



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

January 17, 2012

Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

President John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were: Rob Sando Dan Money
 Ron Osowski LeRoy Ose
 Daniel Wilkens Greg Holmvik
 Jerome Deal

Others present were: Naomi Erickson, Administrator
Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator
Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
Kevin Ruud, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering, Inc.
Jeff Nyquist, Public Information Officer
Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute
Diane Ista

Motion by Manager Deal to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as written with minor corrections, **Seconded** by Manager Sando, **Carried**.

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

Annual Board Organization

The Annual Board Organization was conducted. In the absence of Vice President Knott, President Finney turned the meeting over to Secretary Deal who asked for nominations for President of the Board. Manager Money nominated Manager Finney for President. Nominations were called for three times by Manager Deal. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for John Finney for President by Manager Wilkens, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

President Finney asked for nominations for Vice President of the Board. Manager Deal nominated Manager Knott for Vice President. Nominations were called for three times by President Finney. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Orville Knott for Vice President by Manager Wilkens, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

President Finney asked for nominations for Secretary of the Board. Manager Money nominated Manager Deal for Secretary. Nominations were called for three times by President Finney. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Jerome Deal for Secretary by Manager Osowski, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

President Finney asked for nominations for Treasurer of the Board. Manager Deal nominated Manager Wilkens for Treasurer. Nominations were called for three times by President Finney. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Daniel Wilkens for Treasurer by Manager Osowski, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

Resolution Authorizing the Regular Monthly Meeting Date and Time

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the designation of the regular monthly meeting date and time at the regular board meeting held in Fertile, MN, on Tuesday, January 17, 2012.

On a **motion** by Manager Osowski, **seconded** by Manager Sando, and on a vote of 7 for and 0 against, the motion passed to designate the third Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. as the regular monthly meeting date and time for the Red River Watershed Management Board.

Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Per Diem/Mileage to Managers

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the authorization of payment of per diem/mileage to Managers at the regular board meeting held in Fertile, MN, on Tuesday, January 17, 2012.

On a **motion** by Manager Money, **seconded** by Manager Sando, and on a vote of 7 for and 0 against, the motion passed to allow the maximum per diem by state law which is currently \$75.00 per day and the maximum IRS limit for mileage which is currently 55.5 cents per mile unless a change occurs.

Resolution Authorizing Deposit/Investment of Funds

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the authorization of deposit/investment of funds at the regular board meeting held in Fertile, MN, on Tuesday, January 17, 2012.

On a **motion** by Manager Deal, **seconded** by Manager Ose, and on a vote of 7 for and 0 against, the motion passed to authorize the Red River Watershed Management Board to reaffirm the adoption of the Treasurer's Manual originally adopted on 4/19/91 and amended on 8/08/95, 1/18/00, and 3/16/04.

Resolution Authorizing Legal Counsel

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the authorization of legal counsel at the regular board meeting held in Fertile, MN, on Tuesday, January 17, 2012.

On a **motion** by Manager Deal, **seconded** by Manager Osowski, and on a vote of 7 for and 0 against, the motion passed to obtain legal counsel on a case-by-case basis for the Red River Watershed Management Board.

Public Information Initiative

J. Nyquist reviewed the public information monthly report. Activities for the month of December included working with Keith Weston from NRCS on a display board for the Red River Retention Authority (RRRA) to be used at upcoming conferences, preparing content for the monthly newsletter, attending the Public Information Committee (PIC) meeting conducted on January 12, 2012, and updating the database that includes the board's mailing list and other contact information.

J. Nyquist distributed two articles in the Fargo Forum regarding retention in the Red River basin. Minutes of the PIC meeting conducted on January 12, 2012 in Fargo, ND were also distributed.

Project Coordinator Report

R. Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. He reported that the Governor's bonding proposal is scheduled to be released today with estimates of the bill ranging from \$700 - \$800 million. A meeting is scheduled with K. Lokkesmoe and P. Lynch to discuss costs eligible for project bonding utilizing flood damage reduction funds.

N. Dalager referred to the project prioritization process of the RRRRA. G. Holmvik added that funding mechanisms have not yet been addressed by the committee.

R. Harnack noted that preliminary engineering is not eligible for state bonding funds and added that the RRWMB should consider providing funds to cover these expenses. Manager Money stated that recently the RRWMB has approved funding advances for member watershed district projects in order for projects to continue progressing through the board's Step Process. Manager Finney suggested that preferably federal funds could be used towards land acquisition, RRWMB funds for preliminary engineering, and state funds for project construction.

R. Harnack discussed the board policy adopted relative to achieving a 20% flow reduction on the mainstem of the Red River. He noted that the Bois de Sioux WD completed their assessment and defined specific goals for each sub-watershed. This effort was conducted as a pilot project by the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) in conjunction with the Long Term Flood Solutions (LTFS) Plan. R. Adrian added that C. Anderson also conducted modeling in the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD to develop storage goals. R. Harnack suggested the board consider requesting C. Anderson to submit a proposal to conduct modeling in the remaining member watershed districts to develop 20% flow reduction goals for tributaries to the Red River.

R. Harnack referred to the Red River Valley Recovery Grant of \$250,000 received from BWSR. He explained that the grant was scheduled to terminate at year-end, however, he will inquire about the possibility of extending the grant as a balance of expended funds remains. N. Erickson discussed the request from Pete Waller of BWSR to forward a spreadsheet to watershed districts to complete that depicts ring dikes constructed utilizing the grant funds. The information provided would be used to complete data sheets to be entered into eLINK which is a state program used for grant reporting.

N. Erickson added that the grant agreement included a provision that no more than 20% (\$50,000) of the BWSR grant could be used towards technical and administrative services. The spreadsheet forwarded from BWSR requested a breakdown per ring dike of the dollar amounts expended for construction and technical/engineering costs. She noted that documenting the information requested from BWSR was problematic due to the fact that although the RRWMB administered the grant, watershed districts were unaware of the funding sources utilized to disburse the funding requests submitted to the RRWMB. She stated that once the information requested from BWSR was received from the individual watershed districts she would determine whether the grant provision was met.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

C. Fritz reported that River Watch Forum preparations are underway for the annual forum scheduled for March 13, 2012 at the University of Minnesota - Crookston campus.

A handout regarding the Flood Damage Reduction Project Planning Tool "Phase 6" project was distributed. Project objectives include:

1. Develop an online tool that provides essential information needed to plan flood damage reduction projects (e.g. problem identification, site selection).
2. Standardized documentation of project planning and alternatives analysis consistent with permit requirements.

3. Identify opportunities to develop projects with a high level of consistency and transparency for review by the public, legislators, funding partners, board members, and elected officials.

C. Fritz noted that the next steps of the project are training and outreach to be conducted in January and February. In addition, plans include identifying funding to develop LiDAR products in the North Dakota portion of the Red River basin.

Administrator Report

A) IRS Standard Mileage Rate

The rate for business miles driven is unchanged from the mid-year adjustment that became effective on July 1, 2011. The standard mileage rate for the use of a car is 55.5 cents per mile for business miles driven.

B) Year-end Tax Information

The 2011 year-end tax information has been prepared. The W-2's and 1099's for the board have been distributed. Please review the tax information for accuracy and report any discrepancies that should be corrected.

C) Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)

N. Erickson reported that she attended the RRRA meeting conducted on Tuesday, January 10, 2012. Congressman Peterson reported on the Farm Bill. He stated that a group of congressional leaders known as the "super committee" has been meeting to develop a framework for the 2012 Farm Bill. Plans are to reduce the federal deficit by \$23 billion. An elimination of direct payments and restructuring to focus on crop insurance and risk management will likely occur. Peterson added that current language in the Farm Bill will provide ~ \$228 million annually to five designated areas in the nation, which would include the RRRA, for projects ready for construction.

Congressman Peterson also stated that Congressman Rick Berg (R) - ND invited Congressman Frank Lucas (R) - OK, Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, to attend a meeting scheduled for January 12, 2012 in Fargo, ND. He encouraged members of the RRRA to attend.

N. Erickson stated that she attended the roundtable discussion along with Jim Lyons, Co-chair RRRA, Jerome Deal, Co-chair Retention Committee & RRRA member, Bill Hejl, Co-chair Retention Committee, Dan Money, and Jeff Nyquist. An update on the status of the Farm Bill was presented along with the challenges of committee members in finalizing the bill.

D) 14th Joint Annual Conference

The Joint Annual Conference (March Conference) has been scheduled for March 13-14, 2012 at the Courtyard by Marriott & Conference Center, Moorhead, MN. The RRRA regular monthly meeting is scheduled from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13, 2011, with the conference scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m.

Plans are for the first day of the conference to highlight activities of the RRRRA, and conclude at 5:00 p.m. The following day of the conference will focus on activities of the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group.

E) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. **Red River Basin Commission's 29th Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference**, *Water, Water! Finding Solutions to Our Challenges*, January 24-26, 2012, Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg, MB.
2. **Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group**, February 22, 2012, Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, MN.
3. **14th Joint Annual Conference (March Conference)**, March 13-14, 2012, Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead, MN.

District Reports

- The Red Lake Watershed District reported that Clearwater County plans to name a replacement for outgoing member Kelly Nordlund sometime in February 2012.

A meeting to utilize a collaborative approach to project-related surface water quality issues was held in January that included the East and West Polk Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Watershed District Administrators of Polk County, and Brian Dwight of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. The intent is that information shared between the respective entities will be used in the Polk County Water Plan as well as for use in grant submissions through the Minnesota Clean Water Legacy funding.

- The Roseau River WD reported that a request was sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for consideration of a proposed adaptive management plan for wetland mitigation requirements for the Hay Creek/Norland project.

The remaining Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) work on the West Interceptor Project, Hay Creek/Norland project and State Ditch No. 51 will be completed this winter and next summer.

- The Wild Rice WD reported that the Ditch Modernization Grant from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has allowed the district to complete approximately 70% of record digitizing. Plans are to complete the remaining records this year. Later a link will be added to the WRWD website providing for public access, transparency to district processes and efficiency to operations.

District's Funding Requests

1. Roseau River WD / Funding Advance / Roseau River Wildlife Management Area Project

N. Erickson stated that the following motion was authorized at the December 20, 2011 board meeting: **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to approve the Step I submittal for the RRWMA Project, **Seconded** by Manager Miller, **Carried**.

R. Sando explained that at the December board meeting a letter was distributed from the District to the RRWMB requesting an advance of funds for the RRWMA Project. The District requested \$70,000 to assist in funding the engineering feasibility study. To date, the District has been approved for an acceleration grant from the FDRWG in the amount of \$10,000 with matching funds provided by the District. A verbal commitment was received from the MDNR for \$50,000 to assist with the study.

The *Resolution to Approve a Funding Advance for the RRWMA Project* that was distributed at the previous monthly meeting was discussed. R. Sando referred to the correspondence received from Paul Telander, MDNR which stated that the MDNR Wildlife plans to contribute the *last* \$50,000 of the \$150,000 needed by the District to complete the preliminary engineering for Pool 3 of the project. He stated that last month the Board of Managers tabled discussion regarding the resolution until clarification was received from the MDNR regarding the *last* \$50,000 of the funding needed to complete the preliminary engineering. He confirmed that the MDNR will contribute \$50,000 for preliminary engineering for the project.

**Resolution to Approve Funding Advance for the
Roseau River Wildlife Management Area Project**

WHEREAS, on November 15, 2011, the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) received a Step I submittal from the Roseau River Watershed District (District) for the Roseau River Wildlife Management Area Project (Project);

WHEREAS, at its meeting of December 20, 2011, the RRWMB received additional information from the District concerning financial hardship and conducted a tour of the project area;

WHEREAS, the District's Step I submittal demonstrates that the Project is feasible, will provide significant local and regional flood control benefits, and has a great potential for basin-wide benefits beyond the local District;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Red River Watershed Management Board hereby finds that the District has demonstrated an urgent need and hardship case for a funding advance in order to proceed with Project design, permitting, and preparation of a Step II submittal; and has great potential for basin-wide benefits in the larger watershed of the Red River of the North;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the RRWMB, upon consideration of all of the information described above, hereby approves a funding advance to the District in the amount of \$70,000.00, subject to the following conditions:

1. The District will submit a Step II application for the Project for approval by the RRWMB no later than May 21, 2013. Failure to obtain RRWMB approval of a Step II application by May 21, 2013 shall obligate the District to repay the funding advance in full no later than May 21, 2014;
2. Upon the RRWMB's approval of Step II and Step III submittals, this funding advance will be considered part of the RRWMB's share of the Project cost; and
3. The District will execute an agreement to document these obligations with the RRWMB pursuant to the RRWMB's Funding Procedures.

The question was on the adoption of the resolution and there were 7 yeas and 0 nays as follows:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
DEAL	X		
FINNEY			X
HOLMVIK	X		
MONEY	X		
OSE	X		
OSOWSKI	X		
SANDO	X		
WILKENS	X		

Upon vote, the President declared the Resolution adopted.

The next meeting will be on February 21, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, MN.

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