



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 15, 2013

Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, January 15, 2013, at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

President John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

LeRoy Carriere	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
- Charlie Anderson, Engineer, WSN Engineering, Inc.
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering, Inc.
- Mark Meister, CR*CS
- Torin McCormack, Roseau River WD
- Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute
- Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, USDA-NRCS
- Pat Downs, Executive Director, RRRRA
- Jeff Lewis, Assistant Executive Director/Policy, RRBC
- Henry VanOffelen, MDNR Red River Basin Coordinator
- Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Danni Halvorson, Director – River Watch and Monitoring
- Blake Carlson, Engineer, WSN Engineering, Inc.
- Brian Dwight, Board Conservationist, BWSR

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 Money 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 Deal, **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. President Finney turned the meeting over to Vice President Knott who asked for nominations for President of the Board. Manager Deal nominated Manager Finney for President. Nominations were called for three times by Manager Knott. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for John Finney for President by Manager Money, **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 Carriere, **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 Osowski 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 Holmvik, **Seconded** by Manager Carriere, **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 Thief River Falls, MN, on Tuesday, January 15, 2013.

On a **motion** by Manager Knott, **seconded** by Manager Osowski, 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 Thief River Falls, MN, on Tuesday, January 15, 2013.

On a **motion** by Manager Money, **seconded** by Manager Deal, 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 56.5 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 Thief River Falls, MN, on Tuesday, January 15, 2013.

On a **motion** by Manager Deal, **seconded** by Manager Osowski, 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 Thief River Falls, MN, on Tuesday, January 15, 2013.

On a **motion** by Manager Deal, **seconded** by Manager Money, 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 Committee

M. Meister reviewed the public information monthly report. Activities for the month included writing a feature article for the newsletter publication and completing the review, proofing and design of the 2013 annual calendar in collaboration with Brandner Printing.

Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)

P. Downs distributed a monthly report of activities. He attended the Red River Joint Water Resource District's (RRJWRD) monthly meeting which included discussion regarding the RRWMB's recommendations regarding the Proposed Amended Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) of the RRRA. The RRJWRD reviewed the RRWMB's recommendations and approved the Proposed Amended JPA.

P. Downs reported that the RRRA hosted a joint Drainage Committee meeting that included discussion of surface drainage issues. Manager Wilkens added that various committees have been

established throughout the Red River basin to address drainage issues and discussions have begun regarding the formation of one committee.

C. Fritz noted that the Basin Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (BTSAC) has identified potential impacts of surface runoff in Briefing Paper No. 2 - Water Management Options for Subsurface Drainage. Board managers need to determine the action required to mitigate the risks of surface drainage.

Manager Finney stated that developing guidelines for surface runoff could be more difficult than the proposed recommendations currently under discussion by the TAC for subsurface/tile drainage. Manager Knott suggested that similar recommendations should be adopted in both the Minnesota and North Dakota portions of the basin. Manager Wilkens concurred with Manager Knott but noted that legislative support for drainage issues is lacking in North Dakota. P. Downs added that the issue of tile drainage seems to be restricted to the Red River basin, therefore, gaining support from North Dakota legislators is difficult.

B. Dwight suggested that funds may be available through the Clean Water Fund (CWF) to identify sample sites or pilot projects to implement tile drainage guidelines. K. Weston added that funding assistance may be available for producers interested in tile drainage through the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) sponsored by the RRBC, or the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) of NRCS.

Manager Wilkens stated that previously the Board of Managers requested the TAC and watershed district administrators to meet to develop a policy for tile drainage. Manager Money noted that in order to regulate tile drainage, permits must be obtained from local watershed districts.

Manager Finney noted that a Drainage Workshop is scheduled in conjunction with the upcoming RRBC annual summit conference. He requested the District Administrators and TAC to schedule a joint meeting following the workshop to finalize the proposed recommendations developed previously for subsurface/tile drainage and report to the board at the March board meeting.

Water Quality Project Monitoring

D. Halvorson distributed the IWI Monitoring and Education Activity Report. On January 11th, staff met with MPCA Environmental Outcomes personnel to discuss site selection for long term water quality and flow monitoring sites to be used in MPCA's Watershed Load Monitoring program. MPCA will finalize a draft list of 30 - 34 sites to be established in the Red River watershed. Following completion of the draft list, MPCA will seek input from local watershed districts and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). The comments and suggestions from local water managers will be used to refine the list, with monitoring to begin in the spring of 2014.

Project Coordinator Report

R. Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. He reported that at the December 19, 2012 Work Group meeting, the final budget for 2013 was approved. He explained that he discussed permitting issues related to minor clean outs of various public waters in several watershed districts with Peter Buessler, Regional Manager - MDNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources. Mr. Buessler indicated he would develop a draft of modified guidelines for review with watershed district

staff. Plans are to conduct a joint meeting with the MDNR and watershed district staff sometime in February.

Administrator Report

A) IRS Standard Mileage Rate

Beginning January 1, 2013, the standard mileage rate for the use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be 56.5 cents per mile for business miles driven. The new rate for business miles compares to a rate of 55.5 cents per mile for 2012.

B) Year-end Tax Information

The 2012 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) 15th Joint Annual Conference

The Joint Annual Conference (March Conference) has been scheduled for March 12-13, 2013 at the Courtyard by Marriott & Conference Center, Moorhead, MN. A portion of the conference will focus on activities of the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group including Project Team reports among other topics. N. Erickson stated that each Project Team is requested to conduct a 30 minute presentation of past achievements as well as current activities. Please forward PowerPoint presentations to Henry VanOffelen prior to the conference.

D) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

N. Erickson reported that on January 9, 2013, she met with Nan Bischoff, St. Paul District USACE / Project Manager for the Red River Basin Watershed Feasibility Study (WFS) at Houston Engineering, Inc., Fargo, ND along with Dan Thul, Randy Gjestvang and Chuck Fritz. Work-in-Kind (WIK) funds submitted towards the budgeted categories included in the Project Management Plan (PMP) for the WFS were reviewed. Following discussion, the Board of Managers suggested inviting Ms. Bischoff to a future board meeting. D. Thul distributed minutes of the January 9, 2013 meeting.

E) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. **Red River Basin Commission's 30th Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference**, *Uniting the Red River Basin for 30 Years*, January 22-24, 2013, Alerus Center & Canad Inns, Grand Forks, ND.
2. **Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)**. The January and February meetings will be combined to one meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2013 at 2:30 p.m. at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, ND (during the RRBC annual conference).
3. **15th Joint Annual Conference (March Conference)**, Tuesday, March 12, 2013 - Wednesday, March 13, 2013, Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead, MN.
4. **River Watch Forum**, Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at the University of Minnesota - Crookston Campus. Please note the March board meeting has been rescheduled from Tuesday, March 19, 2013 to Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at UMC to coincide with the River Watch Forum.

Red River Basin Commission

J. Lewis, Assistant Executive Director/Policy - RRBC, distributed a report of the FM-Diversion Board of Authority (FM-DBA) Phase I: Retention Site Modeling for Mainstem and Regional Impacts and Prioritization, Halstad Upstream Retention (HUR) Modeling. Phase I of the project is a modeling effort that will model the impacts of retention sites, currently or in the process of being identified through local water boards in Minnesota and North Dakota, and then prioritizing the sites based on local, regional, mainstem and FM area benefits.

Manager Wilkens inquired about the Minnesota annual contribution of \$75,000 to the RRBC. He asked J. Lewis to submit a letter from the RRBC requesting \$75,000 from the RRWMB for activities for 2013. J. Lewis responded that a letter would be forthcoming requesting the Minnesota local base funding for the RRBC in the amount of \$75,000.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

D. Thul reported that the TAC met and discussed the Expanded Distribution Detention Strategy initiative. J. Bents developed a process similar to a previous USACE proposal which consisted of each individual watershed district designating an engineering firm, with specific amounts allocated to each individual watershed district for expenses incurred. The costs incurred would be billed directly to the RRWMB for reimbursement to the respective watershed district. The TAC agreed that the outcomes of the initiative must be consistent with the RRBC's Long Term Flood Solutions (LTFS) plan.

D. Thul stated that he attended a joint Drainage Committee meeting hosted by the RRRRA and conducted on December 27, 2012. The RRBC scheduled a Drainage Workshop in conjunction with the upcoming RRBC annual summit conference, and the committee agreed to develop recommendations regarding how to proceed following the conclusion of the workshop. Minutes of the joint Drainage Committee meeting were distributed.

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported that the board continues to await a response from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the proposed adaptive management plan for wetland mitigation requirements on the Hay Creek/Norland project.
- The Red Lake WD reported on the Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction Project. The contractor has substantially completed construction on the project, however, additional work must be completed in the spring as the contractor was unable to complete the project prior to the contract expiration date of November 15, 2012. The Board of Managers approved extending the contract date for the project to June 15, 2013 at which time all work must be completed. The District also received approval for a grant amendment from the State of Minnesota extending the expiration date for the project to June 30, 2013. Construction payments made to date total \$2,051,821.69 with a \$10,000 retainer held until work is completed next spring.
- The Wild Rice WD reported on the Olson Agassiz Pilot Project. A meeting was conducted with landowners, MDNR and the District regarding the proposed operating plan for the project. An

agreement was tentatively reached to set the gates at an elevation of 971 feet above sea level and continue to allow time for spring runoff prior to flooding.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

Other Issues

- Manager Deal reported that he and Manager Wilkens attended the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Roundtable conducted on January 4-5, 2013, in St. Paul, MN. The meeting is an invitation-only event that focused on fisheries, wildlife and ecological issues. Roundtable discussions help shape DNR decision making on natural resource management, legislative initiatives and policy changes.
- K. Weston stated that in 2011, \$10 million was allocated from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for a special wetlands initiative in the Red River basin. Mr. Weston noted that an additional \$10 million is expected in 2013 for implementation of the USDA's Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) in the basin.
- Manager Finney discussed co-locating the offices of the RRRRA, RRBC, IWI and River Keepers. He requested that a committee be developed to pursue available options prior to the expiration of the current lease for RRRRA office space. Following discussion, Manager Finney appointed J. Deal and R. Osowski to represent the board on the committee.
- Manager Deal noted that the 2013 MAWD Legislative Reception & Day at the Capitol is scheduled for Thursday & Friday, March 7-8, 2013, at the Kelly Inn in St. Paul, MN.

The next meeting will be on February 19, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:15 p.m. following lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Deal
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator