



## Red River Watershed Management Board

### ***Board of Managers***

John Finney, President-Humboldt LeRoy Carriere-Roseau Dan Money-Hallock Ben Kleinwachter-Strandquist  
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

August 19, 2014

Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota.

President John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were:    LeRoy Carriere            Ben Kleinwachter  
   Orville Knott                Daniel Wilkens  
   Greg Holmvik                Jerome Deal

Others present were: Naomi Erickson, Administrator  
Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator  
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator  
Heidi Hughes, Public Information Officer  
Nick Drees, Project Coordinator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD  
Pat Downs, Executive Director - RRRRA  
Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator - USDA-NRCS  
Jim Zeigler, Unit Supervisor - MPCA  
Jeff Lewis, Executive Director - RRBC  
Jerry Bents, Engineer - Houston Engineering, Inc.  
Kevin Ruud, Administrator - Wild Rice WD  
Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering, Inc.  
Ron Adrian, Engineer - Houston Engineering, Inc.  
Tracy Halstensgard, Administrator - Roseau River WD  
Myron Jesme, Administrator - Red Lake WD  
Nate Dalager, Engineer - HDR Engineering, Inc.  
Rob Sip, Environmental Policy Specialist - MDA  
Chuck Fritz, Director - International Water Institute  
Doug Thomas, Acting Asst. Director for Regional Operations - BWSR  
Sharee Femling - Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician  
Dave Jones, Area Engineer - USDA-NRCS  
Dan Weber, Asst. State Conservationist - USDA-NRCS

Manager Finney requested adding discussion regarding the Prioritization Committee of the Red River Retention Authority (RRRA) to the agenda. R. Sip asked to include the development of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to protect insect pollinators to the agenda. These items were added to the agenda under *Other issues*.

**Motion** by Manager Deal to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as written with minor corrections, **Seconded** by Manager Carriere, **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 Carriere, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

N. Erickson reviewed the revised 2015 proposed annual budget. **Motion** by Manager Kleinwachter to approve the revised 2015 proposed annual budget, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

### **Sanford First Aid & Safety**

S. Femling - Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT) discussed saving sudden cardiac arrest victims in the workplace. She distributed and reviewed two handouts.

S. Femling reviewed a statistical fact sheet regarding sudden deaths from cardiac arrest. Sudden cardiac arrest occurs when ventricular fibrillation takes place or when the heart stops beating altogether. Without medical attention, the victim collapses, loses consciousness, becomes unresponsive, and dies. A ventricular fibrillation sudden cardiac arrest can be reversed if the victim is treated with an electric cardiac arrest can be reversed if the victim is treated with an electric shock to the heart within a few minutes. The electric shock can stop the abnormal rhythm and allow a normal rhythm to resume. This process, called defibrillation, is done using a defibrillator. Rescuers can be trained to operate portable, automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

Reasons to consider installing an AED in the workplace:

1. Workers may suffer sudden cardiac arrest while on the job.
2. Onsite AEDs save precious treatment time, and can improve survival odds because they can be used before emergency medical service (EMS) personnel arrive.
3. A heart rhythm in ventricular fibrillation may only be restored to normal by an electric shock.
4. The AED is compact, lightweight, portable, battery operated, safe, and easy to use.

N. Erickson inquired about a price quote for purchasing an AED. S. Femling responded that Sanford offers two models of AEDs for sale. The first model is a Philips Heartstart FRX Defibrillator for ~ \$1,500.00. The second model is a Phillips FRX Defibrillator with a heavy-duty Kevlar housing that resists moisture, breakage and is shock resistant. This unit costs ~ \$1,800.00 but includes a longer life battery and warranties on both the battery and device.

S. Femling noted she would forward price quotes to N. Erickson for distribution to member watershed districts. She explained that Sanford currently has a promotion that for every 10 AEDs purchased, an 11th unit will be provided for free. Manager Finney requested board members to query their respective boards relative to their interest in obtaining an AED and continue discussion at the September board meeting.

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

P. Downs distributed a monthly report of activities. At the August 12, 2014 board meeting, it was agreed that the Co-Chairs would select a sub-committee to rank priority projects from the \$50 million allocation. Manager Finney appointed D. Thul to participate on the committee.

N. Drees noted that it requires ~ four to five years for a project to progress through the project team process and obtain the necessary permits. He inquired whether any projects could be considered exempt from the process. R. Harnack responded that if following the project team process requires a four to five year timeframe for regulatory, it's not because the process is flawed but rather due to inadequate facilitation.

P. Downs referred to the distributed detention strategies completed in Minnesota and North Dakota by various engineering firms and noted that this information is available at the RRRR office.

### **Water Quality Project Monitoring**

C. Fritz reported that at the September 17, 2013 board meeting, the Board of Managers approved the Red River Basin River Watch Clean Water Fund (CWF) Work Plan and agreed to sponsor the project with lead coordination and project management provided by the IWI. A grant in the amount of \$235,250 was awarded to engage citizens in local watershed monitoring, work with regional partners to promote understanding and protection of watersheds, and organize and facilitate gathering of scientific data all for the benefit of water quality in the Red River Basin.

C. Fritz explained that in addition to the above-referenced grant, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) notified IWI that additional grant funds of \$192,000 are available through the CWF which require no matching funds under the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) initiative. He inquired whether the board would consider sponsoring an additional grant to evaluate hydrologic and other scientific data obtained through the work performed under the initial grant.

**Motion** by Manager Wilkens to approve sponsoring an additional grant of \$192,000 appropriated from the CWF to BWSR under the Competitive Grants Program, **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**.

Manager Finney inquired whether the 1W1P concept applies to the entire Red River basin as a whole. D. Thomas responded that BWSR's vision for 1W1P is to align local water planning on major watershed boundaries with state strategies to develop prioritized, targeted and measurable implementation plans.

### **Project Coordinator Report**

R. Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. He reported that he attended a meeting conducted with NRCS, J. Roeschlein, and WD consultants to review the various elements of the Bois de Sioux WD's Redpath project and determine which NRCS programs could be utilized by the project. A summary of the meeting discussion with action items and timeframes was distributed.

R. Harnack reported that the Drainage Work Group (DWG) met and discussed what specific issues should be addressed during the next year. Some of the items identified included:

- Review the conflict between 103E public drainage law and 103G public waters law and rule including discussion of private drainage maintenance and repair.
- Provide drainage authorities with alternatives for determination of drainage assessments.
- Review options for dividing drainage system maintenance and repair so should a WD decide *not* to accept responsibility, the County would be responsible.

N. Erickson referred to the meeting scheduled tomorrow following the Work Group meeting in Detroit Lakes with members of the Pine to Prairie International Birding Trail and the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD and inquired whether R. Harnack was planning to attend. R. Harnack responded that he was invited to attend by Cleone Stewart, Detroit Lakes Tourism Director - Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Manager Finney inquired about the purpose of the meeting. N. Drees responded that H. Hughes began developing the concept of the Tallgrass Aspen Parkland (TAP) Birding Trail during her involvement with Agassiz Audubon. After requesting letters of support for the birding trail from various organizations and agencies, it was evident that members of the Pine to Prairie International Birding Trail (originally developed by Carrol Henderson, MDNR Non-game Wildlife Supervisor) were threatened by the development of another birding trail in northwestern Minnesota.

N. Erickson explained that the Pine to Prairie International Birding Trail involves the communities along Highway 59 including Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Pelican Rapids, Roseau, Thief River Falls and Warroad. Some of the participating agencies include the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Explore Minnesota Tourism, Audubon Minnesota, and the Agassiz Chapter of the National Audubon Society.

N. Erickson asked H. Hughes to explain how the Pine to Prairie trail differs from the proposed TAP Birding Trail. H. Hughes explained that WDs in northwestern Minnesota have accidentally created opportunities for nature-based recreation where it was previously non-existent. Wildlife viewing is an unexpected benefit of flood control projects throughout the Red River basin. The Pine to Prairie International Birding Trail focuses on the economic impact of tourism in the aforementioned cities along the US 59 corridor whereas the TAP birding trail is located along US 75. H. Hughes further noted that the vision of the TAP Birding Trail will not only tell the WDs stories to visitors so they can better understand our region, but also to the people who live here so they can better understand the challenges of flood control, conservation and environmental stewardship.

Manager Finney directed H. Hughes and N. Drees to develop a board recommendation for the September board meeting following the 08/20/14 meeting regarding whether to pursue a collaborative effort between the two birding trails.

## **Administrator Report**

### **A) RRB Flood Damage Reduction Work Group / Finance Committee Meeting**

N. Erickson reported that on a conference call conducted on June 20, 2014, the Finance Committee discussed the unexpended balance of ~ \$135,000 of the original \$264,000 budget for fiscal year 2014. The committee agreed to recommend to the Work Group that the balance of FY14 funds be carried forward to FY15 following the disbursement of project team reimbursement requests through June 30th. A proposed budget for FY 2015 was distributed.

