



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

September 15, 2009

City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at the City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota.

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

Members present were: Steve Lee Dan Money
 Diane Ista Jerome Deal

Others present were: Naomi Erickson, Administrator
Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Mark Meister, CR*CS
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering, Inc.
Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
Blake Carlson, Engineer, JOR Engineering, Inc.
Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD
Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC
Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator
Danni Halvorson, Monitoring Specialist
Wallace Sparby, Congressman Peterson's office
Henry VanOffelen, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
Todd Miller, Roseau River WD
Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute
Paul Wannarka, MNDNR Red River Basin Coordinator
Jim Ziegler, Unit Supervisor-MPCA
Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
Brian Dwight, Board of Water & Soil Resources

Motion by Manager Money to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as written,
Seconded by Manager Deal, **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 Lee, **Carried**. A one-page handout of monthly bills to be approved was distributed. **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Lee, **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. Plans to finalize and coordinate the release of the video project with Henry VanOffelen continue. Also, work continues on the development of a feature article related to the flood storage capacity of impoundment projects co-sponsored by the RRWMB.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Memorandum of Understanding

Mark Meister, chair of the Water Quality Project Monitoring Committee, reported on the transition of the River Watch program and water quality project monitoring activities of the RRWMB to the International Water Institute (IWI).

N. Erickson added that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed by the Tri-College University (TCU) IWI and forwarded to the board's attorney for review. The MOU was distributed for review.

N. Erickson stated that following a review of the draft MOU, several comments were received from the attorney. A copy of the memo received from Smith Partners was distributed. **Motion** by Manager Deal to adopt the attorney's recommendations and direct Smith Partners to proceed with TCU/IWI legal counsel to produce a final agreement for execution, **Seconded** by Manager Ista, **Carried**.

Project Coordinator Report

Ron Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. The House Capital Investment Committee toured the North Ottawa Impoundment Project of the Bois de Sioux WD on September 2, 2009. Jon Roeschlein discussed the remaining funds needed to complete the final phase of the project. As this phase includes essentially all the natural resource enhancement components of the project, plans are to request funding from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council rather than bonding.

Further along the tour route, Jerry Bents-Houston Engineering, and Diane Ista-Wild Rice WD joined the tour and reviewed the District's proposal for the Upper Becker Dam Enhancement Project as well as the completed Dalen Coulee Project.

Prior to the RRBC meeting on September 3, 2009, Harnack conducted a presentation on behalf of the RRWMB for legislators on the committee and discussed future initiatives and proposed legislation for water management. Following the presentation, discussions with legislators emphasized the need to demonstrate how taxpayers benefit from flood damage reduction projects. Harnack reported that a

financial plan depicting income and expenses for the next five years is currently being developed for distribution during the upcoming legislative session.

Harnack reported that the Senate Bonding Tour is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27, 2009. As the committee is tentatively scheduled to receive a presentation from the City of Ada and the RRWMB late that afternoon, Harnack suggested that the Board of Managers consider rescheduling their regular monthly meeting to coincide with the tour.

Red River Basin Commission

Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator – RRBC, reported on the RRBC board meeting held on September 3, 2009 in Moorhead, MN. The meeting included reports from several federal agencies including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the National Weather Service (NWS), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and other U.S. and Canadian agencies. The RRBC invites federal agencies to attend annually to receive an update on current activities within the basin, as well as providing them an opportunity to discuss their current programs. In conjunction with the September board meeting, the RRBC sponsored a tour of flood damage reduction projects from Wendell, MN to Crookston, MN for the Minnesota House Capital Investment Committee.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

Wayne Goeken reported that work continues on the legislative appropriation with regard to developing contracts relative to the Clean Water Legacy Act and the general fund. A survey is being developed to determine the effectiveness of the project as it moves forward, along with the formation of control groups within various schools to assist with documentation for ongoing support.

Manager Knott inquired about the transition of the water quality initiatives of the RRWMB to the International Water Institute (IWI). Goeken stated that he worked closely with Chuck Fritz to develop the two-year plan for transferring the initiative which includes the consolidation of funding sources which should facilitate the expansion of the River Watch program not only in Minnesota but in North Dakota and possibly Manitoba as well.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul reported that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting and discussed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Watershed Feasibility Study. He was contacted by Aaron Snyder, Project Manager – USACE regarding the possibility of developing a sub-committee consisting of representatives from the co-sponsors of the initiative, namely the RRWMB and the North Dakota Red River Joint Water Resource Board (RRJWRB). The purpose of the committee would be to develop recommendations as to how the USACE should proceed with the study. **Motion** by Manager Deal to appoint a sub-committee of the RRWMB at the prerogative of the President in consultation with Dan Thul, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

Administrator Report

A) Funding Commitments Worksheet

A revised funding commitments worksheet as of August 31st was distributed.

B) Project Team Expense Reimbursement Guidelines

N. Erickson reported that in July of 2000, the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group approved a list of project team expenses eligible for reimbursement. The list stated that copies are needed for all expenses incurred, **with the exception of administrative costs**. For administrative expenses, a report and general explanation is required regarding the costs submitted for reimbursement.

N. Erickson explained that inconsistencies among the documentation provided by the various project teams with regard to seeking reimbursement for administrative costs have been identified. While some project teams provide copies of *actual* administrative costs incurred, others provide *estimates* of overhead costs incurred per project team meeting, while still others calculate administrative costs utilizing a *multiplier* similar to charging costs to projects or programs.

An opinion was requested from the RRWMB's auditor regarding basic guidelines that could be adopted to ensure consistency and uniformity when claiming project team expenses and their subsequent reimbursement. The opinion was distributed.

Based upon the auditor's recommendation, and the criteria adopted by the Work Group in 2000, N. Erickson noted that procedures will be developed for review by the Work Group's Funding Committee for recommendation at the next Work Group meeting.

C) Letter of Support / BdSWD – Tiger Discretionary Grant Application

N. Erickson distributed a letter of support she developed for the Bois de Sioux WD regarding a project within Grant County which could involve a retention structure located upstream from the Redpath Project.

D) Red River Joint Water Resource Board / Proposed Meeting

N. Erickson stated that she was contacted by Ben Varnson, Red River Joint Water Resource Board (RRJWRB), who inquired about scheduling a meeting of their board with a sub-committee of the RRWMB to discuss drainage issues. The Board is considering rescheduling the October 20th board meeting to coincide with the Senate Bonding Tour on October 27, 2009, in Ada, MN. A suggestion is to conduct the regular board meeting the morning of October 27, 2009 at the Wild Rice WD in Ada, MN, conclude the board meeting at noon, and schedule a meeting of the sub-committee with the RRJWRB in the afternoon prior to the Senate Bonding Committee presentation at the Ada High School. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize a sub-committee consisting of John Finney, Dan Wilkens, Ron Osowski, Ron Harnack and Dan Thul to meet with the RRJWRB, **Seconded** by Manager Lee, **Carried**.

E) Manager Steve Lee

N. Erickson informed the Board of Managers that Manager Steve Lee did not receive reappointment to the Roseau River WD at the end of his term. The RRWMB will recognize Mr. Lee in the near future for his years of service to the board.

F) Red River Valley Flood Recovery

At their August 27th Meeting, the BWSR approved allocations for the Red River Valley Flood Recovery. The 2009 Legislature appropriated \$1 M to BWSR for erosion, sediment, and water quality control cost share for projects damaged by the spring flood of 2009. These funds were made available in disaster declared counties through the MN Recovers Task Force. Allocations will be as follows:

East Polk SWCD	\$ 130,200
Red Lake SWCD	\$ 67,500
Norman SWCD	\$ 172,500
Clay SWCD	\$ 379,800
RRWMB	\$ 250,000

G) FDR Grant Assistance Program Application / Resolution

The Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant agreement between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the RRWMB for ring dikes in the amount of \$250,000.00 has been received. **Motion** by Manager Ista to authorize the local government resolution stating that the RRWMB agrees to serve as the legal sponsor for the project, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

H) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. Red River Basin Commission, Thursday, October 1, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. at the Ramada Inn, Grand Forks, ND.
2. Rainfall-River Forecasting Joint Summit, Monday, October 19, 2009, Crowne Plaza, St. Paul, MN.

District Reports

- The Red Lake WD reported on the Parnell Impoundment. At the regularly scheduled monthly board meeting conducted on September 10, 2009 the Board of Managers approved the low quote from Wright Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$39,711.25 to modify the Parnell Impoundment. The modification consists of installing two 48" CSP with screw gates at the location of the existing connection channel along with the construction of an interior channel. It will allow the transfer of three-feet of water from the west pool to outlet back to the east pool and flow down JD No. 60 when conditions warrant. The project must be completed by October 23, 2009.
- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that the District agreed to serve as a partner in the Upper Mustinka Corridor Transportation Improvements project. The project will include the raising of 25 – 30 road crossings in the upper Mustinka River valley and sizing culverts so that with the 100-year flood potentially an additional 5,700 acre-feet can be stored automatically without washing out every road crossing in the area. In 2009, all but two of these crossings were impassible for 2 to 3 weeks, including MN State Highway No. 55. Grant County is applying for a grant in the amount of \$9 million. At their July board meeting, the RRWMB authorized N. Erickson to draft a letter of support to the Grant County Commission.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

An alternative meeting date was discussed in order to schedule the October board meeting in conjunction with the Senate Bonding Tour scheduled for October 27, 2009 in Ada, MN. **Motion** by Manager Ista to reschedule the regular October monthly meeting of the RRWMB from October 20, 2009, to October 27, 2009 at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, MN, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 11:45 p.m. following lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Deal
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator