



## 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

June 17, 2014

Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 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  
                                     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  
Jim Zeigler, Unit Supervisor - MPCA  
Julie Goehring, South Basin Manager - RRBC  
Henry Van Offelen, Red River Basin Coordinator - MDNR  
Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.  
Charlie Anderson, Engineer, WSN Engineering, Inc.  
Blake Carlson, Engineer, WSN 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.  
Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute  
Matt Fischer, Board Conservationist - BWSR  
Rob Sip, Environmental Policy Specialist - MDA  
Luke Stuewe, Soil Scientist - MDA

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

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

Manager Finney discussed the press conference conducted on June 5, 2014 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead, MN by Congressman Peterson. During the press conference, the Congressman announced that the Red River Valley of the North was named part of the Prairie Grasslands Critical Conservation Area (CCA) and discussed the USDA's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The RCPP will allow USDA to partner with third parties or work directly with producers in watersheds and other critical conservation areas.

Manager Finney noted his concern about the Red River basin's designation within the Prairie Grasslands CCA as this region's primary resource concern seems to be restoring and protecting native prairie grasslands and wetlands for wild game and threatened species. An article from the June 17th edition of the Grand Forks Herald was distributed titled *Farm Bill ushers in a new era of conservation*.

Manager Finney reported that the Congressman plans to schedule another press conference in early July with Tom Vilsack, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to further discuss the RCPP, the Critical Conservation Area Designation and the Request for Proposal process. He requested guidance from the board as to how to proceed with the upcoming meeting.

Manager Wilkens referenced the Grand Forks Herald article and noted his concern regarding the focus on water resource and habitat issues while only briefly mentioning flood mitigation. Manager Money discussed the various committees organized during the establishment of the RRRA and explained that their recommendations were forwarded to NRCS for consideration during the rule making process for the Farm Bill. Manager Money further noted that although information from NRCS regarding the RCPP has indicated its a PL566-like program, specific details have not yet been provided. Manager Finney added that he asked D. Baloun on June 5th whether projects are restricted to the guidelines established in the legislation and he indicated the legislation must be followed.

Manager Money added that a major challenge of the program relates to not exceeding the cost/benefit ratio. N. Drees suggested that it may be premature to have a negative perception of the RCPP prior to initiating an actual project through the program. K. Weston noted that project proposals will be considered on an individual basis. P. Downs added that the RCPP will likely fund components of projects but not entire projects.

P. Downs distributed a monthly report of activities. The next RRRA meeting has been rescheduled to coincide with the press conference on July 2, 2014 with Representatives Peterson and Cramer, and Senators Hoeven, Heitkamp, Franken, and Klobuchar regarding Farm Bill 2014.

N. Erickson explained that P. Downs forwarded a request to Contributing Partners of the RRRA asking for documentation confirming a commitment of resources to be included with the application to be submitted with the Request for Proposal for the RCPP. She requested the Board of Managers to consider approving the development of a letter at today's meeting. **Motion** by Manager Carriere to authorize N. Erickson to develop a letter confirming a commitment of resources as a Contributing Partner of the RRRA on behalf of the RRWMB and its member Watershed Districts, **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**.

### **What to Do in an Emergency**

Manager Finney explained that in response to an emergency medical situation that occurred during last month's meeting, he requested N. Erickson to schedule a presentation with members of the Thief River Falls Area Ambulance service.

If the person is not breathing, chances are the heart has stopped beating and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) should be administered. It forces air into the lungs and pumps blood and oxygen to the brain. CPR greatly increases the chances that a person whose heart stops will survive and that he or she will suffer little or no brain damage. Signs that a person needs CPR are that they may have collapsed, he or she may be unconscious or unable to communicate or react to surroundings or speech or their skin has lost color.

You should act by calling 911 for help. While waiting for emergency care, you can do mouth-to-mouth rescue breathing, chest compressions that help to keep blood flowing to the brain, heart and other organs, or use an automated external defibrillator (AED).

Defibrillators use electric shocks to correct abnormal heartbeats that can lead to sudden death. Such devices are found increasingly in public places like airports, restaurants and office buildings. A recorded voice on the AED guides the user. The voice provides detailed information about what to do.

In addition to beginning CPR, if there is a wound you should begin first aid. Stay calm and reassure the person help is on the way. Make the person as comfortable as possible. Gather the person's medications to give to the emergency team. Move furniture to allow easy access to the person. And have someone at the door to let in the emergency personnel and guide them to the person. Following the presentation, the Board of Managers requested N. Erickson to obtain information on acquiring an AED for the board and/or member districts.

### **Water Quality Project Monitoring**

C. Fritz distributed the IWI Monitoring and Education Activity Report. Additional river reaches have been explored to document status and ability for River Watch teams to paddle for their River Explorer trips. Rivers covered included the Lost, Clearwater, and several reaches of the Sand Hill.

C. Fritz reported that work continues with the Basin Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (BTSAC) subcommittee to develop final recommendations and report language for the Surface Drainage Study. A final meeting is scheduled for July 16-17, 2014 with an anticipated final report by month end.

### **Project Coordinator Report**

R. Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. He reported that a meeting has been scheduled for later this month with NRCS, the EPA, the USACE, D. Money, B. Carlson and himself as requested at the previous monthly meeting to discuss the Interpretive Rule (IR) of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) which outlines exemptions from permitting requirements. The period to submit comments to the EPA and USACE regarding their proposed rule has been extended from July to October.

R. Harnack noted that he is in the process of reviewing the EPA Jurisdictional Waters Proposed Rule. Discussions have occurred with John Kolb of Rinke Noonan who represents many drainage authorities across Minnesota. The period to submit comments on this rule has also been extended until October.

R. Harnack stated that the Drainage Work Group met and discussed priorities for consideration in 2014. Issues included considering additional authority for Ditch Authorities for re-determining benefits that is more science-based, and addressing the real and/or perceived conflict between the laws and rules of 103E and 103G with respect to drainage systems that are also public waters.

R. Harnack explained that he continues to participate by conference call to finalize the 404 permit for the Redpath Project of the Bois de Sioux WD. The final issue to be addressed relates to documentation of the alternatives analysis associated with the current project. The Project Planning Tool developed by the International Water Institute (IWI) to provide standardized documentation of project planning and alternatives analysis consistent with permit requirements should provide all the necessary information. R. Harnack stated the importance of project teams following the process documented in the mediation agreement in order to avoid permitting delays.

R. Harnack reported that the consulting agreement between himself and the board will expire on December 31, 2014. He stated his interest in renewing the contract for another two-year term. **Motion** by Manager Holmvik to renew the contract for another two-year term and authorize the Human Resources Committee (Managers Finney, Knott, Deal and Wilkens) to negotiate the terms of the contract, **Seconded** by Manager Carriere, **Carried**.

### **Administrator Report**

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

N. Erickson reported that for fiscal year 2014 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014), the Work Group has an unexpended balance of ~ \$135,000 of the original \$264,000 budget.

A conference call of the Finance Committee meeting has been *tentatively* scheduled for Friday, June 20, 2014 to review the remaining balance in FY14 and develop recommendations for the FY15 budget.

The Work Group meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 18, 2014 has been cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 20, 2014 at MnDOT, Detroit Lakes, MN.

H. Van Offelen asked for volunteers for the following Work Group committees: Communications, Conference Planning, Project Team Handbook and Readiness Form. T. Halstensgard volunteered for the Conference Planning and Project Team Handbook committees.

**B) 3rd Annual - Red River Valley Ag Water Issues Forum**

N. Erickson stated that Riley Maanum, NW Minnesota Area Program Director of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, forwarded information on the above-referenced series of forums.

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation is sponsoring the forums to include discussion on the Red River Basin 20% Flow Reduction Goal; Conservation Partnerships - What's been accomplished & future opportunities; and the Farm Bill & Federal Funding. The forums will be conducted in three locations throughout the basin including Strathcona, Gary and Breckenridge and will be conducted from July 16 - 18, 2014.

**C) Project Implementation Strategy**

Following the Administrator's Group meeting on May 2, 2014, discussion occurred whether a coordinated and strategic effort is needed in order to accelerate the project implementation process in order to capitalize on the federal funding associated with the 2014 Farm Bill.

N. Erickson explained that following discussions with Manager Finney, C. Fritz has been requested to coordinate a presentation for the July board meeting to discuss the process currently being followed by the Green Meadow Project Team of the Wild Rice WD in order to determine whether this is a model that could be utilized in other project teams.

**D) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences**

1. **2014 MAWD Summer Tour**, Wednesday, June 18 to Friday, June 20, 2014, Stillwater, MN. The St. Croix River Basin: A model for working together to accomplish water quality and natural resource protection goals.
2. **Agricultural Drainage and the Future of Water Quality**, Thursday, June 26, 2014, Verizon Wireless Center, Mankato, MN.
3. **Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group**, August 20, 2014, MnDOT, Detroit Lakes, MN.

**Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Monitoring Program**

L. Stuewe, Soil Scientist, discussed an overview of MDA's Pesticide Monitoring Program. The monitoring program includes both ground and surface water components. For the Red River basin, a surface water pesticide monitoring summary was developed as part of the 2014 surface water monitoring plan.

L. Stuewe explained that MDA monitors water under the Minnesota Pesticide Control Law (1987) which charged the commissioner of agriculture to: *determine the impact of pesticides on the environment, including the impacts on surface water and groundwater in this state.*

The MDA coordinates a comprehensive statewide effort to collect samples from groundwater; surface water; and special projects including lakes, precipitation, etc. The MDA lab analyzed for 131 pesticides in 2013.

Groundwater monitoring began in 1985 and targets the most sensitive areas in each Pesticide Monitoring Region. The program was redesigned in 2000 with new sites, new wells and many nested wells to include 178 sites across the state. The program is designed to track trends and has accumulated data for 27 years.

Surface water monitoring began in 1990 and includes both agricultural and urban areas. As of 2012, 232 locations have been established statewide with both state and local organizations collecting samples. To determine the site selection for surface water monitoring, MDA meets annually with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to identify watersheds with limited pesticide data that are being monitored in the 10-year cycle to add new sites. All sites require continuous flow gaging for water quality assessment, staff or cooperators to collect samples, and MDA reviews and annual data reports.

Pesticide monitoring for surface water in the Red River basin began in 1991. During 1991 to 2013, 489 river/stream samples were collected with 59 lake samples collected from 2007 to 2012. The two criteria for pesticide standards and reference values are concentration and duration.

L. Stuewe encouraged board members and other interested parties to sign up for the electronic distribution of MDA pesticide non-point source information which is available on a link on their website. The link provides updates and announcements on results related to MDA's work on pesticide non-point source pollution.

### **Red River Basin Commission**

J. Goehring, South Basin Manager - RRBC discussed the Summer Tour and Board meeting conducted on June 4-5, 2014 in Roseau, MN. This year's summer tour included project sites in the Two Rivers and Roseau River Watershed Districts. She extended her appreciation to D. Money, N. Dalager, T. Halstensgard and L. Carriere for their efforts in assisting with the bus tour.

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

D. Thul discussed Phase 2 of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Red River Basin Watershed Feasibility Study (WFS). The Distributed Detention Strategies (DDS) of individual subwatersheds are included as Work-in-Kind (WIK) for the study. These results will be prioritized by the RRRA and added to the RRBC LTFS Plan when completed.

D. Thul explained that the Fargo-Moorhead Diversion Authority (FMDA) provided \$500,000 to the RRBC for a Halstad Upstream Retention (HUR) modeling project 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.

D. Thul noted that with regard to extending the modeling effort, the USACE can either elect to do the modeling or contract with another firm to complete the project. After further discussion, it was determined that HDR Engineering, Inc. is eligible to contract with the USACE for this effort. The TAC agreed that D. Thul and R. Harnack should schedule a meeting with the USACE to develop a scope for the modeling.

D. Thul referred to the discussion at the previous monthly meeting regarding the difficulty in obtaining MDNR Protected Waters' permits from watershed districts in the northern part of the Red River basin. A meeting was conducted last year of MDNR staff and watershed district representatives to discuss permit requirements for ditch maintenance and cleaning. A similar meeting has been scheduled for June 25, 2014 to evaluate and assess the process.

## **District Reports**

- The Roseau River WD reported that the impoundment for the Hay Creek/Norland Project was operated this spring . Due to continuous rainfall, the water levels remain high. Final construction and mowing will continue when conditions allow.
- The Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD reported that a project team meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2014 at the Strandquist Community Center. The project team is discussing erosion to the west of the dam in the City of Stephen. To the east, the project team is reviewing the East Park Wildlife Management Area at Nelson's Slough, a WRP in Como Township and at potential sites west and north of Middle River.
- The Red Lake WD reported on the 20% Mainstem Reduction Committee. Another landowner meeting is scheduled for July 24, 2014 for the Pine Lake area at the Gonvick Community Center. This meeting is planned to target landowners upstream of Pine Lake.
- The Wild Rice WD reported that an application is being completed to submit to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for the Lower Wild Rice River Stream Restoration Project. After funding is secured, the District plans to acquire land for setback levees and restore both the river and habitat.

## **District's Funding Requests**

### **1. Roseau River WD / Step II Submittal / Roseau River Wildlife Management Area Project**

The information required for a Step II submittal was distributed. N. Dalager explained that the TAC met during today's meeting. Discussion occurred relative to whether a revised STAR value calculation should be developed based upon shifted hydrograph volumes at Caribou and the TRWD overflow. The TAC agreed the revision was required given the operating plan releases the remaining ungated volume staged in the pools starting about 30 days after the pre-project peak at Caribou. N. Dalager stated that a revised STAR value calculation based upon today's TAC meeting along with a Final Engineer's Report will be distributed prior to the July 15, 2014 board meeting.

N. Dalager conducted a brief presentation on the project. The project is located in the northwest corner of Roseau County and covers an area of over 74,000 acres, including about 10,600 acres of shallow water in four pools. It's managed to provide both wildlife benefits and flood control. The purpose of the project is to provide reduced peak flows downstream on the Roseau River by better timing outflows from the RRWMA, and taking better advantage of the existing storage in Pool 2 and Pool 3. The total estimated project cost is ~ \$2,523,900 with the following proposed cost-share: \$1,892,925 - 75% State of Minnesota; and for the remaining local split of 25%, \$420,650 – RRWMB (2/3) and \$210,325 – RRWD (1/3).

The next meeting will be on July 15, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jerome Deal  
Secretary

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Naomi L. Erickson  
Administrator