### **B) Two Rivers WD / Proposed Project in Klondike Township, Kittson County**

N. Erickson explained that the Board of Managers of the Two Rivers WD is conducting a special meeting today to discuss proceeding with a new impoundment project. She discussed the proposed project with Manager Money who explained that some of the land required has been acquired by the District and that the additional land required to proceed with the project has become available.

N. Erickson noted that following their meeting today, the TRWD board may be requesting a loan from the RRWMB in the amount of ~ \$1.3 - \$1.6 million for the additional land acquisition. Following discussion, the Board of Managers indicated that they would consider funding a loan request from the TRWD for land acquisition.

### **C) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences**

1. **Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group**, August 20, 2014, MnDOT, Detroit Lakes, MN.
2. **Red River Basin Commission Ex-officio Board Meeting**, September 4, 2014, Fargo, ND.
3. **Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)**, November 12, 2014, location TBD.

### **Project Implementation Strategy**

C. Fritz referred to the presentation conducted last month by H. Van Offelen on the Green Meadow Project Team Process of the Wild Rice WD. Discussion is occurring to determine whether the process currently being followed in the Wild Rice WD could be utilized by other project teams.

The strategy to establish, support and manage a formal planning process using the Mediation Agreement and the USACE Points of Concurrence (POC) includes the following:

- Fully engage the Project Team
  - Mediation Agreement: Project Team Handbook
  - USACE POC Guidance
- Actively manage the process:
  - Develop effective and acceptable solutions to solve water/natural resource problems

R. Harnack noted that funding is the shortfall to implement this strategy in other project teams. Manager Finney referred to M. Carroll's suggestion at last month's meeting regarding developing a proposal to establish a *Project Implementation Strategy* model that could be utilized by other project teams to accelerate project development. Manager Finney further added that possibly the RRWMB and the Work Group could provide a 50/50 cost-share for this service to interested project teams. Manager Wilkens suggested discussing this issue further at the Work Group meeting tomorrow.

### **Red River Basin Commission**

J. Lewis, Executive Director - RRBC discussed the nutrient capture project through water management and biomass harvesting. The project will evaluate the potential for capturing nutrient runoff from mostly nonpoint sources by utilizing cattails or other vegetation within existing shallow flood storage reservoirs. One of the pilot sites in the Red River basin includes the North Ottawa Project in the Bois de Sioux WD. Plans are to construct treatment cells within the flood reservoir to grow vegetation for nutrient removal, harvest the vegetation and evaluate the potential utilization of cattails for various beneficial purposes including bio-energy. Detailed nutrient monitoring of the soils, water and vegetation will also be completed.

### **Red River Coordinator/TAC Report**

D. Thul discussed the Halstad Upstream Retention (HUR) modeling project conducted by the RRBC to determine the impacts/benefits of retention sites identified upstream of Halstad (southern 1/3 of basin). A recommendation was forwarded from the TAC to the USACE to utilize federal funding to extend the modeling effort to the Canadian border to encompass the entire Red River basin. The TAC has a meeting scheduled with the RRBC to develop a draft

RFP for the USACE which they can utilize for the effort or contract with another firm to complete the project.

### **District Reports**

- The Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD reported that a project team meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2014 at the Stephen Community Center. The project team is refining the Problem Statement and reviewing potential project sites in relation to identified damages.
- The Red Lake WD reported on the Grand Marais Creek Outlet Restoration-Diversion Structure, Phase 2. Bids for the construction of the project were opened on June 26th with the low bid being awarded to Spruce Valley Corporation of Middle River in the amount of \$393,208.30. Due to the fact there was a disagreement between the engineer and the contractor concerning materials, the Board released Spruce Valley Corporation with no penalty and awarded the contract to RJ Zavoral and Sons.
- The Wild Rice WD reported that options are being executed to acquire the necessary land needed for work on the existing levee system for the City of Halstad.

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

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

### **Other Issues**

R. Sip, MDA, distributed the following handouts:

- Promote Pollinators in Agricultural Landscapes
- MDA Drainage Research and Demonstration Sites
- Drainage Recommendations for Local Water Management Plans

The next meeting will be on September 16, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Jerome Deal  
Secretary

---

Naomi L. Erickson  
Administrator