



## 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

February 26, 2013

Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, February 26, 2013, at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota.

President John Finney called the meeting to order and noted that this meeting had been originally scheduled for February 19, 2013 but had been continued to today due to weather.

Members present were:

LeRoy Carriere	Alvin Nybladh
Orville Knott	Daniel Wilkens
Greg Holmvik	Jerome Deal

Others present were:

- Naomi Erickson, Administrator
- Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
- Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Kevin Ruud, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
- Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering, Inc.
- Mark Meister, CR\*CS
- Tracy Halstensgard, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Torin McCormack, Roseau River WD
- Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute
- Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, USDA-NRCS
- Pat Downs, Executive Director, RRRRA
- Julie Goehring, South Basin Mgr/Communications Coordinator, RRBC
- Rob Sip, MDA - Environmental Policy Specialist
- Henry VanOffelen, MDNR Red River Basin Coordinator
- Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD

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

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

### **Public Information Committee**

M. Meister reviewed the public information monthly report. Activities provided for the month included submitting a proposal to the Public Information Committee outlining the duties and responsibilities of the Public Information Officer position as well as an evaluation process for the position.

M. Meister stated that he's assisted with planning the 15th Joint Annual Conference including coordination of a live KFGO broadcast on Wednesday, March 27, 2013.

J. Roeschlein distributed a proposal from H2O videos to develop a public information video about the Bois de Sioux WD to be used for public presentations, on the BdSWD website, and on broadcast and cable-access television. The video will be produced to promote a watershed district perspective.

J. Roeschlein added that following further discussion with the BdSWD board, it was suggested that perhaps the video could be developed as a pilot with footage that could be utilized by respective RRWMB member watershed districts and customized to their needs. The proposed budget for the educational/informational video is \$37,400 with a 50% cost-share consideration requested from the RRWMB.

Manager Holmvik noted his concern about the significant board cost-share requested. Manager Wilkens questioned the value to member watershed districts should the video perspective be too broad in nature.

M. Meister added that he is familiar with the video production company that submitted the proposal for services as they provide high-quality, professional products. He noted that from a public relations standpoint, the information developed is only useful if used effectively and distributed well. R. Sip suggested that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture may be a potential funding source for this effort.

Following discussion, Manager Finney requested M. Meister, J. Roeschlein and R. Sip to further discuss the proposal and report to the board at the March board meeting.

### **Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)**

P. Downs distributed a monthly report of activities. He reported that he coordinated a meeting in January with the Red River Joint Water Resource District (RRJWRD) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Omaha District. Another meeting to review comprehensive plans for the Red River Basin will be scheduled in the near future with the USACE, St. Paul District to be invited as well.

P. Downs stated that he testified at the Legislature in Bismarck regarding proposed amendments to the State Water Commission budget to prevent several years of state funding from being used for a Red River diversion project.

### **Water Quality Project Monitoring**

C. Fritz distributed a handout regarding the FDR Project Acceleration/Project Planning Tool/Distributed Storage Plan initiative. Informational meetings for project acceleration are nearly complete with a final meeting scheduled with the Two Rivers/Joe River watershed districts on March 6, 2013. Initial meetings to review project planning tools and develop scenarios for project team meetings have been conducted as follows: Sand Hill (Sep. 20th, Dec. 12th and Jan. 28th), Middle

Snake Tamarac Rivers (Jan. 8th), and Wild Rice (Jul. 24th, Feb. 23rd). Additional meetings to accelerate projects will be scheduled at the request of individual administrators but dependent upon remaining funding.

C. Fritz discussed surface drainage management recommendations. A meeting has been scheduled in early March with committee co-chairs, D. Wilkens and M. Brodshaug, to discuss a plan to proceed. Funds remain from the tile drainage study previously conducted which could be used to reconvene the BTSAC to review the Gridded Surface/Subsurface Hydrologic Analysis (GSSHA) modeling results and also develop a scope of work to address surface drainage. Following the development of the scope of work and cost estimate, a formal request/proposal will be submitted for approval.

C. Fritz reported that the IWI board assigned Paul Swenson and Ken Vein to a committee charged with implementing a co-location strategy for the offices of the RRBC, IWI, RRRRA, and River Keepers. Names and office space needs have been submitted to P. Downs/RRRA.

### **Project Coordinator Report**

In the absence of Ron Harnack, the Project Coordinator Report was distributed. Legislative updates include:

1. **Drainage**: HF66 has passed the floor and SF113 is ready for action on the Senate floor. The Drainage Work Group (DWG) briefed legislators prior to the hearing which resulted in very few questions on the floor.
2. **Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) Budget**: Includes \$100,000/year for the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC).
3. **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Budget**: Includes \$256,000/year for the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (Work Group).
4. **Bonding Bill**: HF783 Marquart; SF676 Stumpf. This is the statewide bonding bill that includes flood damage reduction projects of the RRWMB/WDs in the Red River Basin.

The Minnesota Association of Watershed District's (MAWD) Legislative Reception & Briefing is scheduled for March 13-14, 2013. An invitation has been extended to Red River Basin legislators for the March 13th Legislative Reception.

A memo from Smith Partners was distributed regarding potential amendments to the Watershed Code. The amendments relate to clarification of the RRWMB levy when considering funding watershed district projects and project maintenance. Following discussion, the Board of Managers agreed to direct the committee that's currently assigned to assist with reviewing the rules and regulations of member watershed districts to coordinate with L. Smith regarding the proposed amendments. Members of the committee include J. Finney, D. Wilkens, R. Osowski, R. Harnack and D. Thul. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize the aforementioned committee to coordinate with L. Smith regarding the proposed amendments to the Watershed Code, **Seconded** by Manager Nyblad, **Carried**.

### **Administrator Report**

#### **A) 15<sup>th</sup> Joint Annual Conference**

The 15th Joint Annual Conference (March Conference) has been rescheduled from March 12-13, 2013 at the Courtyard by Marriott & Conference Center, Moorhead, MN to March 26-27, 2013.

A draft agenda was distributed. The conference will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday to accommodate those traveling. Topics will include a review of the mediation process, the 20% goal of the Long Term Flood Solution Plan of the RRBC, the Expanded Distributed Detention Strategy of RRWMB member watershed districts, and the Distributed Detention Planning Effort in ND along with a RRRRA update. The conference will conclude on the first day with a social located near the meeting room.

The following day of the conference will focus on a Wetland Assessment and Project Monitoring Update, Accelerated Project Planning and Project Planning Tool Updates, Watershed District Reports, Agency Updates, and an Update of USACE Activities including the Points of Concurrence and Early Coordination of Upcoming Projects.

**B) Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant**

N. Erickson reported that an amendment to the Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant had been received from the State of Minnesota for FY12 & FY13 to increase the original grant amount by \$264,000.00. **Motion** by Manager Holmvik to authorize the amendment to increase the original grant amount by \$264,000.00, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

**C) River Watch Forum / March Board Meeting**

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. The Business Department's conference room has been reserved for the board meeting. The final details regarding room number and campus map will be forwarded along with the meeting notice.

**D) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences**

1. **Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)**, March 12, 2013, 1405 Prairie Parkway, Suite 311, West Fargo, ND.
2. **River Watch Forum**, Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at the University of Minnesota - Crookston Campus.
3. **15th Joint Annual Conference (March Conference)**, Tuesday, March 26, 2013 - Wednesday, March 27, 2013, Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead, MN.

**Red River Basin Commission**

J. Goehring, South Basin Mgr/Communications Coordinator – RRBC, distributed the Natural Resources Framework Plan (NRFP) Report.

J. Goehring stated that the state Environmental Congress is scheduled for March 15, 2013, at the Ramada Inn in Bloomington. The one-day conference will engage a group of citizen leaders with diverse viewpoints and backgrounds to help the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) shape a vision for the future that addresses Minnesota's environment and energy challenges and opportunities.

**Red River Coordinator/TAC Report**

D. Thul reported on a meeting conducted on January 30, 2013 at Houston Engineering, Inc., Fargo, ND. Dr. Gary Sands presented a final report titled "Developing Optimum Drainage Guidelines for the Red River Basin." The study used a well-known drainage simulation model called "DRAINMOD." The model was used to simulate six Red River Basin soil types for three locations in the basin;

Fergus Falls, Crookston and Roseau. A number of conclusions and recommendations were submitted by Dr. Sands and included in the final report. It was noted that further work is required to understand the performance of artificially drained and undrained agricultural landscapes to more soils and locations, and to improve the ability to predict crop yield responses to the practices.

D. Thul stated that attendees at the January 30th meeting also discussed the updated Project Management Plan (PMP) for the USACE Red River Basin Watershed Feasibility Study (WFS). N. Bischoff, P.E., St. Paul District USACE / Project Manager for the WFS distributed a spreadsheet listing federal and local tasks included in the PMP. She explained that a directive was received from Washington D.C. that certain Work-in-Kind (WIK) items originally included in the PMP will need to be removed or "scrubbed." Approximately \$9.9 million of proposed WIK will remain in the PMP once the proposed items are scrubbed. Currently, ~ \$8.5 million in WIK requests have been submitted by local sponsors with ~ \$5.24 approved to date. N. Bischoff indicated that should federal expenditures exceed local WIK, additional WIK items could be added back into the PMP. An updated PMP will be available for distribution at the March board meeting.

J. Bents presented an update on the Expanded Distributed Detention Strategy initiative. Following discussions with watershed district engineers, a timeframe and cost estimate has been developed. The essential remaining tasks to complete the Project Planning Tool (PPT) is \$180,000 (excluding the BRRWD). The Distributed Detention Planning efforts for the individual member watershed districts are estimated at \$437,000 and are allocated as follows:

1. BdSWD - \$50,000, (5/31) - Cost change pending WSN.
2. BRRWD - (5/31) - To be completed by others.
3. WRWD - \$73,000, (5/31) - HEI
4. SHRWD - \$37,000, (6/30) - HEI
5. RLWD - \$77,000, (7/31) - HDR
6. MSTRWD - \$70,000, (7/31) - HEI
7. TRWD - \$46,000, (7/31) - WSN
8. JRWD - \$18,000, (7/31) - WSN
9. RRWD - \$66,000, (7/31) - HDR/HEI

The total cost to complete the PPT and the Distributed Detention Planning effort is an estimated \$617,000 or an average of ~ \$77,000 per watershed district.

### **District Reports**

- The Roseau River WD reported that project team representatives and staff have participated in two webinars hosted by Houston Engineering to discuss site assessments completed for the proposed project areas in the Beltrami Island State Forest. A project team meeting is planned for late March to review the final assessment sheets, constraint document, and review the International Water Institute's (IWI) Project Planning Tool.
- The Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD reported on the Brandt/Angus Impoundment Project. Construction on the entire embankment as well as the ditches/coulee have been completed for the project. Although seeding has been completed, not enough of the project has sufficient vegetative cover to operate next spring. The District has been notified that the MDNR plans to fund the remaining portion of the project this year.

- The Red Lake WD reported on the Burnham Creek Habitat/Fish Passage Project. The District received a grant of \$50,000 from the MDNR for construction of fish habitat structures on Burnham Creek. Under the terms of the agreement, the District is responsible for a 25% match. The District also applied for a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service non-matching grant which will also be used for fish passage and could be used as a match for the MDNR grant.
- The Wild Rice WD reported that a project team meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 27, 2013 to discuss the Goose Prairie Marsh site and the Moccasin Creek area.

### **District's Funding Requests**

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

### **Other Issues**

- Manager Finney inquired whether drainage projects in North Dakota have an effect on Red River levels. J. Bents responded that distributed detention planning efforts are occurring in both Minnesota and North Dakota and encouraged continuing the planning and prioritization retention efforts of the RRRRA.
- A meeting of MDNR staff and watershed district representatives was conducted on Friday, February 22nd, in Thief River Falls, MN. Discussion included permit requirements for ditch maintenance and cleaning. Additional future meetings are planned to continue discussions.
- R. Sip distributed an invitation to announce a Tile Manufacturing Plant Tour scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, 2013 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The tour will be conducted at either the Prinsco Moorhead plant or Prinsco Fargo plant. The tour will be limited to 30 people with priority given to RRWMB and Work Group members. Please RSVP at [rob.sip@state.mn.us](mailto:rob.sip@state.mn.us).

The next meeting has been rescheduled from Tuesday, March 19, 2013 to Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at UMC to coincide with the River Watch Forum.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jerome Deal  
Secretary

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Naomi L. Erickson  
Administrator