



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 February 17, 2015 Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

In the absence of the President, Orville Knott-Vice President called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

LeRoy Carriere	Dan Money
Ben Kleinwachter	Daniel Wilkens
Greg Holmvik	Jerome Deal

Others present were:

- Naomi Goral, Administrator
- Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator
- Tracy Halstengard, Administrator – Roseau River WD
- Pat Downs, Executive Director – RRRRA
- Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, USDA-NRCS
- Myron Jesme, Administrator - Red Lake WD
- Danni Halvorson, Director – Education and Monitoring, IWI
- Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering, Inc.
- Nate Dalager, Engineer - HDR Engineering, Inc.
- Blake Carlson, Engineer - WSN Engineering, Inc.
- Danny Omdahl, Administrator - Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Kevin Ruud, Administrator - Wild Rice WD
- Jeff Lewis, Executive Director – RRBC
- Tony Nordby, Engineer – Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Jerry Bents, Engineer - Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Chad Engels, Engineer - Moore Engineering, Inc.
- Aaron Magnusson, Roseau River WD

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

The bills to be approved as of February 17, 2015 were as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
02/17/2015	7569	ACS	Phone line, Fax/Internet	\$151.60
02/17/2015	7570	Bois de Sioux Watershed District	Redpath Project - Pay Req. No. 11	\$9,073.83
02/17/2015	7571	Bois de Sioux Watershed District	Redpath Project - Pay Req. No. 12	\$58,622.40
02/17/2015	7572	Courtyard by Marriott	Meeting Expense - 01-13-15	\$996.41
02/17/2015	7573	Houston Engineering, Inc.	TAC - Inv. No. 23364	\$4,063.05
02/17/2015	7574	International Water Institute	Distributed Detention Study - RRBIN PPT	\$14,120.11
02/17/2015	7575	International Water Institute	RRBFDRWG - Pay Req. No. 2 (FY15)	\$19,607.68
02/17/2015	7576	International Water Institute	BWSR - 1W1P Pay Req. No. 1 (FY15)	\$96,027.00
02/17/2015	7577	Jon Schauer/Consulting Unlimited Inc.	Invoice No. 3481	\$2,992.50
02/17/2015	7578	Liberty Mutual Insurance Company	Bond Renewal	\$746.00
02/17/2015	7579	Marco, Inc.	Photocopier Maintenance - Invoice No. INV2403335	\$280.88
02/17/2015	7580	MCI	Long distance service	\$37.80
02/17/2015	7581	Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD	Project Acceleration Grant - Tamarac River Subwatershed	\$5,000.00
02/17/2015	7582	Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD	Project Acceleration Grant - Tamarac River Subwatershed	\$6,779.00
02/17/2015	7583	Naomi Goral	Reimbursed Expenses	\$441.95
02/17/2015	7584	Ronald D. Harnack	Project Coordinator Exp. - February 2015	\$662.99
02/17/2015	7585	Smith Partners PLLP	General (January 2015)	\$540.00
02/17/2015	7586	U.S. Geological Survey	Bill No. 90318165, Stream Gaging - Fiscal Year 2015	\$27,858.00
02/17/2015	7587	Western National Insurance Group	Commercial Package Renewal	\$6,619.00
02/17/2015	7588	Widseth Smith Nolting & Assoc., Inc.	Invoice No. 101263	\$1,285.70
				\$255,905.90

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)

P. Downs distributed a monthly report of activities. Officials from NRCS are scheduled to be in the area on February 24-25, 2015 to tour local projects and discuss potential future projects. On February 26, 2015, these officials will meet with administrators and consultants prior to attending the RRRA meeting to address the requirements of entering into the RCPP partnership agreement.

Water Quality Project Monitoring

D. Halvorson distributed the IWI Monitoring and Education Activity Report. The IWI and MPCA staff held the annual Red River Basin monitoring equipment maintenance sessions January 6th and 7th at the Detroit Lakes MPCA office. Diagnostic tests, calibrations, and long term storage procedures were applied to all units that came in for maintenance.

River Watch staff are currently setting up classroom sessions with schools to prepare them for the upcoming 2015 20th Anniversary River Watch Forum to be held March 17, 2015 at UMC – Crookston, MN.

Administrator Report

A) RRB Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

N. Goral reported that the next Work Group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, 2015 in Thief River Falls, MN. She explained that H. Van Offelen requested that she discuss the possibility of the RRWMB sponsoring C. Fritz as a member of the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC). In order for the RRWMB to sponsor C. Fritz on TSAC, a 50% match would need to be provided for the state mediation funds.

N. Goral stated that the tasks that C. Fritz would be charged with would include completing a comprehensive set of recommendations on mediation project monitoring and completion of the effort to assess pre and post project wetland and upland habitat conditions in typical impoundment projects. She noted the original estimate for C. Fritz's participation for the remainder of FY15 (06/30/15) was ~\$2,500, however, in a revised estimate forwarded from H. Van Offelen the cost estimate increased to \$6,400 which would require a match of \$3,200 from the board.

N. Goral noted that the RRWMB currently provides matching funds for N. Dalager and C. Anderson's participation on TSAC. J. Lewis suggested that since the RRWMB already provides matching funds toward two TSAC members, the Work Group should request a match from MPCA for C. Fritz's participation on the committee as the above-mentioned tasks are related to water quality project monitoring.

Manager Kleinwachter inquired about which organizations are responsible for coordinating particular services in the Red River basin. J. Lewis noted that originally IWI was established as a research organization. J. Lewis added that it may be worthwhile conducting an in-depth discussion among all water management entities in the basin to determine which organizations are responsible for accomplishing certain objectives. Manager Wilkens responded that inherent procedural complications would prevent any tangible outcomes of such a discussion. The Board of Managers agreed to table discussion of sponsoring C. Fritz as a member of TSAC.

N. Goral added that the agenda for tomorrow's Work Group meeting also includes a request from the Work Group to the RRWMB for matching funds for project planning and acceleration. She explained at the January board meeting, C. Fritz reviewed the Accelerated Project Team Process developed to document the process implemented in the Wild Rice WD to address flooding and natural resource problems in the Green Meadow Subwatershed. The planning process was developed and implemented with the assumption and understanding that there are specific roles and responsibilities for various entities involved. Adherence and commitment to these roles and responsibilities is critical to ensure the process attains the desired objective (to develop and select a preferred and viable alternative) in the allotted timeframe.

Accelerated Project Team Process:

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:

1. Fully engage the Project Team
- Mediation Agreement: Project Team Handbook

- USACE POC Guidance
- 2. Actively manage the process:
 - Develop effective and acceptable solutions to solve water/natural resource problems

N. Goral stated that regarding project planning and acceleration, the following two policies have been previously discussed by the board:

1. Work Group / RRWMB 50/50 Cost-share: H. Van Offelen (MDNR); R. Harnack (RRWMB); C. Fritz (50/50 cost-share between MDNR/RRWMB); and Project Team Support (50/50 split between the FDRWG/Local WD). * *This policy follows the Accelerated Project Team Process.*
2. Work Group 1/3 (33.33%), RRWMB 1/3 (33.33%), and Local WD 1/3 (33.33%).

N. Goral added that H. Van Offelen also forwarded a request for RRWMB matching funds for project team support at a rate of either 1:1 or 2:1. As the Work Group typically allocates ~ \$125,000 for project team support each year and these funds require a 50% match from non-state sources, a 1:1 funding match from the board would provide funding of \$375,000 annually for each project team for project development (\$125,000 Local WD; \$125,000 FDRWG; and, \$125,000 RRWMB). A match of 2:1 would result in a total available funding source of \$500,000 annually (\$125,000 Local WD; \$125,000 FDRWG; and, \$250,000 RRWMB).

Following discussion, the Board of Managers agreed to table discussion of funding either project planning and acceleration or providing matching funds for project team support.

B) 17th Joint Annual Conference

N. Goral stated that the 17th Joint Annual Conference (March Conference) has been scheduled for March 25-26, 2015 at the Courtyard by Marriott & Conference Center, Moorhead, MN. A handout of the draft agenda developed by H. Van Offelen was distributed.

N. Goral added that the Planning Committee invited Louis Smith to discuss recent legal issues involving drainage. She requested the Board of Managers to consider any additional topics they would be interested in having L. Smith address at the conference.

C) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. **MAWD Legislative Reception & Breakfast, Wednesday & Thursday, March 11 & 12, 2015**, Embassy Suites, St. Paul, MN.
2. **River Watch Forum**, Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at the University of Minnesota - Crookston Campus. The regular monthly March board meeting will be conducted in conjunction with the forum.
3. **17th Joint Annual Conference (March Conference)**, March 25-26, 2015, (Wednesday and Thursday) at the Courtyard by Marriott, 1080 28th Avenue South, Moorhead, MN.

Project Coordinator Report

R. Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. The Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group funding of \$264,000 is included in the MDNR budget. The BWSR budget includes \$100,000/year for RRBC funding. A new bill has been introduced for \$150,000/year for the biennium for the River Watch Program from the Clean Water Fund (CWF) through MPCA.

Red River Basin Commission

J. Lewis, Executive Director - RRBC reported that the 32nd Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference conducted on January 20-22, 2015 in Winnipeg, MB was a success with ~ 400 attendees. The RRBC continues to work with the USACE to develop the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP).

District Reports

- The Red Lake WD reported that the District has completed a Memorandum of Agreement, work plan, and budget for the Red Lake River Watershed One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) Pilot Project grant. The 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 MSTRWD boundary for this plan, the MSTRWD determined they would not participate in the Policy Committee portion of the development of plan but would be included in the Advisory Committee portion of the plan. A public kickoff meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2015 at the Red Lake WD board room.

- The Wild Rice WD reported on the status of the Green Meadow Project Team. A meeting has been scheduled to review Points of Concurrence No. 3 with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) staff prior to its submittal.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

Other Issues

- Manager Deal reported that he and Manager Wilkens attended the 25th annual MDNR Roundtable conducted on January 16th in the Twin Cities. This meeting is an annual gathering of stakeholders, conservation leaders, researchers, managers, and young professionals that focuses on current issues that affect fish, wildlife, and ecological and water resources. The participants share key insights with DNR staff and receive updates on the latest trends, research and natural resource issues.
- T. Halstensgard requested N. Goral to revise the Roseau River WD section on the board's website. There have been several manager changes since the last update.
- Manager Wilkens reminded the individual watershed district administrators that a District Administrator's Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23, 2015, at the Sand Hill River WD office, in Fertile, MN.

The next meeting has been scheduled to coincide with the River Watch Forum at UMC on Tuesday, March 17, 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:45 p.m. following lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Deal
Secretary

Naomi L. Goral
Administrator