



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

May 15, 2012

Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, May 15, 2012, 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
Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
Kevin Ruud, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering, Inc.
Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute
Charlie Anderson, Engineer, WSN & Assoc., Inc.
Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
Julie Goehring, South Basin Mgr/Communications Coordinator, RRBC
Jim Ziegler, Unit Supervisor-MPCA
Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, NRCS
Pat Downs, Executive Director, RRRRA
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
Blake Carlson, Engineer, WSN & Assoc., Inc.
Jeff Nyquist, Public Information Officer

Motion by Manager Deal to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as written with minor corrections, **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **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 Money, **Carried**. A one-page handout of monthly bills to be approved was distributed. **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Holmvik, **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Red River Retention Authority

N. Erickson stated that at the May 8, 2012 meeting a ceremony for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was conducted with representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Red River Retention Authority (RRRA). She noted that Manager Finney's signature is required on the document as Co-chair of the RRRA.

R. Harnack referred to the Grand Marais Creek Outlet Restoration Project of the Red Lake WD and noted his concern relative to USACE requirements delaying the project. Manager Deal added that communication within the divisions of the USACE needs improvement. R. Harnack suggested the NRCS and RRRA encourage the USACE to follow the MOU and continue to strive to streamline the regulatory process in the Red River basin.

M. Jesme invited K. Weston to tour the above-mentioned project and view the jurisdictional requirements enforced by the USACE. Manager Money suggested documenting specific cases for further discussion with the USACE.

N. Drees stated that a general permit should be developed in order to avoid regulatory problems. K. Weston discussed the Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) which is utilized by the USACE to identify a preferred alternative to facilitate a more predictable and streamlined regulatory process. Manager Deal noted the importance of all three signatories of the MOU to cooperate to ensure its implementation.

Manager Finney introduced Pat Downs, Executive Director of the RRRA and congratulated him on his new position. Mr. Downs stated that he is looking forward to working with the RRWMB in the future.

Manager Wilkens reported on the joint meeting of the District Administrators and the TAC. He stated that at the previous monthly meeting, the Board of Managers requested the group to schedule a meeting to discuss developing a policy for tile drainage as it relates to the Basin Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (BTSAC) Briefing Paper No. 2. The meeting was conducted on April 27, 2012 at the Sand Hill River WD office.

Manager Wilkens distributed a report that summarized the committee's recommendations to the board. The committee recommended that relative to operation and maintenance plans for tile drainage, the gate or pump must be turned off when the tile water will affect the flood peak on the Red River or when contributing to local flood stages. A definition for flood stage needs to be developed. The committee agreed that flood peaks need to be managed.

Manager Wilkens noted that the committee also agreed on the following options as a policy response to tile drainage management:

- No requirements for drainage coefficient (DC).
- No requirements for random tile, under 1/8" DC.
- All pattern/seepage tile must have a control for both pump and gravity systems.
- All pattern tile will have an operating plan similar to holding areas.
- Develop operating plans to address the Red River component and a local component for turning the pump on and off.

Manager Wilkens added that the meeting resulted in a detailed discussion which included the various permit requirements for each watershed district. It was evident that the individual watershed districts have diverse approaches for regulating tile systems. These regulations range from no permit required to regulating the drainage coefficient to requiring gated controls on the outlets. Manager Wilkens suggested that the RRWMB request their legal counsel to review the rules and regulations for member watershed districts and develop a standard set of guidelines that could be adopted by individual watershed districts should they so choose.

Manager Deal suggested that the committee recommendations be forwarded to the TAC for further review prior to endorsement by the board. Manager Money inquired whether the intent of the RRWMB is to develop a policy that must be followed by the member watershed districts. R. Harnack stated that since the policy recommendations of the committee resulted from further review of Briefing Paper No. 2 of the BTSAC, that perhaps the RRRRA should endorse the policy recommendations that should be followed throughout the entire Red River basin. Following discussion, the board requested a committee consisting of D. Wilkens, D. Money, K. Ruud, and C. Fritz meet to further discuss the recommendations and develop a final draft to be considered.

Manager Deal stated that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has scheduled a two-day training session on August 28-29, 2012 in the Bois de Sioux WD for tile drainage. He added that the RRRRA has agreed to endorse event.

Public Information Initiative

J. Nyquist reviewed the public information monthly report. He prepared a draft public relations plan for J. Roeschlein for the Bois de Sioux WD. N. Erickson noted that a similar plan could be used for other member districts.

J. Nyquist reported that he met with Julie Goehring of the RRBC to discuss ways to collaborate on "The Ripple Effect." He stated that he will prepare radio spots for them to use that leverage the RRWMB perspective.

J. Nyquist stated that he assisted the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD in promoting an event with the Agassiz Audubon Society. A feature article was developed for *News & Views* as well as information forwarded to WDAY and PPTV.

Finance Committee

N. Erickson distributed an excerpt from the December 21, 2010 minutes which included discussion from the board's Finance Committee. The following individuals are members of the committee: J. Deal, D. Wilkens, J. Finney, R. Harnack, N. Erickson, D. Thul, and M. Jesme.

Manager Deal explained that the committee had been meeting to discuss various options for revising the board's levy. The committee agreed to wait to develop any recommendations to the board for consideration until correspondence was received from the Buffalo-Red River WD (BRRWD) whether or not their district would be rejoining the membership of the board.

Manager Deal stated that since the BRRWD voted earlier this year not to rejoin the RRWMB, the Finance Committee should schedule a meeting in the near future. N. Erickson noted that she would distribute a list of potential meeting dates to the committee for consideration.

TSAC Paper No. 14

N. Erickson distributed a letter dated April 6, 2012 forwarded from the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (the "Work Group") regarding Technical Paper No. 14 (TP14). J. Ziegler stated that the Work Group formed a committee to address the concerns expressed in the resolution adopted by the RRWMB and forwarded to the Work Group regarding TP14. The following individuals participated on the committee: J. Ziegler (Chair), P. Wannarka, D. Wilkens, H. VanOffelen, B. Dwight, and O. Knott.

Following discussion, the Board of Managers agreed that since the letter states that the Work Group will continue to address the concerns outlined in the correspondence sent from the RRWMB to the Work Group dated November 30, 2011, consideration should be given to approve TP14.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to approve Technical Paper No. 14 of the Work Group, **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**.

Project Coordinator Report

R. Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. He reported that there is \$30,000,000 available for Flood Hazard Mitigation grants to be allocated by the DNR according to their priority list and the readiness of the project. The DNR flood damage reduction list as well as the RRWMB priority list was distributed.

N. Drees stated that due to favorable weather conditions, construction on the Brandt/Angus Project is proceeding faster than the State of Minnesota can process the bonding funds allocated for the project. He added that it appears that the project may be able to be completed during the current construction season which is placing a financial burden on the District to keep up with the contractor funding requests. He requested board consideration for developing a funding agreement between the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD and the RRWMB to advance funds for the project which would be reimbursed when the state funding is received by the District. Manager Finney requested that N. Drees keep N. Erickson informed on whether the District would need to receive an advance of funds.

R. Harnack stated that C. Fritz, H. VanOffelen, and C. Anderson have developed a proposal to meet with each member watershed district to review the 20% flow reduction plan, focusing on the amount of reduction allocated to their district represented by peak and volume reduction and depicted by a modified hydrograph. C. Fritz distributed a handout titled *Flood Damage Reduction Project Planning Acceleration Project*. The project goal is to accelerate the development and deployment of data and tools needed to propose at least one FDR project in each Minnesota watershed district by the end of 2012. The estimated project cost is ~ \$50,000.

Following discussion, the board agreed to provide 50% of the cost of the proposed project (\$25,000) and request the Work Group to provide the remaining \$25,000. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize a 50/50 match with the Work Group, not to exceed a total project cost of \$50,000, for the *Flood Damage Reduction Project Planning Acceleration Project*, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Administrator Report

A) RRB Flood Damage Reduction Work Group / Project Team Support

N. Erickson reported that for fiscal year 2012 (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012), the revised project team allocation is \$11,875 per project team. The following table depicts the project team reimbursement requests submitted to date:

Project Team	Total Funds Available this Fiscal Year	Expenditures	Amount Remaining to Allocate
Bois de Sioux WD	\$11,875.00	\$0	\$11,875.00
Buffalo-Red River WD	\$11,875.00	\$10,781.23	\$1,093.77
Middle Snake Tamarac WD	\$11,875.00	\$0	\$11,875.00
Red Lake WD	\$11,875.00	\$5,299.63	\$6,575.37
Roseau River WD	\$11,875.00	\$0	\$11,875.00
Sand Hill River WD	\$11,875.00	\$3,882.50	\$7,992.50
Two Rivers WD	\$11,875.00	\$2,422.90	\$9,452.10
Wild Rice WD	\$11,875.00	\$0	\$11,875.00

N. Erickson reported that the end of the fiscal year for these funds is **June 30, 2012** and funds that have not be expended will be considered for reallocation. She requested the watershed districts to submit reimbursement requests as soon as possible as the last Work Group meeting prior to the end of fiscal year is scheduled for Wednesday, June 20, 2012.

B) Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)

N. Erickson reported that she attended the RRRRA meeting conducted on May 08, 2012. She participated on a conference call conducted on April 30, 2012 to discuss purchasing equipment and office furnishings. The final decision was to order from Christianson's for the reception area and the Executive Director's office so it would match the NRCS furniture. Furniture for the conference room will be ordered through Hannaher's. The estimated total amount for office equipment and furnishings is ~ \$24-25,000.00 and will take from 4-8 weeks to arrive.

N. Erickson stated that the contact information for Pat Downs - Executive Director and the new RRRRA office is as follows:

Pat Downs
Executive Director
Red River Retention Authority
1405 Prairie Parkway, Suite 311
West Fargo, ND 58078

Phone: 701-356-6644
Cell: 701-371-9105
Fax: 701-356-6638
RRRA@ideaone.net

C) Bus Tour

N. Erickson reported on the status of the bus tour co-sponsored by the RRWMB and the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group for state and federal regulatory agency officials. She stated that at the last Work Group meeting, a committee was appointed consisting of the following members: D. Wilkens (Chair), M. Carroll, T. Groshens, J. Deal, J. Ziegler, B. Dwight, G. Kajewski, R. Sip, and N. Erickson. The committee will meet in the near future to finalize the details of the tour.

D) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. **Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) / Tour & Meeting**, June 6-7, 2012, Winnipeg, MB.
2. **Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)**, Tuesday, June 12, 2012, 1405 Prairie Parkway, Suite 311, West Fargo, ND.
3. **Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group**, Wednesday, June 20, 2012, 9:30 a.m., Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, MN.
4. **2012 MAWD Summer Tour**, June 21-23, 2012, Hosted by the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District, Mystic Lake Casino & Hotel, Prior Lake, MN. Register online at www.mnwatershed.org by **May 31, 2012**.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

C. Fritz reported that Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) project monitoring continues on a monthly rotation around the basin. IWI staff and Red Lake WD staff are working on a water quality monitoring plan for the Grand Marais Creek Restoration project. Continuous monitoring options and costs are being explored at this time.

C. Fritz stated that the first sampling of the season for River Watch occurred with Herman-Norcross, Hawley and Wheaton high schools. The students were given a refresher course regarding Standard

Operating Procedures (SOPs), information to include in documenting field observations and how to use the new secchi tubes for water transparency readings.

Red River Basin Commission

Julie Goehring, South Basin Mgr/Communications Coordinator – RRBC, distributed information on the next board meeting and tour scheduled for June 6 & 7 in Manitoba. A bus will leave Fargo/Moorhead on Wednesday morning with stops in Grand Forks and Pembina if needed.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

D. Thul reported that a meeting is scheduled on June 5, 2012 with Nan Bischoff, St. Paul District USACE / Project Manager for the Red River Basin Watershed Feasibility Study (WFS), R. Gjestvang - NDSWC, N. Erickson and himself at Houston Engineering, Inc., Fargo, ND to discuss the status of the budgeted items included as Work-in-Kind (WIK) in the Project Management Plan (PMP) for the WFS. Following the meeting, the joint MN/ND Advisory Committee will meet to discuss other potential projects to be included as WIK in the PMP.

N. Dalager stated that at the March board meeting, the board discussed a proposal for the USACE to conduct the geotechnical work needed for the Roseau River Wildlife Management Area (RRWMA) project with Nan Bischoff. D. Thul added that following the joint MN/ND Advisory Committee meeting, their recommendation will be presented to both the local district and the RRWMB for consideration.

D. Thul referenced the February RRRA meeting during which Aaron Snyder - USACE discussed a proposed Red River Basin Non-structural Assessment. As part of the Fargo-Moorhead Metro Feasibility Study, a non-structural analysis was completed to determine if and where non-structural measures would be feasible for counties downstream of Fargo-Moorhead. In order to initiate the study, a non-Federal sponsor needed to be identified. The feasibility costs would be shared 50/50 between the Federal Government and non-Federal sponsor with the cost of the anticipated study estimated at \$800,000.00. At the February RRWMB meeting, the board agreed *not* to cost-share in the study since as a result of the farmstead ring dike program the majority of structures have already been protected on the Minnesota side of the Red River basin, however, the Red River Joint Water Resource District (RRJWRD) agreed to fund \$100,000 of the study.

As a result of the limited cost-share funding committed for the study, A. Snyder reduced the scope of the study which will now be funded entirely by the USACE. D. Thul inquired that since the board agreed not to cost-share in the original study, whether they would object to the revised study being added to the PMP. J. Bents requested that the board consider supporting the addition of the study since although the farmstead ring dike program has protected the majority of structures on the Minnesota side, options including buy-outs or relocations have not yet been explored. D. Thul explained that as a result of conducting the study, landowners could establish their eligibility for participating in federal programs which they would not otherwise be able to determine. K. Ruud added that several landowners in the Wild Rice WD would be interested in establishing their eligibility requirements. **Motion** by Manager Holmvik to support the request to include the revised study in the WFS PMP, **Seconded** by Manager Miller, **Carried**.

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported that the Hay Creek/Norland Impoundment Project will be completed this Spring. The District has been in contact with the USACE on the proposed adaptive management plan for wetland mitigation requirements on the project and now awaits a decision.

The District had a May meeting with the project team regarding dam replacement in the Beltrami Island State Forest (BISF) area. In addition the group discussed two possible impoundment sites within the BISF.

HDR Engineering continues to work on preliminary engineering plans for the Roseau River Wildlife Management Area (RRWMA). The USACE has indicated they will be performing the geo-technical aspects for the RRWMA, and a project team meeting is scheduled for May 22nd.

- The Red Lake WD reported that Phase I of the Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction/Red Lake Watershed District Ditch #14 is progressing well with approximately 6,000 feet of channel construction on the Improvement portion of the project completed. Phase II of the project will consist of laying two lines of reinforced concrete arch pipe which is part of the storm sewer plan within the city. Phase III consists of completing 4.5 miles of the improvement channel. Construction is expected to be completed in August.
- The Wild Rice WD reported that the project team for the Moccasin Creek Operation and Maintenance Plan met near the end of April and recommended support to the Board for expanding the Spring opening procedure; in addition, a discussion was held regarding the addition of a second dam in the area.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

Other Issues

B. Dwight stated that the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is conducting training on the Clean Water Fund (CWF) Grant program. In order to assure that local partners have a full understanding of the CWF Grant Request for Proposal (RFP), BWSR will be hosting a series of Webinars to cover the grant process and timelines as well as increase awareness of eligible and ineligible projects. He suggested checking the BWSR training page for updates, and to be on the lookout for a special edition of *Train Tracks* with the webinar dates and registration information.

The next meeting will be on June 19, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. at the Red River Retention Authority office, West Fargo, ND. In case the office furniture hasn't arrived by the next meeting date, the alternate meeting location will be the Sand Hill River Watershed District.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Deal
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator