



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

May 18, 2010

Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota.

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

Members present were:

Todd Miller	Dan Money
Ron Osowski	Daniel Wilkens
Diane Ista	Jerome Deal

Others present were:

- Naomi Erickson, Administrator
- 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
- Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC
- Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute
- Sharon Josephson, Congressman Peterson's office
- Tom Wollin, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
- Keith Mykleseth, The Nature Conservancy
- Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering, Inc.
- Mike Bakken, Engineer, JOR Engineering, Inc.
- Blake Carlson, Engineer, JOR Engineering, Inc.
- Brian Borgen

An update from Manager Deal regarding recent discussions with the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District was added to the agenda under *Other Issues*.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to approve the minutes as written with minor corrections, **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 Miller, **Carried**. A one-page handout of monthly bills to be approved was distributed. **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Osowski, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Proposed Federal Authority

Manager Deal reported that representatives from the Red River Joint Water Resource Board (RRJWRB) and the RRWMB have conducted meetings to discuss the establishment of an organization to receive federal funds for flood damage reduction efforts in the Red River basin. At the previous monthly meeting, a draft of the Red River of the North Watershed Compact was distributed.

Manager Osowski explained that approving a compact between the states of Minnesota and North Dakota would require an act of Congress. Following discussions between the two boards and their respective attorneys, it was agreed to proceed with the development of a joint powers agreement.

N. Erickson added that based on advice from respective legal counsel, both boards agreed that the level of detail included in the draft outline of the Red River of the North Watershed Compact would not be necessary to secure federal funding for the Red River basin. A draft Joint Powers Agreement was developed in consultation with both parties' legal counsel and was distributed for review.

N. Erickson stated that the board's legal counsel suggested obtaining board approval at today's meeting for the Joint Powers Agreement and after similar approval is received from the RRJWRB, arrangements will be made to acquire the necessary signatures. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to approve the Joint Powers Agreement between the RRWMB and the RRJWRB of North Dakota relative to the establishment of a federal authority in the Red River basin, **Seconded** by Manager Ista, **Carried**.

Public Information Initiative

M. Meister reviewed the public information monthly report. Feature writing for the month of May included an article on the TAC's review of the Fargo-Moorhead Metro Flood Study Work Group's recommendations regarding the potential downstream impacts from the proposed Fargo-Moorhead Red River Diversion.

Information regarding the operating procedures of the RRWMB was distributed at several flood meetings conducted in the Fargo-Moorhead area regarding the impacts of a diversion on downstream communities. Initial planning has begun for a press conference and/or signing ceremony regarding the Joint Powers Agreement between the RRWMB and the RRJWRB.

M. Meister reported that his services will be limited this month due to a teaching commitment in the country of Georgia from June 3 – 24, 2010. He stated that although he will not be available by phone, he will have access to email.

Project Coordinator Report

R. Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. During discussions relative to the proposed federal authority in the Red River basin, Congressman Peterson inquired about the annual federal commitment needed to provide the necessary upstream storage required to achieve the targeted 20% reduction of the peak flow on the Red River. An annual federal contribution ranging from ~ \$30 to \$50 million was estimated. Long-term funding options for storage and retention projects were developed for 20 and 25 year strategies.

R. Harnack referred to the revision to board policy for cost-share for farmstead ring dikes adopted at the previous monthly meeting. He discussed the original cost-share for farmstead and rural ring dikes adopted by the Board of Managers at the 06/16/09 board meeting. The farmstead ring dikes cost-share was 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).

At the April 20, 2010 board meeting, the board agreed to modify the policy for farmstead ring dikes to include funding up to 12.5% of the *actual* cost-overrun upon request of the local watershed district. Although the intent of the original policy was that the RRWMB would not provide any cost-share for farmstead ring dikes, it was recognized that there may be unique circumstances when EQIP would not cover 100% of engineering or 75% of construction costs. In these cases the policy provided for the RRWMB to cost-share in a limited capacity, however, it was not clearly stated. The intention was to establish consistency between the farmstead and rural ring dike board cost-share funding, so that the total EQIP and RRWMB cost-share would not exceed 75% of total project costs, with the remaining 25% to be shared by the local watershed district and landowner.

The rural ring dikes cost-share was 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. This policy remains unchanged.

Following discussion, the Board of Managers agreed to another modification to board policy for cost-share for farmstead ring dikes. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize the farmstead ring dike 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 0-25% of the total project cost not to exceed a combined EQIP and RRWMB cost-share of 75% of project costs upon request of the local watershed district), **Seconded** by Manager Ista, **Carried**.

Red River Basin Commission

Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, distributed an update on the *Long Term Flood Solutions Project*. The purpose of the project is to provide a set of proactive principles to guide the development and implementation of the Long Term Flood Solutions Plan for the Red River basin being developed by the RRBC. The plan will build upon, supplement, and expand on the Natural Resource Framework Plan and Guiding Principles of the RRBC.

Goehring distributed the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) proposal. The goal of the proposal is to provide funding assistance for the following activities: Cover Crop Strategy; Beach

Ridge Erosion Reduction Strategy; Restricted Flow Sediment Pool Strategy; Water Flow Retardation Strategy; and Stream Bank Erosion Reduction Strategy.

Goehring reported that the next board meeting is scheduled for June 02-03, 2010 in conjunction with a tour of the Devils Lake basin. Following the RRBC board meeting, the Red River Water Resources Council will meet.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul reported that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting. The article prepared in conjunction with the TAC relative to the Fargo-Moorhead Metro Flood Study Work Group recommendations regarding the proposed Fargo-Moorhead Red River Diversion project was distributed. The article has been further revised and will be featured in an upcoming newsletter circulated by the board.

Following discussion, the Board of Managers agreed to designate a representative to attend the public meetings sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to express the concerns of the board regarding the proposed diversion. **Motion** by Manager Osowski to authorize Jerome Deal to represent the board at public meetings regarding the proposed Fargo-Moorhead Red River Diversion project, **Seconded** by Manager Ista, **Carried**.

Thul reported that the TAC discussed scheduling a meeting with the Finance Committee to develop recommendations for potential revisions to the board's current funding policies. Manager Deal, Finance Committee Chair, requested Thul to coordinate with N. Erickson regarding scheduling a meeting.

Administrator Report

A) Proposed Federal Authority

Erickson reported that a committee meeting was conducted on Friday, April 23, 2010 in Moorhead, MN to discuss the proposed Federal Authority with members of the Minnesota federal delegation. A press conference was conducted by Congressman Peterson at the conclusion of the meeting to discuss current planning efforts for future flood damage reduction initiatives.

Another meeting was conducted on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 in Moorhead, MN to further discuss the proposed Federal Authority with members of the Red River Joint Water Resource Board and representatives from both the Minnesota and North Dakota federal delegations. A draft Joint Powers Agreement was reviewed.

B) Water Quality Initiative / River Watch Program Transfer

N. Erickson explained that a resolution was prepared to approve the agreement with the International Water Institute (IWI) for management of the River Watch Program. At the previous monthly meeting, the board extended the target date of the transfer to May 31, 2010. The resolution and agreement were both distributed for consideration.

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD

**Resolution to Approve Agreement with International Water Institute
for Management of the River Watch Program**

Whereas, the River Watch Program is an important citizen water quality monitoring activity for the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB), and is supported by a network of individuals and state and local organizations;

Whereas, the International Water Institute (IWI) was formed in 2000 in conjunction with Tri-College University, and has also recently incorporated as an independent non-profit corporation, and is committed to watershed research, education, training, and public information programs relating to water resources management;

Whereas, the RRWMB has determined that the administration of the River Watch Program can more effectively be addressed through an agreement with IWI;

Whereas, the RRWMB desires to proceed with an orderly transition for the River Watch Program that respects and fulfills the RRWMB's grant responsibilities with state agencies, and has accordingly worked with IWI to prepare an agreement to achieve these objectives;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Red River Watershed Management Board hereby approves the proposed agreement between the International Water Institute and the RRWMB to establish terms and conditions to subcontract the River Watch Program and other water quality monitoring activities with IWI, and authorizes the Chair to execute this agreement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the RRWMB approves the disbursement of \$200,000 in two annual payments of \$100,000 each in financial support for the River Watch Program on or before June 1, 2010 and June 1, 2011, as provided in the Agreement.

The question was on the adoption of the resolution and there were 6 yeas and 0 nays as follows:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
DEAL	X		
FINNEY			(Absent)
ISTA	X		
KNOTT			X
MILLER	X		
MONEY	X		
OSOWSKI	X		
WILKENS	X		

Upon vote, the Vice President declared the Resolution adopted.

The agreement between the IWI and the RRWMB for the River Watch Citizen Volunteer Monitoring Program was distributed. Manager Wilkens inquired about the timeframe for disbursing the first annual payment of \$100,000 to the IWI. N. Erickson indicated that page 4, item D. *RRWMB Financial Support* states that two annual payments of \$100,000 each would be disbursed to IWI by 06/01/10 and 06/01/11 upon request. N. Erickson further noted that legal

counsel advised executing the agreement prior to disbursing the first annual payment. **Motion** by Manager Miller to authorize President John Finney to sign the agreement, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

Chuck Fritz stated that upon execution of the agreement, the IWI will assume responsibilities for all aspects of the River Watch Program and the project-related water quality monitoring activities currently being administered by the RRWMB including administrative support, project management, and accounting/reporting responsibilities. He explained that a Basin River Watch Leadership Team will be established to assist with the management of the initiative and requested the RRWMB to designate a representative. **Motion** by Manager Osowski to authorize Daniel Wilkens as the RRWMB representative on the Basin River Watch Leadership Team, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

C) Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group Evaluation

N. Erickson stated that a meeting was conducted on Wednesday, May 05, 2010 at the Minnesota Department of Transportation in Detroit Lakes, MN. The meeting was facilitated by Don Buckhout, Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources with a purpose of evaluating the mediation process to determine whether modifications are needed to the current operating procedures adopted to achieve the goals set forth in the mediation agreement. Several committees were established to review various sections of the mediation agreement and develop recommendations for consideration by the Work Group.

D) Stream Gaging Network

N. Erickson explained that due to the proposed funding reductions to the stream gaging network by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) several gages were slated to be discontinued by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) including: Bois de Sioux River near Doran; Wild Rice River at Twin Valley; Red River at Oslo; and Roseau River below South Fork near Malung.

As affected parties have expressed an interest in continuing the stream gages, several options are available for proceeding. N. Erickson reported that she will schedule a conference call to discuss the various funding options with Dan Thul and James Fallon, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

E) Amendment to Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Agreement

N. Erickson stated that an amendment to the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group funding for fiscal year 2011 was received from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Funding for FY11 is being reduced by \$154,000 which is the amount of carryover from FY10. The original grant amount was for \$275,000 and with the proposed amendment of \$154,000 will be reduced to \$121,000.00. **Motion** by Manager Miller to authorize President John Finney to sign the amendment to the grant agreement, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

F) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. **Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group**, Tuesday, June 22, 2010, Holiday Inn on the Lake, Detroit Lakes, MN.
2. **Joint Annual Conference**, Wednesday, June 23, 2010, Holiday Inn on the Lake, Detroit Lakes, MN.

District Reports

- The Wild Rice WD reported on the status of the Upper Becker Dam Enhancement Project. On May 12, 2010, the District heard final comments regarding the project from residents and landowners residing within the District. After comments were heard, a motion and vote was taken to proceed with the project as described in the Engineering Report from January 2009. A second to the motion was received and a vote was taken. The vote was 4 – 3 against proceeding with the project.

Manager Duane Erickson requested that an alternative design be considered. After discussion a motion was made to direct the engineer to provide an alternate plan. The location of the dam would be the same. A second to the motion was received and a vote was taken. The vote was 4 – 3 in favor of the alternative design.

Brian Borgen, landowner residing within the Wild Rice WD, informed the board that a lawsuit will be filed on May 20, 2010 at the Clay County Courthouse, Moorhead, MN. The lawsuit involves Marijo Vik vs. the Wild Rice Watershed District. He stated that he would forward information regarding the case to the office of the RRWMB for distribution to board members.

Buffalo-Red River Watershed District

Manager Deal reported that he attended the board meeting of the Buffalo-Red River WD conducted on May 10, 2010 to discuss the potential for their District to rejoin the board. Other interested parties in attendance included Mike Carroll, MNDNR-Regional Director, Paul Wannarka, MNDNR-Red River Basin Coordinator, and Jon Evert, Clay County Commissioner.

The next meeting will be on June 15, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Deal
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator