



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 Goral, Administrator-Detroit Lakes

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

August 18, 2015

Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, August 18, 2015 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
 Jerome Deal

Others present were: Naomi Goral, Administrator
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator
Kevin Ruud, Administrator – Wild Rice WD
Jeff Lewis, Executive Director – RRBC
Jim Ziegler, Regional Manager – MPCA
Chuck Fritz, Director – International Water Institute
Dr. Jay Leitch
Jerry Bents, Engineer – Houston Engineering, Inc.
Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering, Inc.
Phillip Swenson, Manager – Sand Hill River WD
Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator – USDA-NRCS
Ron Adrian, Engineer – Houston Engineering, Inc.
Daron Selvig, Advanced Engineering & Environmental Services, Inc. (AE2S)
Tracy Halstensgard, Administrator – Roseau River WD
Rob Sip, Environmental Policy Specialist – MDA
Myron Jesme, Administrator – Red Lake WD
Tony Nordby, Engineer – Houston Engineering, Inc.
Danny Omdahl, Administrator – Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
Roger Hanson, Manager – Sand Hill River WD
Pat Downs, Moore Engineering, Inc.
Nate Dalager, Engineer – HDR Engineering, Inc.

Motion by Manager Carriere 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 Deal to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Manager Kleinwachter, **Carried**.

The bills to be approved as of August 18, 2015 were as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
08/18/2015	7754	ACS	Phone line, Fax/Internet	\$152.66
08/18/2015	7755	Faegre Baker Daniels LLP	Invoice No. 21115450	\$12,204.00
08/18/2015	7756	JOBS HQ	Classified Ad - Public Information Consultant	\$2,968.72
08/18/2015	7757	Jon Schauer/Consulting Unlimited Inc.	Invoice No. 3493	\$1,620.00
08/18/2015	7758	MCI	Long distance service	\$40.74
08/18/2015	7759	Naomi Goral	Reimbursed Expenses	\$377.96
08/18/2015	7760	Ronald D. Harnack	Project Coordinator Exp. - August 2015	\$1,166.05
08/18/2015	7761	Smith Partners PLLP	Invoice No. 37231, July 2015	\$60.00
08/18/2015	7762	The Times	Advertising/Promotion - Public Information Consultant	\$481.50
08/18/2015	7763	U.S. Postal Service	500 - 1st Class Postage	\$245.00
08/18/2015	7764	Virtual Systems	Invoice No. July 2015-22	\$105.00
				<u>\$19,421.63</u>

Motion to approve and pay bills by Manager Knott, **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)

D. Thul reported that at the previous monthly meeting he was assigned to coordinate with R. Gjestvang and K. Weston to develop a letter to send to either Congressman Peterson and/or the respective State Conservationists requesting clarification regarding the funding made available through the efforts of the RRRA utilizing the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) via the 2014 Farm Bill.

D. Thul distributed two handouts developed by the USDA-NRCS relative to the Red River Basin Initiative and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract obligations and priorities. He noted that he will continue to work with R. Gjestvang and K. Weston to assess the ranking process and interpret the data included in the handouts so the results can be included in the letter.

Water Quality Project Monitoring

C. Fritz distributed the IWI Monitoring and Education Activity Report. The Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network (WPLMN) sampling continues with forty-two (42) sites being monitored. This program is designed to obtain spatial and temporal pollutant load information from Minnesota's rivers and streams and track water quality trends. With river conditions generally declining and nearing base flows, sample frequency has slowed to every 10 to 15 days in recent weeks at most locations.

Scope of Work / Model Plan Development

C. Fritz distributed a Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) template for the Green Meadow Subwatershed of the Wild Rice WD. He explained that the IWI is proposing to work with Dr. Jay Leitch, Houston Engineering, Inc. and others as required to perform the necessary BCA tasks in coordination with the RRWMB and the WRWD. A BCA of alternatives to address flood damage and natural resource

Page 3 August 18, 2015. Red River Watershed Management Board Meeting Minutes
problems in the Green Meadow Subwatershed will be performed and a comparison of the alternatives to the “without project” or “no action” future will be conducted. The BCA will also address the necessary socio-economic implications of the “future without project” and “future with project” scenarios.

C. Fritz explained that the proposed BCA effort will address a number of local and regional objectives related to NRCS cost-shared planning efforts to be initiated in the Red River basin as part of the RCPP.

The BCA scope of work assumes the project alternatives that will be evaluated are provided by the Wild Rice WD and also that the alternative costs and required inundation grids for various storm events will be provided by the WD. The costs associated with the development of this data are not included in the proposed budget.

The estimated cost to perform a BCA for the Green Meadow Subwatershed of the Wild Rice WD, including a 30% contingency to account for uncertainties and/or modifications, is \$150,000.00.

D. Thul added that since a number of watershed districts are proceeding with completing the Small Watershed Protection Planning Process, coordinating their efforts with the proposed BCA template is vital in order to comply with federal guidelines and ensure cost-share funding is available.

K. Weston noted that the development of the proposed BCA template is timely as NRCS is preparing Cooperative Agreements between the WDs and NRCS to deliver funds for watershed planning through the RCPP.

Motion by Manager Holmvik to approve funding \$150,000.00 to utilize the proposed template to perform a BCA of alternatives to address flood damage and natural resource problems in the Green Meadow Subwatershed of the Wild Rice WD, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

Project Coordinator Report

R. Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. He referred to the template developed by C. Fritz and Dr. Leitch to perform a BCA of alternatives relative to the Small Watershed Protection Planning Process. A conference call conducted by K. Weston included involvement from NRCS economists, R. Harnack, Watershed District Administrators, and others during which it was explained that performing a BCA is mandatory in order to comply with federal guidelines.

R. Harnack added that in the future it will be important for WDs to keep NRCS economists informed of the BCA of alternatives conducted to maintain their support and recommended all WDs completing the Small Watershed Protection Planning Process coordinate with C. Fritz and Dr. Leitch and utilize the BCA template they developed.

R. Harnack discussed the rural and farmstead ring dike programs. The legislature approved a one-time appropriation of \$400,000 which is available until 2018. N. Goral distributed a draft Local Government Resolution she’s been discussing with P. Lynch that must be adopted by each respective watershed district prior to their grant being finalized. N. Goral explained that P. Lynch indicated that the RRWMB could act as the legal sponsor for the project, and either she or R. Harnack could sign the resolution as the authorized official for the board.

Page 4 August 18, 2015. Red River Watershed Management Board Meeting Minutes
Motion by Manager Holmvik to authorize N. Goral to sign the Local Government Resolution as the authorized official for the board, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Administrator Report

A) RRB Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

N. Goral reported that at the February 18, 2015 meeting, the Work Group approved a cap of \$15,000 per project team with remaining expenses incurred to be discussed at the April and/or June meetings.

At the June 16, 2015 meeting, the Work Group approved the unexpended FY2015 funds to be reallocated to project teams to reimburse those watershed districts that submitted funding requests in excess of \$15,000.

The unexpended funds of \$69,244.91 (\$264,000 + \$70,460.76 - \$265,215.85 = \$69,244.91) were reallocated to individual project teams (provided they forwarded sufficient documentation for match) as follows:

Watershed District	Excess Available for Match	Pro-rated Allocation	Totals
BdSWD	\$29,670.81	34.91%	\$24,176.83
RLWD	\$8,309.72	9.78%	\$6,771.06
RRWD	\$23,194.10	27.29%	\$18,899.38
TRWD	\$7,203.46	8.48%	\$5,869.63
WRWD	\$16,602.13	19.54%	\$13,528.01
Totals	\$84,980.22	100.00%	\$69,244.91

B) Public Information Consulting Position

N. Goral stated that upon recommendation of the Public Information Committee (PIC), the Board of Managers approved advertising for a term of one month (July 31st deadline) for a Public Information Consultant in the Fargo Forum, Grand Forks Herald, Thief River Falls Times, and the Northern Watch.

Several qualified applicants have applied for the position. The PIC plans to review the applications and schedule interviews in September.

C) USACE Red River Basin Watershed Feasibility Study (WFS)

N. Goral distributed a worksheet of the Work-in-Kind (WIK) credits submitted to the USACE for match for the WFS. She explained that upon receipt of the supporting documentation for expenses incurred for the tasks approved in the Project Management Plan, a request is forwarded to N. Bischoff at the USACE for consideration as match for federal funding. To date, the WIK credits submitted by the RRWMB are up-to-date with those documented by the USACE.

D) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

- Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group**, August 19, 2015, MnDOT, Detroit Lakes, MN.
- FDR Work Group Communications Team Meeting**, August 19, 2015, following the Work Group meeting, MnDOT, Detroit Lakes, MN.
- Red River Basin Commission Ex-Officio Board Meeting**, September 3, 2015, Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead, MN.

Red River Basin Commission

J. Lewis, Executive Director - RRBC reported that the 33rd Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference, has been scheduled for January 19-21, 2016 in Grand Forks, ND. This year's conference is titled *Making Connections: People – Places – Water*.

J. Lewis added that in addition to working with the BdSWD on a project to capture nutrient runoff, the RRBC is also participating in a water quality effort.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

D. Thul reported that Nathan Kestner has been appointed the Northwest Regional Ecological and Water Resources Manager. He added that N. Kestner has indicated that he plans to move toward water management on a watershed basis rather than a county basis.

D. Thul discussed the meeting he attended on August 6th to review updates to the Project Management Plan (PMP) of the USACE Red River Basin Watershed Feasibility Study (WFS). He stated that the TAC reviewed the updates to the PMP and agreed to recommend Board approval at today's meeting. **Motion** by Manager Deal to approve the updates to the PMP of the USACE Red River Basin WFS, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

D. Thul referred to the Work-in-Kind (WIK) credits forwarded from various organizations in the Red River basin to N. Goral who submits them for approval to the USACE for the required federal match. He thanked her for her efforts in coordinating the WIK credits with the USACE.

District Reports

- The Red Lake WD reported on the Grand Marais Creek Outlet Restoration Project. The hearings for final payment with Davidson Construction and RJ Zavoral & Sons have been scheduled for August 27th at the District office. This will allow the District to gather the final costs in order to finalize the project. The final bills have also been submitted to Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) as well as the MDNR for flood damage reduction bonding funds. M. Jesme plans to submit a final funding request to the RRWMB at the September board meeting.
- The Wild Rice WD reported that the Board of Managers approved a Farmstead Ring Dike Policy. The policy will provide funding assistance to qualified applicants who complete the process.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

Other Issues

- R. Sip distributed a newsletter from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division.

A handout was also distributed regarding a drainage demonstration site in Wilkin County, Minnesota intended to set a compelling example to increase the acceptance of drainage water management (DWM) in the Red River Valley. Surface and subsurface runoff will be monitored, and water samples will be collected and analyzed for nitrate-nitrogen. Installation is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2015. The study has two field locations approximately 3 miles apart.

- K. Weston reported that he plans to meet with WDs to review Cooperative Agreements for the NRCS RCPP as follows:
 - Bois de Sioux WD, August 31st
 - Wild Rice WD, September 1st (a.m.)
 - Sand Hill River WD, September 1st (p.m.)
 - Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD, September 2nd (a.m.)
 - Two Rivers WD, September 2nd (p.m.)
 - Roseau River WD, September 3rd (a.m.)
 - Red Lake WD, September 3rd (p.m.)

The next meeting will be on September 15, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:00 p.m. following lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Deal
Secretary

Naomi L. Goral
Administrator