



Red River Watershed Management Board

Board of Managers

John Finney, President-Humboldt LeRoy Carriere-Roseau Dan Money-Hallock Ben Kleinwachter-Strandquist
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Naomi Erickson, Administrator-Detroit Lakes

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

December 16, 2014

Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

President John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were: LeRoy Carriere Dan Money
 Ben Kleinwachter Orville Knott
 Daniel Wilkens Greg Holmvik
 Jon Roeschlein

Others present were: Naomi Erickson, Administrator
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Nick Drees, Project Coordinator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
Pat Downs, Executive Director - RRRRA
Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator - USDA-NRCS
Sharon Josephson, Congressman Peterson's office
Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering, Inc.
Myron Jesme, Administrator - Red Lake WD
Nate Dalager, Engineer - HDR Engineering, Inc.
Blake Carlson, Engineer - WSN Engineering, Inc.
Nathan Kestner, Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist - MDNR
Danny Omdahl, Administrator - Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
Kevin Ruud, Administrator - Wild Rice WD
Wayne Goeken, Special Projects Coordinator - IWI
Rob Sip, Environmental Policy Specialist - MDA
Tracy Halstensgard, Administrator - Roseau River WD
Chris Laveau, Supv. Hydrologist - USGS
Phillip Swenson, Sand Hill River WD

Motion by Manager Money 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 Holmvik to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**.

The bills to be approved as of December 16, 2014 were as follows:

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
12/16/2014	7517	ACS	Phone line, Fax/Internet	151.50
12/16/2014	7518	Bois de Sioux Watershed District	Project Team Reimbursement FY2015	12,864.03
12/16/2014	7519	Brandner Printing	Invoice No. 8586	138.94
12/16/2014	7520	Buffalo-Red River Watershed District	Project Team Reimbursement FY2015	2,235.68
12/16/2014	7521	Houston Engineering, Inc.	TAC - Inv. No. 22687	3,818.50
12/16/2014	7522	International Water Institute	CWL River Watch - MPCA Pay Req. No. 3 (Grant No. 63748)	33,982.78
12/16/2014	7523	International Water Institute	WQDSA C14-7617 (FY2014-15) Pay Req. No. 2 (Final)	15,318.00
12/16/2014	7524	Jon Schauer/Consulting Unlimited Inc.	Invoice No. 3475	3,692.50
12/16/2014	7525	Marco, Inc.	Photocopier Maintenance - Invoice No. INV2245539	280.88
12/16/2014	7526	MCI	Long distance service	39.05
12/16/2014	7527	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Invoice No. 220875	14,000.00
12/16/2014	7528	Naomi Erickson	Reimbursed Expenses	260.83
12/16/2014	7530	Red Lake Watershed District	Project No. 60 - Grand Marais Project - Final Pay Request	81,340.00
12/16/2014	7531	Red Lake Watershed District	Project Team Reimbursement FY2015	188.19
12/16/2014	7532	Red River Basin Commission	Co-location Proposal - Annual Rental Contribution	15,000.00
12/16/2014	7533	Ronald D. Harnack	Project Coordinator Exp. - December 2014	619.81
12/16/2014	7534	Smith Partners PLLP	General (November 2014)	2,260.00
12/16/2014	7535	Widseth Smith Nolting & Assoc., Inc.	Invoice Nos. 100046-48	1,535.25
12/16/2014	7536	Wild Rice Watershed District	Project Team Reimbursement FY2015	15,419.19
				203,145.13

Motion to approve and pay bills by Manager Kleinwachter, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)

P. Downs distributed a monthly report of activities. The Technical Sub-Committee appointed to rank priority projects from the \$50 million allocation needs to schedule another meeting to update the questions developed to assist with their directive. An update on the proposal for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is expected in early January.

P. Downs reported that the F-M Diversion Authority's Agricultural Policy Subcommittee reviewed preliminary modeling results from the work being done by NDSU's Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics. The Diversion Authority contracted with the Department to help evaluate the impacts on farm land due to operation of the Diversion Project.

While much more work needs to be done in order to quantify the exact impact on crop plantings and inundation durations by tract, it is expected that the information will help develop policy regarding an overall mitigation plan, including the purchasing of flowage easements and a potential supplemental income policy for producers in the staging area. Over the next few months, USACE and local hydraulic experts will work closely with NDSU to review and finalize the findings.

USGS Funding & Stream Gaging Overview

C. Laveau, Supv. Hydrologist – USGS, presented a stream gaging overview including discussion of appropriated funding programs. The USGS National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP) provides direct funding for stream gaging. The goals of NSIP include:

1. Develop and operate a federally funded stable network of stream gages to meet national needs.
2. Improve the timeliness, reliability, and convenience of streamflow information.
3. Improve understanding of floods and droughts through expanded measurements and analysis.
4. Complete regional assessments of streamflow information to quantify resource, estimate water availability and identify trends.
5. Perform and fund research and development activities to advance equipment technology and measurement and analysis techniques.

C. Laveau explained that another USGS appropriated funding program is the Cooperative Water Program (CWP). This program is a partnership between USGS and non-federal agencies. The criteria for the CWP is that it must move forward/improve knowledge of hydrologic systems. This program may provide up to 50% cost share and jointly funds water resource projects in every state, not only data collection.

C. Laveau stated that although the exact USGS funding for FY15 appropriations is unknown, a minor increase in NSIP and a decrease in CWP funding is expected.

Water Quality Project Monitoring

W. Goeken distributed the IWI Monitoring and Education Activity Report. The 2014 River Watch Fall Kick-Off sessions were conducted. Three sessions were held in Thief River Falls, Barnesville, and at the University of Minnesota-Crookston. A total of 56 students and 9 teachers attended training sessions on ground water models, stream tables, river mapping, mussel collection and identification, watershed stories, and River Watch Forum poster development.

W. Goeken invited the Board of Managers to conduct their March board meeting to coincide with the 2015 River Watch Forum on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at UMC. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the event. Following discussion, the board agreed to schedule their March 17, 2015 board meeting at UMC in Crookston, MN.

Administrator Report

A) Project Coordinator Contract

N. Erickson reported that in June of 2014, R. Harnack notified the Board of Managers that the consulting agreement between himself and the RRWMB expires on December 31, 2014. At that time, the board approved renewing the contract for services and authorized the Human Resources Committee (Managers Finney, Knott, Deal and Wilkens) to execute the contract with R. Harnack for the position of Project Coordinator for another two-year term. The revised contract has been prepared for signature at today's meeting.

B) 17th Joint Annual Conference

N. Erickson stated that planning has begun for the 17th Joint Annual Conference (March Conference) co-sponsored by the RRWMB and the Work Group. The conference is scheduled for

March 25 and 26, 2015, (Wednesday and Thursday) at the Courtyard by Marriott, 1080 28th Avenue South, Moorhead, MN. R. Sip is Chair of the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group's Communications Committee which is charged with planning the conference. A preliminary program schedule, reservation information and conference registration will soon be available at www.rrwmb.org.

C) Vacation Accrual

N. Erickson noted that her unused vacation days for calendar year 2014 have been calculated. She elected to carry forward one week to 2015 and to be paid for the remaining unused portion.

D) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. **Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)**, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., January 13, 2015, Cass County Highway Department, West Fargo, ND.
2. **Red River Basin Commission's 32nd Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference**, *Meeting the Basin's Needs: One Goal at a Time*, January 20-22, 2015, at the Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg, MB.

Project Coordinator Report

R. Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. He is currently working with individual watershed districts to develop updated one-page summaries for critical funding needs for FY16. The summaries reflect previous funding, current funding needs, and funding needs projected for the next five years or until the projects are completed. Although this year is not a regular bonding year, there are critical funding needs in order to keep projects progressing and legislation is needed to introduce those projects. Funding will be requested for the following projects: Roseau River Wildlife Management Area, RRWD; Klondike Clean Water Retention Project, TRWD; Wild Rice River Corridor/Green Meadow/Community Projects, WRWD; Community Projects, SHRWD; and Redpath/Big Lake/Western, BdSWD.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

D. Thul introduced Nathan Kestner, Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist for the MDNR's Northwest Region.

D. Thul distributed a handout titled *Recommended Guidelines - Surface Drainage Systems* that was developed by the TAC relative to BTSAC's Briefing Paper (BP) No. 3 - Water Management Options for Surface Drainage. The TAC developed the guidelines for board consideration based on their recommendation that the Board of Managers endorse the conclusions and recommendations stated in BP No. 3 - Water Management Options for Surface Drainage. D. Thul read the following excerpt from the draft resolution:

The RRWMB agrees that the potential adverse impacts of surface drainage, related to both timing and volume increase, can be minimized by a universal surface drainage design that balances design capacities of both channels and culverts. Design of surface drainage should be based on the philosophy of "Adequate and Equitable" where "Adequate" refers to the amount of agricultural drainage provided by a given surface drainage system and the acknowledgment that Red River Basin landowners have the right to adequate, but not more than adequate drainage, in accordance with drainage and reasonable use laws. "Equitable" refers to the equal distribution of

positive and negative effects of agricultural surface drainage throughout the drainage system and the entire Red River Basin.

Manager Finney reported that at the November board meeting the RRWMB agreed to request member watershed districts to review BP No. 3 and submit any recommendations to the board prior to the approval of the Recommended Guidelines. Discussion occurred at the most recent Joe River WD board meeting and it was determined their board had already been implementing the suggested guidelines and they agreed to forward a recommendation to the RRWMB to approve the Recommended Guidelines.

Manager Kleinwachter inquired about the terms "Adequate and Equitable" and suggested that the draft guidelines be circulated further than watershed districts for review and comment. Manager Finney didn't disagree that valuable input could be obtained from landowners, but noted that the Recommended Guidelines are only a suggested course of action and not mandatory.

Motion by Manager Knott to approve the *Recommended Guidelines - Surface Drainage Systems*, **Seconded** by Manager Carriere, **Carried**.

District Reports

- The Two Rivers WD reported on the Klondike Clean Water Retention Project No. 11. The project team has assigned two sub-committees to further analyze the project and develop recommendations for the Board of Managers. A *Design Team* and an *NRE Team* will be meeting over the next few months to discuss specific project features. The District anticipates the sub-committees will complete their tasks within the next few months and the project can progress toward the design and permitting phases.
- The Red Lake WD reported on the progress of the One Watershed One Plan pilot project. The District has completed the Memorandum of Agreement, work plan and budget for the grant. This project will be completed in partnership with Polk, Red Lake and Pennington counties along with their respective SWCD's. Due to the small drainage area located within the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD boundary for this plan, it was determined by their District that they would not participate in the Policy Committee portion of the development of the plan but would be included in the Advisory Committee portion of the plan.

The first meeting of the Policy Committee was November 19, 2014. The committee approved hiring C. Fritz as the facilitator and HDR Engineering, Inc. as the consultant.

- The Wild Rice WD reported that the District received Points of Concurrence (POC) Nos. 1 and 2 from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the Green Meadow project. The next project team meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2014 and plans are to finalize POC No. 3. Following board approval of POC No. 3, it will be forwarded to the USACE for consideration.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

Minnesota Public Drainage Manual Update

Manager Wilkens stated that BWSR has scheduled regional meetings on December 15 and 16 for Stakeholder Focus Groups to discuss updates to the Minnesota Public Drainage Manual (MPDM). Plans are for BWSR to begin work next month to update and modernize the 23-year old manual. The MPDM was created to provide a “user guide” for the establishment, construction, and administration of public drainage systems in Minnesota and is the primary source of information for practitioners working with Minnesota’s extensive public drainage systems.

In accordance with the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the MPDM, BWSR and the project contractors (Houston Engineering, Inc. and Rinke Noonan – Attorneys at law (HEI-RN)) are facilitating a stakeholder process to determine how people use the MPDM and identify ways to translate the current manual into a more useful, modern electronic publication that can be easily updated in the future.

The first step in that process is holding stakeholder focus groups in key areas of the state. These meetings will draw on diverse user perspectives to help shape improvements to the manual. BWSR and HEI-RN have invited County and Watershed District drainage authorities, county auditors, drainage inspectors, viewers, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Watershed Districts, county engineers and private drainage engineers, state agencies, and other stakeholders (e.g. federal agencies, farm groups, and environmental groups) to participate in the focus groups.

Following discussion, the Board of Managers agreed that at the conclusion of today’s meeting, those that are able to attend the focus group scheduled from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at UMC, Crookston, MN should participate.

The next meeting has been rescheduled to coincide with the RRRRA meeting on January 13, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott in, Moorhead, MN.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Deal
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator