



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

November 16, 2010

Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, 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
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Julie Goehring, South Basin Mgr/Communications Coordinator, RRBC
- Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Paul Wannarka, MNDNR Red River Basin Coordinator
- Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Sharon Josephson, Congressman Peterson's office
- Wallace Sparby, Congressman Peterson's office
- Jim Ziegler, Unit Supervisor-MPCA
- Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute
- Kevin Ruud, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
- Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD
- Ken Pazdernik

Motion by Manager Knott 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 Osowski, **Carried**. A one-page handout of monthly bills to be approved was distributed. **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Miller, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Public Information Initiative

In the absence of Mark Meister, the public information monthly report was distributed. Activities for the month of November included writing two feature articles and distributing a press release. Work continues on the development of an annual calendar. Please refer to handout.

A press conference for the Red River Retention Authority (3RA) was conducted on November 9, 2010 in Moorhead, MN. M. Meister coordinated the conference by creating a press kit and inviting public officials and media, and arranging speakers and assisting them with preparation.

Manager Deal explained that following the press conference for the 3RA, suggestions were received to conduct future regular meetings in a more formal nature. He recommended that only the co-chairs, members, and authority staff occupy the primary seating. Seats for audience members could be set up facing the front tables and authority members. Following discussion, it was agreed to request M. Meister to prepare placards for all 3RA members and staff for use at the next meeting.

Project Coordinator Report

R. Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. Following the November elections, several changes occurred regarding legislative representation. Each watershed district was encouraged to contact their newly elected legislators and discuss issues requiring state funding.

R. Harnack stated that subcommittees of the Farm Bill Task Force continue meeting to review basic elements of various NRCS programs. Minutes of the EQIP Subcommittee chaired by Rob Sando and the Water Management Subcommittee chaired by Gary Peterson were distributed for review.

R. Harnack explained that he originally volunteered to co-chair the Farm Bill Task Force along with Bill Hejl, North Dakota Water Manager but noted that due to time constraints during the legislative session he would be unable to fulfill his duties as co-chair. He requested whether a board member could serve as co-chair in his absence. Manger Deal agreed to temporarily serve as co-chair of the Farm Bill Task Force.

R. Harnack reported that he met with Kent Lokkesmoe and Pat Lynch to review the status of the ring dike program. He encouraged the individual watershed districts to submit their reimbursement requests to N. Erickson by mid December so that a state funding request could be forwarded prior to year end.

R. Harnack suggested scheduling a Finance Committee meeting. He inquired whether a meeting could be conducted in conjunction with the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) annual meeting in December. Manager Finney requested N. Erickson to reserve a meeting room for the Finance Committee to meet in conjunction with the annual conference.

Administrator Report

A) Project Team Guidelines

N. Erickson discussed a policy adopted by the Work Group last year that states project team reimbursement requests should be submitted within 30 days following the end of each quarter. She stated that at the October 20, 2010 meeting, the policy was revised to request project team

reimbursement requests be submitted monthly, rather than quarterly. The policy was also amended to require that in the event that no monthly expenses have been incurred, notification of that fact is also requested. Both documents should be submitted to the office of the RRWMB within 30 days of the end of each month.

Another policy was adopted by the Work Group pertaining to project team expense reimbursements effective as of July 1, 2010. Previously, eligible project team expenses were divided into two categories: 1) Project Team Support (Administrative), and 2) Project Team Alternatives Analysis (Engineering). For fiscal year 2011, the allocation of \$15,000 per project team is not required to be divided into two categories but rather all eligible expenses will be titled Project Team Support. A list of expenses eligible for 50% percent reimbursement from the Work Group was distributed.

N. Erickson stated that the Planning Committee for the Joint Annual Conference met and selected a date for the next conference. The Joint Annual Conference (formerly the "March Conference") is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 2011. She also explained that the committee discussed hosting the meeting in a more centralized location such as Moorhead, MN. The Board of Managers supported conducting the meeting in Moorhead, MN at the Courtyard by Marriott.

B) Stream Gaging Cost-Share Program

N. Erickson reported that the cost share payments for USGS Stream Gages for the 2009-2010 contracts have been forwarded to the member watershed districts for reimbursement. The individual cost share responsibilities are as follows:

	<u>Amount Due</u> <u>2009-2010</u>
Red Lake	\$ 9,880.00
Wild Rice	\$11,040.00
Middle-Snake-Tamarac	\$11,342.50
Two Rivers	\$ 1,910.00
Sand Hill River	\$ 2,670.00
Roseau River	\$12,397.50

C) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. **MAWD Annual Meeting & Trade Show**, December 2-4, 2010, Arrowwood Conference Center, Alexandria, MN.
2. **Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group**, Wednesday, December 8, 2010, Red Lake Watershed District office, Thief River Falls, MN.
3. **Red River Retention Authority**, Tuesday, December 14, 2010, Cass County Highway Department, in West Fargo, ND (1201 Main Ave West, West Fargo, ND, 58078).
4. **Red River Basin Commission's 28th Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference**, January 18-20, 2011, Ramada Plaza & Suites, Fargo, ND. An online registration form and pre-conference brochure are available at www.redriverbasincommission.org.
5. **Joint Annual Conference (the "March" Conference)**, Wednesday, March 16, 2011, location tba.

Red River Basin Commission

J. Goehring, South Basin Mgr/Communications Coordinator – RRBC, distributed information on the Long Term Flood Solutions (LTFS) Project. The project is in the second half of the development of a comprehensive plan to address flooding in the basin, as charged by the 2009 Minnesota and North Dakota legislatures. Plans are to present the recommendations at the RRBC Annual Conference on January 18-20, 2011 at the Fargo Ramada.

Manager Wilkens inquired about the formation of the Red River Diversion Downstream Impact Group. Manager Knott responded that he attended a meeting during which they explained they were formed to unite communities and counties in the Red River basin that may be adversely impacted by the proposed Fargo-Moorhead Red River diversion.

J. Goehring reported that at a recent meeting, the Mayor of Hendrum who represents the downstream impact group accused both the RRBC and the RRWMB of not furthering flood damage reduction efforts in the Red River basin. D. Ista contradicted J. Goehring and noted that the Mayor of Hendrum speaks highly of the RRWMB. Manager Finney noted his disappointment that no one from the recently formed group was in attendance at today's board meeting to become more familiar about the initiatives of the board.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

D. Thul discussed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Watershed Feasibility Study (WFS). He referred to a letter forwarded from the City of Moorhead regarding the draft Red River Basin Modeling Proposal developed relative to the WFS. He noted that at the previous monthly meeting, the board discussed the draft proposal developed by the cities of Moorhead and Fargo who agreed to fund the modeling effort of \$975,000 by contracting with local engineering firms. At the October board meeting, the Board of Managers agreed to accept the effort as work-in-kind toward the WFS.

D. Thul reported that the letter states that City of Moorhead staff will recommend to the City Council to authorize and cost-share with their partners in North Dakota to conduct the proposed work. As a partnering agency, the City of Moorhead also respectfully requests that the Board of Managers provide City technical staff with an opportunity to participate on the technical committee established by the co-sponsors of the WFS to provide input on future study efforts. **Motion** by Manager Money to forward a letter to the City of Moorhead requesting them to designate a technical representative on the committee, **Seconded** by Manager Miller, **Carried**.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

The Snow Study Research Project has begun with the installation of frost tubes and infiltration rings as part of a comprehensive snow study. A big push is underway to get as many installed prior to freeze-up. Standard operating procedures are being developed in consultation with NDSU Range Science Professor Jack Norland and Mark Ewens of the National Weather Service for each component of the study – frost depth, snow depth/water equivalency, and infiltration. Field data sheets and online data submittal are being developed.

District Reports

No Watershed District reports were submitted this month.

Red River Retention Authority (3RA) / Drainage Study

C. Fritz explained that the 3RA is working with the International Water Institute (IWI) to undertake a comprehensive drainage study to better understand and manage agricultural drainage in the Red River basin. A process has been outlined to develop and undertake a defensible study of agricultural drainage in the Red River basin that includes the formation of a Basin Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (BTSAC). A request to select technical representation from the RRWMB to participate on the committee was discussed.

Manager Finney suggested selecting two technical representatives from the board to effectively represent the northern and southern jurisdictional areas of the board. Manager Miller requested Nate Dalager of HDR Engineering, Inc. represent the northern portion on the committee. Manager Deal suggested that Charlie Anderson of JOR Engineering, Inc. represent the southern portion on the committee. **Motion** by Manager Deal to appoint Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc. and Charlie Anderson, JOR Engineering, Inc. as technical representatives on the Basin Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee of the International Water Institute (IWI), **Seconded** by Manager Miller, **Carried**.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on December 21, 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