



Red River Watershed Management Board

Board of Managers

John Finney, President-Humboldt Todd Miller-Warroad 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

February 16, 2010

Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

President John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

Todd Miller	Dan Money
Alvin Nybladh	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
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
- Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator
- Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering, Inc.
- Paul Wannarka, MNDNR Red River Basin Coordinator
- Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Jim Zeigler, Unit Supervisor-MPCA

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

Finance Committee Report

Manager Deal, Finance Committee Chair, reported that the Finance Committee has met twice since the January board meeting. The committee agreed by consensus to recommend to the Board of Managers to maintain ~\$600,000 in the checking account as an optimum minimum balance. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize an optimum minimum balance of ~\$600,000 in the checking account, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

Another goal of the committee is to develop recommendations to improve the allocation of funds by the board to be presented at the Joint Annual Conference scheduled for Wednesday, June 23, 2010. Manager Finney inquired about rescheduling the Joint Annual Conference from March to June. P. Wannarka responded that several conflicts have occurred with conducting the conference in the spring, including the legislature is often still in session and spring flooding can cause travel difficulties. P. Wannarka further stated that although the date of June 23, 2010 has been selected for this year's conference, a location has yet to be determined.

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. prior to the March RRWMB meeting.

Public Information Initiative

M. Meister reviewed the public information monthly report. Activities for the month of January included writing three articles and advising the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD on responding to media requests as well as attending several flood meetings in the Fargo-Moorhead area regarding the impacts of a diversion on downstream communities.

The letter received from the Cass County Joint Water Resource District was discussed. Manager Finney inquired about developing a response from the board. Manager Deal stated that Sen. Dorgan's position favors establishing an additional federal authority in the valley. Manager Ista suggested discussing this issue with Minnesota's Red River Basin federal delegation. Manager Finney directed M. Meister to draft a response in conjunction with himself and R. Harnack to be forwarded to the Public Information Committee for review prior to distribution.

M. Meister added that future activities will include feature writing and attending board meetings of individual member districts for the purpose of gathering information about potential topics that could be used for public information purposes.

Project Coordinator Report

Ron Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. The bonding bill for the RRWMB and Work Group requests was authored by Rep. Eken (HF2433) and Sen. Langseth (SF2233). The Senate bonding bill (SF2360) was passed on the floor of the Senate on February 08, 2010 with \$70M for flood damage reduction. The House bonding bill (HF2700) was amended to include the 75% language for all projects that are consistent with the mediation agreement and are approved by the Work Group.

R. Harnack distributed the draft letter to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) regarding applications for habitat funding submitted by RRWMB member districts but not selected for

further consideration. At the previous monthly meeting, the Board of Managers requested R. Harnack and N. Erickson collaborate to finalize the letter. The draft letter was distributed to the Co-Chairs of the Work Group for review and it was determined that revisions are still needed prior to distribution. Following discussion, the Board of Managers agreed to invite members of the LSOHC to the Joint Annual Conference scheduled for June 23, 2010.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

Wayne Goeken reported that preparations continue for the River Watch Forum scheduled for Wednesday, March 17th at the University of Minnesota – Crookston campus. He inquired whether the board would consider conducting their March board meeting in conjunction with the River Watch Forum. Following discussion, the board agreed to reschedule their regular monthly meeting from Tuesday, March 16, 2010 to Wednesday, March 17, 2010.

Discussions continue regarding the transition of River Watch and the overall monitoring program from the RRWMB to IWI. Manager Finney authorized RRWMB legal counsel to assist IWI with the establishment of a non-profit organization to accommodate the River Watch program.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul reported that the TAC met prior to the board meeting today with the Finance Committee. The TAC was requested to develop a presentation for the board at a future board meeting regarding the possible funding options currently available to the individual watershed districts, and also conduct a review of the Star Value method calculation and Project Prioritization Worksheet.

Administrator Report

A) Funding Commitments Worksheet

A revised funding commitments worksheet as of January 31st was distributed. N. Erickson reported that for future board meetings, the projections worksheet will be distributed as well.

N. Erickson referred to the funding commitments worksheet regarding the status of the CD No. 18 – Goose Prairie Water Management Project. She stated that at the previous monthly meeting, the funding advance of \$600,000 disbursed to the Wild Rice WD in 2008 for land acquisition was discussed, with Manager Finney directing her to consult with the board's attorney to determine the guidelines for repayment. A draft letter to the Wild Rice WD regarding the status of the project and plans for repayment of the funding advance was distributed. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize sending the letter to the Wild Rice WD, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

B) Cass County Joint Water Resource District

A copy of a letter addressed to Senator Byron Dorgan's office from the Cass County Joint Water Resource District was received by the RRWMB. The letter addresses the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's involvement in the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Feasibility Study regarding the proposed Red River Diversion project.

C) Proposed Fargo-Moorhead Red River Diversion

N. Erickson reported that the letter from the RRWMB regarding the proposed above-mentioned project was distributed to affected parties on the Minnesota side of the Red River basin.

D) Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

Future meeting dates for the Work Group have been proposed for 2010 as follows: March 2nd, June 22nd (?), June 23rd (Joint Annual Conference), August 18th, October 20th, and December 17th.

E) U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Watershed Feasibility Study

N. Erickson reported that D. Thul forwarded a request for documentation of work-in-kind expenses that could be used as matching funds for the USACE Watershed Feasibility Study. She explained that as the board administrates funding for both the Work Group and water quality initiatives, documentation of these expenses can be readily provided to the USACE.

N. Erickson requested reimbursement requests submitted to the board to specifically designate expenses incurred related to the USACE study in order for those funds to be utilized as matching fund dollars.

F) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. **MAWD Legislative Breakfast & Day at the Capitol**, Wednesday, March 10, 2009 to Thursday, March 11, 2010.
2. **River Watch Forum**, Wednesday, March 17, 2010 ~ University of Minnesota, Crookston campus.
3. **New LiDAR Applications Workshop**, Wednesday, March 31, 2010 in Fargo, ND.
4. **Joint Annual Conference**, Wednesday, June 23, 2010, tba.

Buffalo-Red River Watershed District

Manager Deal reported that he was requested to meet with representatives from the Buffalo-Red River WD to discuss the potential for their District to rejoin the board. A meeting has been scheduled for March 08, 2010.

District Reports

No Watershed District reports were submitted this month.

District's Funding Requests

1. Roseau River WD / Step III Submittal / Hay Creek/Norland Project

The information required for a Step III submittal was distributed. The estimated total project costs currently remain at ~ \$10,000,000, with a RRWMB commitment of \$1,250,000.00.

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

The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the Annual River Watch Forum on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. at the Northland Inn, Crookston, MN.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Deal
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator