



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 March 15, 2011

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, March 15, 2011, at the Courtyard by Marriott & Conference Center, Moorhead, MN.

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
- Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
- Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator
- Mark Meister, CR*CS
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Paul Wannarka, MNDNR Red River Basin Coordinator
- Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute
- Kevin Ruud, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering, Inc.
- Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Julie Goehring, South Basin Mgr/Communications Coordinator, RRBC
- Dr. Annette Drewes, Water Resources Extension Educator
- Keith Mykleseth, The Nature Conservancy
- Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD
- Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD
- Mike Carroll, MNDNR Asst. Commissioner
- Jim Ziegler, Unit Supervisor-MPCA
- Charlie Anderson, Engineer, WSN Engineering, Inc.

Motion by Manager Money to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as written,
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 Knott, **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.

Red River Retention Authority (3RA)

Manager Deal reported on activities of the 3RA. He stated that the various committee reports were distributed for review at a meeting conducted on March 8, 2011. The final reports will be completed and distributed at the next Retention Committee meeting scheduled on March 28, 2011.

Manager Deal stated that the 3RA continues to discuss establishing a USACE regulatory branch position funded by Watershed Feasibility Study (WFS) Work-in-Kind (WIK) funds. D. Thul distributed a handout regarding the proposed position which would be established to provide regulatory support for the RRBC's Long Term Flood Solutions (LTFS) Project and the 3RA. A list of duties for the position includes, but is not limited to, responsibility for evaluating/processing permit applications, conducting field investigations, and conducting regulatory, advisory and education programs in the Red River basin for flood damage reduction projects in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Manager Deal added that the 3RA discussed obtaining office space in the Fargo-Moorhead area. A committee has been designated to develop options for the 3RA to consider regarding securing an office to provide for a meeting room as well as various offices.

Public Information Initiative

M. Meister reviewed the public information monthly report. Activities for the month of February included writing three feature articles. Information has been provided to Mikkel Pates of Agweek regarding the development of upcoming articles on the 3RA and the RRWMB.

M. Meister noted that invitations were forwarded to Fargo-Moorhead and Clay and Cass County officials for the 13th Annual Joint Conference. Summary articles will be developed regarding the individual project team reports presented at the conference for distribution to local media outlets. M. Carroll requested that these articles be forwarded to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for circulation within their organization.

Project Coordinator Report

R. Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. The bonding requests of member watershed districts for the upcoming session are as follows: Two Rivers, Springbrook - \$130,000; Roseau River, Hay Creek/Norland - \$1,500,000; Red Lake, Grand Marais - \$575,000; Middle Snake Tamarac, Brandt/Angus - \$1,680,000; Sand Hill River, Climax & Shelly \$4,620,000; Wild Rice, Shelly & Felton \$5,100,000, Home Acquisitions \$935,000, and River Stability Acquisitions \$500,000; and

Bois de Sioux, North Ottawa - \$3,000,000 and Redpath - \$4,300,000. The total bonding funds requested is \$22,340,000.

R. Harnack reported that he and J. Finney met with MDNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr regarding the integration of the former Divisions of Ecological Resources and Waters into the Division of Ecological & Water Resources. Items discussed included the MDNR's continued commitment for the Mediation Agreement and project support to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC). Commissioner Landwehr indicated that the merger of the two divisions would not have a negative impact on permitting retention projects in the Red River basin but rather could potentially improve the timeliness and efficiency of the process.

R. Harnack referenced his meeting with Tamara Cameron, Chief Regulatory Branch – USACE, to discuss the Points of Concurrence process. He noted that discussions have occurred between Ms. Cameron and D. Money regarding the acceleration of Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permitting regarding the Springbrook Project of the Two Rivers WD. A meeting has been scheduled for March 24, 2011 to further discuss the project.

R. Harnack discussed various funding strategies for flood damage reduction in the Red River basin. Several options were discussed including a 15-year, 20-year, and 25-year approach. He stated that the 20-year approach is the most consistent with the funding capacity of the RRWMB, however, the 25-year approach could be the most realistic when considering project planning, design, land acquisition and construction.

Administrator Report

A) Five-Year Plan Updates

N. Erickson reported that updated five-year plans have been requested from member districts. The following WD's have submitted the updated plans to date: Roseau River, Two Rivers, Middle Snake Tamarac, and Red Lake. Plans are still needed from the Sand Hill River, Wild Rice, and Bois de Sioux WD's.

B) Project Team Support

For fiscal year 2011 (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011), the Work Group allocated each project team \$15,000 for project team expenses. The following project team reimbursement requests have been disbursed to date: Bois de Sioux WD - \$15,000; Buffalo-Red River WD - \$12,590; Middle Snake Tamarac WD - \$15,000; Red Lake WD - \$4,387; Roseau River WD - \$1,950; Sand Hill River WD - \$4,734; Two Rivers WD - \$2,848; and Wild Rice WD - \$7,003.

C) WORK-IN-KIND Crediting Guidance

N. Erickson stated that she met with Nanette M. Bischoff, P.E., St. Paul District USACE / Project Manager for the Red River Basin Watershed Feasibility Study (WFS) on Thursday, March 10, 2011 at Houston Engineering, Inc., Fargo, ND. Others in attendance were Dan Thul, Chuck Fritz, and Randy Gjestvang.

Ms. Bischoff reviewed the work-in-kind (WIK) crediting guidance for the WFS. Costs incurred by the RRWMB that can be contributed as WIK include the following:

- Provide continued implementation of the Minnesota Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group Mediation Agreement. (\$475,000).
- Provide continued funding and support for River Watch. (\$553,000).
- Provide funding for the completion of the local Watershed District Overall Plan updates for the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District and the Sand Hill River Watershed District. (\$750,000).

Ms. Bischoff requested itemized spreadsheets that include invoice and check numbers from the individual watershed districts regarding the Overall Plan updates. She also noted that expenses incurred for meals would be disallowed.

Please note that expenses listed above incurred for work performed after **June 04, 2008** can be contributed as WIK.

D) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. **13th Joint Annual Conference (the "March" Conference)**, Tuesday, March 15 - Wednesday, March 16, 2011, Courtyard by Marriott & Conference Center, Moorhead, MN.
2. **Red River Basin River Watch Forum 2011**, March 17, 2011, University of Minnesota – Crookston Campus, Crookston, MN.
3. **MAWD Legislative Reception & Day at the Capitol**, March 23-24, 2011, Kelly Inn, St. Paul, MN.
4. **Red River Retention Authority (3RA)**, April 12, 2011, Moore Engineering, Inc., 925 10th Avenue East, West Fargo, ND(?).

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

C. Fritz extended an invitation to the River Watch (RW) Forum scheduled for Thursday, March 17th at UMC. The National Weather Service (NWS) will provide the latest flood outlook and discuss factors used in developing flood forecasts including the snow water equivalency data being collected by the RW schools. School displays highlighting each school's past year's monitoring results will be on display for public viewing and judging.

C. Fritz introduced Dr. Annette Drewes who began her employment as the MN/ND/IWI Water Resources Extension Educator. Dr. Drewes stated that she has been immersing herself in review of watershed education activities

Red River Basin Commission

Julie Goehring, South Basin Mgr/Communications Coordinator – RRBC, distributed Information on the Long Term Flood Solutions (LTFS) Project. She reported that the RRBC is nearing completion of its two-year project to develop a basin plan to address flooding in the Red River basin. The LTFS committees and work groups are in the process of developing recommendations for incorporation into the final report to the Minnesota and North Dakota legislatures in June 2011 as per state requirements tied to the 2009 funding for the project.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

D. Thul distributed the TAC Report. He discussed the meeting conducted with Nanette M. Bischoff, USACE / Project Manager for the Red River Basin Watershed Feasibility Study (WFS). A handout was distributed regarding (WIK) Crediting Guidance. D. Thul stated that N. Erickson agreed at the meeting to be the USACE contact person and to compile the documentation for WIK in a spreadsheet for both Minnesota and North Dakota to forward to the USACE.

D. Thul reported on the 3RA's Technical Committee meeting . He stated that the committee is comprised of himself and Randy Gjestvang – Engineer for the Red River Joint Water Resource District (RRJWRD) and the North Dakota State Water Commission (NDSWC) , and they determined it was appropriate to meet with the USACE WFS joint committee to discuss developing a prioritization process for the 3RA. Various objectives were discussed including Red River mainstem flow reduction, tributary flow reductions, flood damage reduction achievements, storage capacity/detention times, willing landowners, and the RRBC's LTFS goals. Clarification for the committee is needed from the 3RA regarding funding and implementation capabilities.

D. Thul stated that the 3RA's Drainage Committee meeting met at the Courtyard by Marriott & Conference Center. Presentations were conducted by Dr. Gary Sands – University of Minnesota, Tom Scherer – North Dakota State University and Charlie Anderson – WSN Engineering, Inc.

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported on the Hay Creek/Norland Project. The Spruce Valley Corporation continues work on Phase 2 of the project.

A Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was formed with assistance from the District to address the Roseau Lake bottom. The group has conducted several meetings and discussed issues within the subwatershed of the lake bottom and proceeded to develop solutions. The next step in the process is to present the issues and solutions to the Project Team in order to begin development of a proposed project.

- The Two Rivers WD reported on the Springbrook Township Project. Congressman Peterson announced that the project plan has been approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The project will receive \$1 million in federal funding to undertake flood protection activities located in Springbrook Township of Kittson County.
- The Wild Rice WD reported on the Upper Becker Dam Enhancement Project. Several questions were discussed at the informational meeting conducted on February 23, 2011. The District has developed responses to the questions which included obtaining technical, legal, and state agency assistance.
- The Bois de Sioux WD reported on the North Ottawa Impoundment Project. The project is ready to take spring runoff. All pools are drawn down as far as possible and the gates are set

accordingly for the season. The District is confident that the project will be able to contain the current runoff estimate.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on April 19, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, 219 N Mill Street, Fertile, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 11:45 p.m. following lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Deal
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator