



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 Greg Holmvik-Ada Jerome Deal, Secretary-Wheaton
Naomi Erickson, Administrator-Detroit Lakes

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

September 21, 2010

Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

President John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

Todd Miller	Dan Money
Ron Osowski	Orville Knott
Daniel Wilkens	Greg Holmvik
Jerome Deal	

Others present were:

- Naomi Erickson, Administrator
- Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator
- Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
- Mark Meister, CR*CS
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
- Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Julie Goehring, South Basin Mgr/Communications Coordinator, RRBC
- Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Paul Wannarka, MNDNR Red River Basin Coordinator
- Valerie Gravseth, Senator Franken's office
- Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute
- Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Wallace Sparby, Congressman Peterson's office
- Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD

Motion by Manager Deal 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 Knott to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **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 Miller, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Public Information Initiative

M. Meister reviewed the public information monthly report. Activities for the month of September included writing a feature article and attending flood meetings in the Fargo-Moorhead area related to the impacts of a diversion on downstream communities.

Planning continues with Congressman Peterson's office for a signing ceremony regarding the Joint Powers Agreement of the Red River Retention Authority.

The distribution of the annual calendar was discussed. Manager Knott commended M. Meister on the layout of last year's calendar which featured each of the eight member watershed districts each month and suggested that should the individual districts need to update last year's information they should forward any revisions to M. Meister. Manager Money added that the numbers printed for each date could be larger and in a bolder font for easier reading. Following discussion, the Board of Managers agreed that since the cost of printing was nominal, the board would absorb the printing costs rather than solicit a sponsor. **Motion** by Manager Money to proceed with the development of the annual calendar, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

M. Meister discussed the newsletter circulated by the board and inquired whether the managers would be receptive to conducting interviews to be included in the publication. He explained that as several managers are still active producers in the Red River basin, personal biographies could be a very effective public information tool.

Project Coordinator Report

R. Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. Regarding the task force established by Congressman Peterson's office to review existing federal programs to facilitate the implementation of flood water storage projects, he attended the meeting conducted on September 2, 2010 in Moorhead, MN. The development of short-term options for existing USDA programs as well as the development of language for long-term options to be included in the farm bill allocation of \$50M a year in USDA funding for the Red River basin were discussed.

R. Harnack noted that subcommittees of the task force were established to review the various programs. He added that he volunteered to co-chair the Farm Bill task force along with Bill Hejl, North Dakota Water Manager. He further stated that an alternate to the various subcommittees should be designated to attend meetings as directed by Manager Finney. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize Todd Miller as the designated alternate to the subcommittees of the Farm Bill task force and to attend those meetings as directed by Manager Finney, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

R. Harnack reviewed the funding status of the rural ring dike program. The allocation of funding per watershed district is as follows: Joe River WD – 1 ring dike, cost estimate of \$35,000; Two Rivers WD – 2 ring dikes, cost estimate of \$100,000; Roseau River WD – 1 ring dike, cost estimate of \$70,000; Red Lake WD – 3 ring dikes, cost estimate of \$150,000; Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD – 3 ring dikes, cost estimate of \$150,000; Wild Rice WD – 6 ring dikes, cost estimate of \$330,000; Sand Hill River WD – 0; Bois de Sioux WD – 0; and Buffalo-Red River WD – 2 ring dikes, cost estimate of \$90,000 for a total of \$925,000 allocated of the \$1,000,000.

Administrator Report

A) Upper Becker Dam Enhancement Project

N. Erickson distributed a letter dated July 28, 2010 that was forwarded from the RRWMB to the Wild Rice WD noting that the WRWD Board of Managers voted to change the design of the project from the design previously approved by the RRWMB with the Step II submittal. The letter requested that the WRWD present its revised design to the RRWMB's Technical Advisory Committee in order to determine the project's continued eligibility for RRWMB funding.

N. Erickson explained that a response was received from the WRWD dated August 12, 2010 indicating that the RRWMB should void the pending funding advance of \$1.15M authorized on March 17, 2010. The letter also stated that should the revised project proceed, the WRWD would resubmit the necessary Step I and Step II applications.

Manager Holmvik discussed the status of the aforementioned project. He explained that significant changes have occurred to the original project design which would require submitting a revised Step I application to the RRWMB should the project proceed. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to rescind the pending funding advance of \$1.15 million and remove the Step I & II approvals of the Upper Becker Dam Enhancement Project of the Wild Rice WD from the funding commitments worksheet of the RRWMB, **Seconded** by Manager Miller, **Carried**.

B) Proposed Fargo-Moorhead Red River Diversion Project

N. Erickson distributed the response letter outlining the board's position on the proposed diversion developed by M. Meister and herself. In addition to the response letter, the following information was distributed to those that forwarded letters of opposition: a copy of the letter stating the board's position on the diversion forwarded to Colonel Christensen, Mayor Dennis Walaker, and Mayor Mark Voxland; contact information for state and federal legislators; and legislative maps depicting the 2009 House and Senate districts for the Red River basin.

N. Erickson distributed copies of the Joint Powers Agreement establishing a board to be known as the Red River Flood Control Impact Group as well as a letter forwarded from Brudvik Law Office. The law firm was retained to assist active members of the Red River Diversion Downstream Impact Group to unite communities and counties in the Red River basin that may be adversely impacted by the proposed diversion. Diane Ista explained that the newly formed group was developed to assist organizations in the Red River basin such as the RRWMB rather than duplicate ongoing retention efforts.

C) Red River Retention Authority

N. Erickson reported that at the Joint Powers Board meeting conducted on August 17, 2010, the board adopted the official name of the organization as the *Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)*.

The Joint Powers Agreement of the RRRA states that an Executive Committee will be appointed comprised of three Board members from each joint board. In addition, the Executive Committee will include one non-voting advisory member appointed by the Red River Basin Commission, one non-voting advisory member appointed by the Governor of North Dakota, and one non-voting advisory member appointed by the Governor of Minnesota. The board members selected to represent the RRWMB on the RRRA include J. Finney, R. Osowski, and J. Deal. Manager Finney appointed Greg Holmvik and Orville Knott as alternates to the RRRA.

D) Governing Documents Committee

Manager Deal suggested scheduling a meeting of the Governing Documents Committee. He noted that as Diane Ista was not reappointed as the RRWMB representative from the Wild Rice WD, the board should consider filling her vacated position. President Finney requested Manager Holmvik to fill the vacated position on the Governing Documents Committee. **Motion** by Manager Knott to appoint Greg Holmvik to the Governing Documents Committee, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

E) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. **Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group**, Wednesday, October 20, 2010, Detroit Lakes, MN.
2. **Red River Retention Authority**, Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at the Courtyard by Marriott & Conference Center, Moorhead, MN.

Red River Basin Commission

Julie Goehring, South Basin Mgr/Communications Coordinator – RRBC, distributed an update on the *Long Term Flood Solutions (LTFS) Project*. She added that the RRBC has been meeting with downstream communities that could be adversely affected by the proposed Fargo-Moorhead Diversion project.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met this month with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and discussed several proposed revisions to the Project Management Plan (PMP) for the Watershed Feasibility Study (WFS). A draft of the proposed changes to the PMP was distributed.

A suggested revision related to the Red River Basin Modeling effort included adding “planning” to the category title along with a provision for the USACE to provide funding assistance for a half-time regulatory permitting coordinator. Manager Wilkens added that he volunteered to chair the regulatory reform committee which is one of the subcommittees of the task force established by Congressman Peterson to conduct reviews of various federal programs. Manager Deal suggested that as the task force has developed a subcommittee to address the regulatory reforms needed to the federal permitting process, that the placeholder to provide federal funding assistance for a half-time regulatory permitting coordinator be stricken from the proposed changes to the PMP. Wallace Sparby, Congressman Peterson’s office, concurred with Manager Deal.

Another suggested revision related to *Customer Involvement* regarding in-kind services, general tasks. Under task B – Watershed Modeling, it was suggested to add “planning” to the category title. C. Fritz added that a revision to subcategory item no. 10 is also needed to accurately reflect the commitment from the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group for the River Watch program as a two-year commitment rather than an annual cost as it is currently stated.

Thul stated that he would forward the comments received at today’s meeting to the USACE to be incorporated into the revised PMP and circulate the document for review after the revisions have been implemented.

Red River 2009 Flood Extent Mapping

C. Fritz explained that as a local sponsor of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Watershed Feasibility Study, this initiative was discussed at a prior board meeting relative to a previous revision to the Project Management Plan (PMP). At a joint technical advisory meeting, the committee reviewed the PMP which included a local sponsor work-in-kind task called *2009 Flood Extent Mapping*.

C. Fritz stated that the mapping effort was discussed by each local sponsor prior to their approval of the revised PMP. Each sponsor approved the task under the assumption that there would be no additional costs to the local sponsors and the \$75,000 task was assigned to the International Water Institute (IWI).

C. Fritz noted that the IWI initiated this task through an agreement with Houston Engineering Inc. on July 27th 2009, under the *incorrect* assumption that this was a reimbursable expense through the local sponsors. To date, the IWI has paid invoices totaling \$28,802.22 as the task was mistakenly coded as a subcategory under the Red River Basin Mapping Initiative.

C. Fritz further noted as the IWI has no approved budget line item to cover these costs, in addition to the remaining estimate to complete the task of \$17,044.50, he would request the RRWMB consider reimbursing the IWI for half of the costs incurred in conjunction with this effort which was previously approved but not initially funded.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to authorize funding half of the costs incurred to date of \$28,802.22 and half of the estimated remaining costs of \$17,044.50 to complete the Red River 2009 Flood Extent Mapping effort, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

Minnesota and North Dakota Extension have agreed to help fund and work with the International Water Institute (IWI) in establishing a joint Water Resource Specialist position based in the Red River basin to assist with fulfillment of the Minnesota Legislative River Watch initiative and watershed education mission in general. Activity is proceeding to finalize the position description, the hiring process (advertise/interview), and determine office logistics.

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported on the Hay Creek/Norland Project. The Spruce Valley Corporation continues work on the impoundment and inlet structures. The weather was cooperative in August and so far in September with the outlet structures nearing completion. As the rains have been holding back somewhat, work continues with significant progress.

The District is working on two new ring dikes through EQIP and the rural ring dike programs with construction to occur yet this fall. The bid openings for both ring dikes were on August 31st. The low bidders were Lavalla construction of Baudette and Olson Construction of Thief River Falls. A completion date of November 15th is anticipated for both dikes.

- The Red Lake WD reported on the on the Euclid East Impoundment. Two public hearings were held at the request of the landowners adjacent to the inlet structure of the impoundment. The first hearing was conducted on July 8, 2010 and the second hearing was conducted on August 12, 2010 at the District office. The hearings were intended to hear testimony from the public to discuss the option of increasing the capacity of the inlet channel and culverts of the impoundment. After considerable testimony from the Board and public, it was determined that the inlet culvert of the impoundment along with the culvert directly upstream of the inlet could be increased from its design capacity. Due to the timeline of the culvert inventory and the need of the field entrance located at the inlet for harvest, it was determined that the District would install the new culverts after the 2011 spring runoff.

The District also reported on the Red Lake River Bank Stabilization Project. The final hearing was held on September 9, 2010 with Wright Construction Co. awarded the bid of \$34,419.50. The project calls for compaction of 2,000 cubic yards of clay material along with placing 700 cubic yards of riprap which is used to protect the compacted clay material, rock riprap streambarbs, rock anchor boulders along with planting 1,000 live stakes. The project will be funded by the Pennington County SWCD, City of Thief River Falls and the Red Lake Watershed District. Total construction cost of the project is \$73,250 which includes in-kind services provided by the City of Thief River Falls.

District's Funding Requests

1. Bois de Sioux WD / Redpath Project

N. Erickson explained that at the August board meeting, Jon Roeschlein requested the Board of Managers to consider an additional funding commitment of \$375,000 in order to increase the total RRWMB commitment to \$3,300,000.

Following the additional funding authorization, N. Erickson explained that she discussed the previous funding commitments of the board authorized prior to the August board meeting with Jon Roeschlein and it was determined that the board had previously authorized combined total commitments of \$3,925,000 to the Redpath Project.

Motion by Manager Deal to rescind the motion to authorize an additional \$375,000 cost-share funding for the Redpath Project, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

2. Roseau River WD / Roseau River International Watershed

Manager Miller stated that he contacted N. Erickson to research the previous disbursements from the board to the Roseau River WD regarding the Roseau River International Watershed. N. Erickson reported that the last disbursement from the board to the Roseau River WD for this initiative was \$2,500 authorized on 11/21/06. Manager Wilkens noted that prior to the last disbursement, the board originally contributed ~ \$5,000 to assist with the development of the new entity.

Manager Miller added that the Roseau River WD would also be providing funding assistance to this initiative as well as requesting a state match for the local watershed district contribution.

Motion by Manager Knott to authorize a \$2,500 funding request from the Roseau River WD for the Roseau River International Watershed, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

The next meeting will be on October 19, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:00 p.m. following lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Deal
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator