



## 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 Diane Ista-Ada Jerome Deal, Secretary-Wheaton  
Naomi Erickson, Administrator-Detroit Lakes

## RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

June 16, 2009

Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

President John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

Steve Lee	Dan Money
Orville Knott	Daniel Wilkens
Diane Ista	Jerome Deal

Others present were:

- Naomi Erickson, Administrator
- Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator
- Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
- Mark Meister, CR\*CS
- Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC
- Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator
- Danni Halvorson, Monitoring Specialist
- Paul Swenson, MNDNR, Natural Resource Tribal Liaison
- Wallace Sparby, Congressman Peterson's office
- Todd Miller, Roseau River WD
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
- Henry Van Offelen, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
- Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute
- Paul Wannarka, MNDNR Red River Basin Coordinator
- Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Keith Mykleseth, The Nature Conservancy
- Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD
- Jim Ziegler, Unit Supervisor-MPCA
- Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering, Inc.
- Blake Carlson, Engineer, JOR Engineering, Inc.

**Motion** by Manager Deal to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as written,  
**Seconded** by Manager Lee, **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 Deal, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

### **Public Information Initiative**

Mark Meister reported on the public information initiative. He stated that he coordinated and facilitated a conference call with members of the Public Information Committee (PIC) on June 4, 2009 to discuss the tours of the North Ottawa Impoundment Project and also the bus tour scheduled in conjunction with the Joint Annual Meeting on July 21, 2009. Tour routes as well as the length of the bus tour were discussed.

Manager Deal added that discussion also occurred on the conference call regarding establishing a discretionary budget for the PIC as some issues require immediate approval prior to receiving board authorization. Manager Money suggested that an annual budget be developed relative to the funds expended for the public information initiative. **Motion** by Manager Knott to authorize a \$10,000 annual discretionary budget to be utilized as agreed by the PIC, **Seconded** by Manager Ista, **Carried**.

### **Project Coordinator Report**

Ron Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. He reported that he attended a flood issues meeting in Breckenridge with Congressman Peterson, U.S. Senator Klobuchar and Dave White, Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS). Due to the unavailability of current state and local funding to construct the remaining ring dikes needed throughout the basin, federal funding utilizing the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) was discussed. Chief White indicated that he would contact the NRCS office in St. Paul to inquire about funding the remaining ring dikes in the basin with EQIP funds. Harnack added that following the discussion with Chief White, he was contacted by a representative in St. Paul requesting additional information and upon further review received notification that additional ring dike funding through EQIP would likely be approved.

In an effort to improve water quality in flood prone areas, the USDA NRCS is targeting a minimum of \$2 million in financial assistance through EQIP for the installation or enhancement of farmstead ring dikes. Agricultural producers will be eligible to receive up to 75 percent of the cost of building the dike to protect their farmstead. The remaining 25 percent of the cost would likely be shared by the local watershed district and the producer.

Harnack stated that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) \$250,000 appropriation for ring dikes could be used for either farmstead or rural ring dikes provided that EQIP would cover 75% of all the farmstead ring dike needs.

Harnack reported that the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) also has funding available for cost-share under the recent flood recovery legislation. This appropriation could be used toward ring dike construction as well. The Minnesota Recovers Task Force has a state disaster assistance application process to request all state funding related to the flood. The BWSR would prefer allocating the approved funding to as few as grantees as possible and is willing to disburse the funds to the RRWMB who could then allocate the funding to the individual watersheds. Following

discussion, the Board of Managers agreed to file a ring dike application for BWSR cost-share funding with the task force. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to file a ring dike application for BWSR cost-share funding with the Minnesota Recovers Task Force and function as the fiscal agent/grantee for all state funds for the engineering and construction of *rural* ring dikes, **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**.

Harnack discussed the proposed funding options for the RRWMB for farmstead ring dikes and also rural ring dikes. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize the *farmstead* ring dikes cost-share as follows: EQIP Engineering 100%, EQIP Construction 75%, Watershed District 0-12.5% as determined by the local watershed district, and landowner 12.5-25% (RRWMB 0% unless there are special/unique engineering/construction issues, then up to 12.5% upon request of the local watershed district), **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize the *rural* ring dikes cost-share as follows: BWSR/DNR Construction & Engineering 50%, RRWMB Construction & Engineering 25%, remaining 25% to be divided between the individual watershed district and landowner as determined by the local watershed district, **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**.

Harnack added that he continues to work with member districts to develop a five-year capital investment plan. Upon completion of the individual watershed district plans, a master spreadsheet will be compiled.

### **Red River Basin Commission**

Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator – RRBC, distributed an article titled *Red River Basin Commission moves to start flood control planning*. The RRBC is in charge of spending the \$1 million appropriation authorized by legislatures in Minnesota and North Dakota. A plan will be developed for beginning a basin-wide flood control process for submission to the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources and the North Dakota State Water Commission.

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

Wayne Goeken distributed the project monitoring monthly report. He stated that discussions have begun with Shannon Lotthammer, Environmental Outcomes Division Director-MPCA regarding the work plan and contract needs relative to the River Watch legislative appropriation. Detailed budgets are being developed to assist with leveraging the appropriation for additional activities.

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

Thul reported that the TAC met on May 20, 2009 in Fargo, ND. Harnack attended the meeting and reported to the TAC that there continues to be a strong desire to document the benefits achieved in flood damage reduction efforts implemented through the Mediation Agreement. Options discussed included: reporting the flood storage volume for each project constructed with an estimate of the agricultural acres that are no longer flooded, defining the damage area downstream of the project and estimate the percentage of the reduction of damages the project will achieve, and/or a “dots on a map” concept similar to the one developed for the North Ottawa Impoundment Project. Harnack emphasized the need to develop a consistent process to be applied to each project.

The TAC discussed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Watershed Feasibility Study specifically with regard to the proposed work-in-kind efforts to include in the Project Management Plan (PMP). Three of the proposed efforts were supported by the North Dakota Joint Water Resources Board and included: studying possible detention options on the Wild Rice River in North Dakota (\$25,000), studying possible detention on the Bois de Sioux River (\$50,000), and collecting imaging during the 2009 flood in southeast Cass County, North Dakota (\$45,000). As the above-mentioned work-in-kind efforts are funded by the North Dakota contribution, the TAC had no objection to including them in the study.

The fourth proposal was to include aerial imagery, high water marks, and digitizing the 2009 flood boundaries from the Canadian border to the ND/SD line. This effort would be funded with the LiDAR funding appropriated to the International Water Institute (IWI). The TAC determined that this proposal would benefit member watershed districts and recommended including this effort in the study.

The TAC also discussed including the RRBC's Red River Flood Prevention Planning study recently funded at \$500,000 from Minnesota through BWSR and at \$500,000 from North Dakota through the State Water Commission. The TAC recommended that the \$1 million dollar initiative be included as a work-in-kind effort to potentially leverage federal matching funds.

Henry Van Offelen discussed the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) proposal presented to the board at their May board meeting. The TAC recommended endorsing the proposal and suggested that technical assistance could be provided through the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC) of the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group. The TAC further recommended that the board provide funding assistance for technical representation on TSAC to be shared equally between the board and the Work Group and that a letter of support from the board be forwarded to MCEA. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize technical representation from the TAC on the Work Group's TSAC and also forward a letter of support from the board to MCEA, **Seconded** by Manager Lee, **Carried**.

Charlie Anderson reported that he discussed the final draft of the Agricultural Tile Drainage Study with Dr. Gary Sands of the University of Minnesota. A computer model called "Drain Mod" was used to study three different soil types. Anderson questioned the reliability of the modeling effort as the model doesn't include a frozen ground component and it assumes only 1/8-inch of available storage in the soil between the surface and tile line.

Thul reported that he attended the Red River Basin Mapping Initiative Spring 2009 Kick-off Meeting sponsored by the International Water Institute. The status of the spring LiDAR collect was presented as well as the "Web Viewer" developed for use during the 2009 flood event. A workshop for potential users was suggested in order for IWI to develop a comprehensive web server.

Thul noted that he attended the June 3, 2009 RRBC meeting. Plans for proceeding with the \$1 million appropriation for the flood planning initiative were discussed. A sub-committee was appointed to assist with the development of a Phase 1 work plan and includes D. Thul, R. Harnack, and J. Finney. Thul noted his concern with the direction the RRBC is proceeding with regard to the initiative and encouraged the board to play an active role in the development of the plan. He also suggested that the initiative be included in the USACE Watershed Feasibility Study.

**A) Funding Commitments Worksheet**

A revised funding commitments worksheet as of May 31<sup>st</sup> has been developed. Please refer to handout.

**B) Joint Annual Meeting**

A conference call of the Public Information Committee was conducted on June 4, 2009 to plan the agenda and tour route of the Joint Annual Meeting scheduled for July 21, 2009 in East Grand Forks, MN.

The proposed agenda is as follows:

- 9:00 Each Water Board will conduct their respective board meeting
- 10:00 Joint Meeting of the RRWMB and RRJWRB Convenes  
Introductions – Jim Lyons, Chair RRJWRB & John Finney, President RRWMB
- 10:15 RRJWRB Presentation
- 10:45 RRWMB PowerPoint Presentations of Projects included on Bus Tour
- 11:30 Lunch Buffet
- 1:00 Bus Tour Departs
- 4:00 Return to **The Blue Moose**

**C) 2007 Audit**

The 2007 annual audit has been completed by Brady, Martz & Associates. After receiving the completed financial information, the Annual Report will be published and distributed.

**D) Human Resource Committee Meeting**

At the previous monthly meeting, the contract with the State of Minnesota for the position of Red River Coordinator (Dan Thul) was discussed. The Board of Managers requested the Human Resources Committee to review the draft job description and develop a recommendation for the June board meeting. As the committee was unable to convene a meeting, a recommendation has yet to be developed. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize the Human Resource Committee to review the draft job description and authorize the contract for the position of Red River Coordinator pending adoption of the job description, **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**.

**E) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences**

1. **2009 MAWD Summer Tour**, Shell Rock River WD, June 25-27, 2009, Albert Lee, MN.
2. **July Board Meeting**, Tuesday, July 21, 2009, Meeting with the Red River Joint Water Resources Board, The Blue Moose, East Grand Forks, MN.

**District Reports**

- The Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD reported that the completion of Phase I (Embankment) on the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project is expected in time for the Joint Annual Meeting bus tour scheduled for July 21, 2009.

Phase II (Inlet Works) construction has started on the south inlet ditch (.5 miles) with only seeding remaining. The north inlet ditch (3.5 miles) has also started construction. Completion of Phase II is anticipated this summer.

Phase III (Wetland Mitigation) which is the final phase of the project is also expected to be completed this summer.

- The Red Lake WD reported on the Polk County Ditch No. 53 Improvements and Lateral Petition. The project is located ~ 5 miles west of Fisher and ends ~ 4.5 miles west of Eldred. The total length of the ditch improvement and lateral is ~ 8.5 miles of open channel and includes the installation of various culverts. The entire length of the system including branches, which were transferred to the District, totals ~ 16 miles. Construction has begun on the project and the District plans to have it completed by late July or early August.

### **District's Funding Requests**

#### **1. Roseau River WD / Step II Submittal / Hay Creek/Norland Project**

The information required for a Step II submittal was previously distributed. The estimated total project cost is currently ~ \$10,000,000, with a RRWMB commitment of \$1,250,000.00.

**Motion** by Manager Lee to authorize the Step II submittal of the Hay Creek/Norland Project, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

#### **2. Bois de Sioux WD / Funding Advance / Redpath Project**

Jon Roeschlein stated that the Step I submittal for the Redpath Project was authorized by the board at their November 18, 2008 board meeting.

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 land required to construct the project is 2,800 acres. The District currently owns 200 acres within the impoundment and also ~ 240 acres outside the project area which could be used for trade. The State of Minnesota has dedicated \$1.75 million for land acquisition for the Redpath Project and the District is requesting board consideration to match the state funding.

The original preliminary RRWMB commitment authorized in the Step I submittal was \$2,175,000. Roeschlein distributed a revised cost breakdown which estimates the revised RRWMB commitment at ~ \$4,500,000. Following discussion, the board agreed to reallocate the local share of natural resource enhancements previously authorized for the North Ottawa Impoundment Project on May 15, 2007 to be used towards land acquisition for the Redpath Project along with an additional \$750,000 to match state funding. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize the reallocation of the \$1,000,000 previously authorized for the local share of natural resource enhancements for the North Ottawa Project and also an additional \$750,000 to be used towards land acquisition for the Redpath Project for a total of \$1.75 million required to match state funding, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

The next meeting will be on July 21, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. at The Blue Moose, East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Jerome Deal  
Secretary

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Naomi L. Erickson  
Administrator