MN.

Governor's FY 2010-11 Budget

The State of Minnesota operates on a two year budget cycle (or a biennium as it is referred to in state government). State fiscal years begin on July 1 and end the following June 30. The fiscal year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends.

Manager Finney invited Kent Lokkesmoe, Director – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Waters, and John Jaschke, Executive Director – Board of Water & Soil Resources to discuss the proposed Governor's budget for FY 2010-11.

Lokkesmoe reported that various scenarios are being considered for budget reductions. The annual appropriation for Work Group operating expenses previously budgeted for \$280,000 could likely be reduced to \$210,000. The Flood Damage Reduction grant program currently includes \$200,000, of which a portion could potentially be utilized for farmstead ring dikes.

Lokkesmoe introduced Pat Lynch, Floodplain Hydrologist, who was selected to fill the vacated position of Ed Fick due to his retirement. Mr. Lynch manages the Flood Damage Reduction program. Paul Swenson, MNDNR, introduced Michelle Walker, Hydrologist, who is currently working in the Detroit Lakes office on temporary assignment.

Jaschke stated that the mission of the BWSR board and staff is to improve and protect Minnesota's water and soil resources by working in partnership with local organizations and private landowners. Agency programs, primarily delivered through grants to local units of government, will be reduced this year due to needed budget reductions.

District's Funding Requests

1. Wild Rice WD / Step I Submittal / Upper Becker Dam Enhancement Project

The information required for a Step I submittal was distributed to the board for review. A tour of the proposed project area is planned for the April board meeting.

Citizens for Farmland Preservation

Managers John Finney and Daniel Wilkens reported that they met with members of the Citizens for Farmland Preservation (CFFP) organization including Robert Braseth, Kim Syverson, Brian Borgen, and Mark Habedank on February 12, 2009 at the Sand Hill River Watershed District office. The operations and procedures followed by the RRWMB were discussed.

The next meeting will be on March 17, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator