



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

June 15, 2010

Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, June 15, 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
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
- Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Julie Goehring, South Basin Mgr/Communications Coordinator, RRBC
- Wallace Sparby, Congressman Peterson's office
- Tom Wollin, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
- Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Jim Zeigler, Unit Supervisor-MPCA
- Danni Halvorson, Monitoring Specialist

Motion by Manager Deal to approve the minutes as written with minor corrections, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **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 Deal, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Project Coordinator Report

R. Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. An update on ring dikes was provided. With a few exceptions, assuming good construction weather, each watershed district anticipates that the designated number of ring dikes will be constructed this year. As the Sand Hill River WD was not able to construct a ring dike previously allocated for this year, the funding was reallocated to the Joe River and Roseau River watershed districts. The total number of ring dikes slated to be constructed this year remains at 23 rural ring dikes.

R. Harnack reported that he attended the Long Term Flood Solutions (LTFS) Advisory Committee meeting of the RRBC. Discussions occurred on the storage allocation strategy. Concern regarding disagreement on the benefits of the proposed storage and the requirements to achieve the 20-30% mainstem reduction was addressed. An engineering firm retained by the RRBC has been advocating the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) perspective on storage, and not necessarily the adopted policy of the RRBC. The RRWMB representatives on various RRBC committees agreed to monitor this issue during the upcoming months.

Following discussion, the Board of Managers adopted a policy to support efforts to achieve a 20% flow reduction on the mainstem of the Red River of the North. **Motion** by Manager Money to adopt the aforementioned policy to support efforts to achieve a 20% flow reduction on the mainstem of the Red River of the North, **Seconded** by Manager Miller, **Carried**.

Public Information Initiative

In the absence of Mark Meister, the public information monthly report was distributed. He attended flood meetings in the Fargo-Moorhead area related to the impacts of a diversion on downstream communities and provided background information on the RRWMB.

Survey data continues to be distributed, collected and reviewed from citizens in affiliated watershed districts about public information. A full report will be prepared and distributed in July which will also include performance evaluations on the public information officer.

Red River Basin Commission

Julie Goehring, South Basin Mgr/Communications Coordinator, distributed an update on the *Long Term Flood Solutions Project*. With the completion of the public engagement process or Phase 1 of the project, the RRBC is mid-point in the development of the plan to address flooding in the basin as charged by the 2009 Minnesota and North Dakota legislatures.

Goehring distributed an update on the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) proposal. The last day of sign up was May 28, 2010 and a preliminary breakdown of applications received includes: Minnesota – 121 applications into the NRCS ProTracts contracting system for a total in excess of \$4 million; North Dakota – 86 applications for \$2.8 million; and South Dakota – 3 applications that are currently being finalized. These sign ups include practices for sediment basins, grassed waterways, ring dikes, stream bank erosion, cover crops for row crops, and small retention dams.

Administrator Report

A) Joint Powers Agreement

N. Erickson reported that at the May 18, 2010 board meeting, the Board of Managers approved the Joint Powers Agreement between the RRWMB and the Red River Joint Water Resource Board (RRJWRB) regarding the proposed Federal Authority.

The RRJWRB approved the Joint Powers Agreement at their meeting conducted on Wednesday, May 26, 2010 and executed the document. Upon recommendation from both parties' legal counsel, it was suggested that copies of the agreement previously executed by the RRJWRB be circulated among the signors of the RRWMB in order for the document to be presented to Senator Dorgan and members of Governor Hoeven's office at the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) meeting conducted on Thursday, June 03, 2010 in Devils Lakes, ND.

The agreement has been executed by both parties and arrangements for an official signing ceremony and/or press conference are underway.

B) Water Quality Initiative / River Watch Program Transfer

The agreement between the RRWMB and the International Water Institute (IWI) to transfer the water quality initiative has been fully executed by both parties and the transfer occurred as of May 31, 2010. The first of two annual payments of \$100,000 was disbursed as requested by IWI.

C) Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group Evaluation

At the meeting conducted on May 05, 2010 in Detroit Lakes, MN, several committees were established to review various sections of the mediation agreement and develop recommendations for consideration by the Work Group. The following committees were established:

- 1) Internal Operating Procedures: Project monitoring, structured timelines, TSAC role, accounting, membership, goals and purpose (Mike Carroll, Jerome Deal, Jim Ziegler, Paul Wannarka, and Ralph (?) – USACE).
- 2) Big Issues: USACE roles and participation, natural resources plan and vision, BWSR participation, and funding (USACE representative, Brian Dwight, and Paul Wannarka).
- 3) Communications and Outreach: Legislature, funding, web-based technology, Project Team communication (Dan Wilkens, Mark Meister, Henry VanOffelen, Rob Sip, Paul Wannarka, and MPCA representative).
- 4) Document Revision Detail (Glossary and Table of Contents): Legislative mandates and definitions (Membership on hold).

D) 12th Annual Joint Conference

N. Erickson reported that the 12th Annual Joint Conference, formerly the "March Conference" has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 23, 2010 at the Holiday Inn on the Lake, Detroit Lakes, MN. The conference will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 4:45 p.m. The final agenda was distributed.

A joint meeting of the Finance Committee and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has been scheduled on Tuesday, June 22, 2010, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Holiday Inn on the Lake, Detroit Lakes, MN.

The Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group also is scheduled to meet at 7:00 p.m. on June 22nd (the evening prior to the conference), at the Holiday Inn on the Lake, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Funding for the annual conference has historically been included in the annual budget for the Work Group. However, the current fiscal year's budget requires a 50% state match, therefore, Kent Lokkesmoe – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, has requested that the Work Group and RRWMB equally share the cost of this year's conference. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize sharing equally with the MDNR in the cost of this year's annual conference, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

E) Water Management Summit

The Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, the Association of Minnesota Counties and the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts are partnering to host a **Local Water Management Summit on Monday, July 12, 2010, at the Kelly Inn, in St. Cloud, MN.**

This forum is an opportunity for County Commissioners, Soil and Water Conservation Boards, Watershed Managers, and any interested water staff to discuss both present and future involvement of local units of government in water activities around the state.

F) Stream Gaging Network

Due to 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). Those gages included the 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 expressed an interest in continuing the stream gages, several options were available for proceeding. N. Erickson and D. Thul participated on a conference call with James Fallon – U.S. Geological Survey to discuss the available options. A handout was distributed.

G) Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)

At the April 20, 2010 board meeting, N. Erickson was directed by the Board of Managers to draft a letter of support to LCCMR in support of a proposal developed by the International Water Institute (IWI) and the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) to improve natural resource conservation with value-added LiDAR. A handout was distributed.

H) 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.
3. **Water Management Summit**, Monday, July 12, 2010, Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, MN.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) did not meet this month. He reported that a meeting had been scheduled with the TAC and Dr. Gary Sands of the University of Minnesota regarding the Agricultural Tile Drainage Study on June 22, 2010. Subsequently, the Finance Committee scheduled a meeting with the TAC on the same date to discuss potential revisions to the board's current funding policies. He reported that the meeting with Dr. Sands will be rescheduled to accommodate the meeting with the Finance Committee.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

Danni Halvorson reported that FDR water quality sites continue to be monitored on a monthly basis. Staff is developing a reporting format that will encompass FDR project water quality data and other available data associated with project areas. Reports when complete will be provided to the Work Group and designated project teams.

The River Watch Youth Leadership Team is preparing for a summer Youth Leadership Camp scheduled for July 26-28, 2010 based at the UMC campus. The goal of the camp is to build youth leadership capacity, watershed awareness, and team building.

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported on the Hay Creek/Norland Project. The rebid for Phase 2 (impoundment construction and inlet structures) was opened on June 2, 2010 with Spruce Valley Corporation of Middle River providing the low bid of \$5.8 million. The engineer's estimate for Phase 2 was \$5 million. A pre-construction meeting has been scheduled for June 18, 2010. Ground water monitoring continues on the project as identified under special conditions no. 11 on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit. The anticipated date to begin construction is June 15, 2010 with a completion date of July 15, 2012. The state funding has been applied for and the grant is in the process of being completed.

The District is planning construction for two new ring dikes through EQIP and the rural ring dike programs with construction planned for this summer. Estimates for both dikes are ~ \$120,000 - \$130,000 for each dike. Although the District anticipates construction yet this summer, the recent wet conditions have hindered construction.

- The Red Lake WD reported on the Clearbrook Stormwater Retention Pond. A public hearing is scheduled for June 21, 2010 at the Clearbrook City Council Chambers for the development and construction of stormwater retention ponds in the city of Clearbrook. Plans include constructing at least one pond in mid July with completion anticipated for late August.
- The Wild Rice WD reported on the status of the Upper Becker Dam Enhancement Project. On May 12, 2010, the Board of Managers voted 4 – 3 against proceeding with the project as originally proposed. An alternative design was considered and a vote was passed 4 – 3 in favor of proceeding with the alternative design (Project B).

On June 8, 2010, a meeting was conducted with landowners to determine whether they supported Project B. Following discussion, Project B was revised to Project D which would increase the storage from 3,280 acre-feet to ~ 5,500 acre-feet. On June 9, 2010, the Board of Managers voted to direct the engineer to cease designs for the Project.

Flood Damage Reduction Grant Assistance Program.

Tom Wollin, Administrator – Wild Rice WD, referred to the community setback levees currently being designed for the cities of Perley and Hendrum. The plans approved are for a 100-year plus one-foot flood, with the State of Minnesota providing funding assistance at 2% of household median income. He inquired about the possibility of seeking funding assistance from the RRWMB. Following discussion, the board determined that funding community setback levees was not within the parameters of flood reduction projects or programs and are ineligible for funding assistance.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) / Proposed Fargo-Moorhead Red River Diversion

Manager Deal noted that at the previous monthly meeting, he was designated as the board 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. Deal stated that a meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at the Norman County West gymnasium in Hendrum, MN, however, he is unable to attend. Manager Holmvik offered to represent the board's perspective at the meeting as the Board of Managers of the Wild Rice WD was planning to be in attendance.

Congressman Peterson's Office

Mr. Sparby reported that he attended a recent meeting in Devils Lake, ND which included discussion regarding the installation of a spillway on the eastern portion of the lake in response to the increasing lake levels. An outlet control structure for Tolna Coulee has been proposed, however, no funding or approval for the proposal has occurred. Officials estimate that a natural overflow of the coulee could cause severe problems downstream for residents and landowners along the Sheyenne River.

The next meeting will be on July 20, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott & Conference Center, Moorhead, MN.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Deal
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator