



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

March 17, 2015

University of Minnesota – Crookston campus, Crookston, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at the University of Minnesota - Crookston campus, Crookston, Minnesota.

President John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

LeRoy Carriere	Dan Money
John Nelson	Orville Knott
Daniel Wilkens	Greg Holmvik
Jerome Deal	

Others present were:

- Naomi Goral, Administrator
- Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
- Pat Downs, Executive Director – RRRRA
- Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, USDA-NRCS
- Nate Dalager, Engineer - HDR Engineering, Inc.
- Blake Carlson, Engineer - WSN Engineering, Inc.
- Ron Adrian, Engineer - Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Danny Omdahl, Administrator - Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Jeff Lewis, Executive Director – RRBC
- Tony Nordby, Engineer – Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Jerry Bents, Engineer - Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Chad Engels, Engineer - Moore Engineering, Inc.
- Allison Myhre, Congressman Peterson's office
- Henry Van Offelen, Red River Basin Coordinator - MDNR
- Jon Roeschlein, Administrator – Bois de Sioux WD
- Jim Ziegler, Regional Manager - MPCA

Motion by Manager Deal 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 Holmvik, **Carried**.

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

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
03/17/2015	7607	ACS	Phone line, Fax/Internet	\$151.60
03/17/2015	7608	Brandner Printing	Invoice No. 9620	\$816.56
03/17/2015	7609	Fargo Rubber Stamp Works, Inc.	Name badge	\$22.93
03/17/2015	7610	HDR Engineering, Inc.	Invoice Nos. 434656-H & 436828-H	\$1,332.51
03/17/2015	7611	Houston Engineering, Inc.	TAC - Inv. No. 23778, USACE WFS	\$278.50
03/17/2015	7612	International Water Institute	PTMA C14-8916 (FY2014-15) Pay Req. No. 2	\$94,100.00
03/17/2015	7613	Jon Schauer/Consulting Unlimited Inc.	Invoice No. 3486	\$2,820.00
03/17/2015	7614	Marco, Inc.	Photocopier Maintenance - Invoice No. INV2455785	\$280.88
03/17/2015	7615	MCI	Long distance service	\$40.11
03/17/2015	7616	Moore Engineering, Inc.	Invoice No. 9609	\$825.00
03/17/2015	7617	Naomi Goral	Reimbursed Expenses	\$782.17
03/17/2015	7618	Red Lake Watershed District	Grand Marais Creek Outlet Rest. Project - Pay Req. No. 30	\$9,364.73
03/17/2015	7619	Red Lake Watershed District	Webpage Maintenance - 2014	\$1,500.00
03/17/2015	7620	Red Lake Watershed District	Grand Marais Creek Outlet Rest. Project - Pay Req. No. 29	\$7,954.92
03/17/2015	7621	Ronald D. Harnack	Project Coordinator Exp. - March 2015	\$1,400.94
03/17/2015	7622	Sand Hill River Watershed District	Webpage Maintenance - 2014	\$430.00
03/17/2015	7623	Smith Partners PLLP	General (February 2015)	\$2,190.80
03/17/2015	7624	U.S. Postal Service	500 - 1st Class Postage	\$245.00
03/17/2015	7625	Virtual Systems	Invoice No. March 2015-2	\$830.00
				\$125,366.65

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. NRCS officials from the National Water Management Center and Washington, DC attended the February 26, 2015 RRRA meeting to discuss the features of the RCPP program.

An additional meeting was conducted on March 13, 2015 to further discuss the allocation of RCPP program funds among Technical Assistance (TA) or Financial Assistance (FA). The RRRA agreed that with 22 potential projects slated to begin the Small Watershed Protection Planning Process that all RCPP awarded funds should be allocated to TA (Watershed Planning).

P. Downs explained that for each project individual agreements will be developed between the Watershed District (MN) or Water Resource District (ND) and NRCS. D. Thul inquired about the criteria for the Small Watershed Project Planning Process. P. Downs explained that the criteria is the same as that followed in the USACE's Points of Concurrence (POC) process. Manager Money added that, in addition to meeting all federal regulations, a cost-benefit analysis must also be developed.

N. Dalager reiterated that the Small Watershed Protection Planning Process is a surrogate for the USACE's POC process. J. Roeschlein noted that the steps followed by project teams in

Page 3 March 17, 2015. Red River Watershed Management Board Meeting Minutes completing the Small Watershed Protection Planning Process are the same as those followed when completing the USACE's POC process, with the exception of including a cost-benefit analysis. J. Roeschlein further added that although pursuing watershed planning with TA provided through the RCPP program doesn't guarantee project funding, it provides for acquiring the necessary permits.

P. Downs announced that he has accepted a position with another firm. He will begin his duties with Moore Engineering, Inc. within the next month.

Water Quality Project Monitoring

The flood damage reduction monitoring in 2015 will focus on trying to determine loads entering and exiting impoundments. Three (3) impoundments have been selected for the study (Angus Oslo No. 4, Brandt, and PL566 above Warren). The final draft of the water quality monitoring Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) has been sent out for review and comment. The Simple Pollution Load Calculation Method will be used to determine loads. Daily flow volumes for use in calculating loads will be estimated by impoundment pool elevations. Stage readings will be taken in concert with LiDAR, As Built, and Stage Storage Curve data for each impoundment. A final version of the QAPP will be completed by the end of the week.

Administrator Report

A) RRB Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

N. Goral reported that she attended the Work Group meeting conducted on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 in Thief River Falls, MN. Discussion occurred regarding a request from the Work Group to the RRWMB for matching funds for project planning and acceleration.

The cost-share proposal discussed is as follows: Work Group 1/3 (33.33%), RRWMB 1/3 (33.33%), and Local WD 1/3 (33.33%). N. Goral stated that H. Van Offelen plans to present this proposal to the Board of Managers during today's board meeting.

The Work Group reviewed several Project Acceleration Grants submitted by various Project Teams. The following grant requests were submitted:

1. Bois de Sioux WD / Doran Creek Restoration, \$18,250
2. Buffalo-Red River WD / Stony Creek, \$10,000
3. Red Lake WD / Pine Lake, \$10,000
4. Red Lake WD / Four Legged Lake, \$10,000
5. Two Rivers WD / Klondike, \$10,000

N. Goral stated that at the Work Group meeting, she distributed and reviewed a spreadsheet which outlined the funds remaining in the fiscal year 2015 budget. For Project Planning Acceleration, a balance of \$62,994.36 existed and the Work Group agreed by consensus to allocate the funds equally between the five Project Teams in the amount of \$12,598.87 per grant request. These funds were disbursed following the Work Group meeting.

N. Goral explained that although sufficient documentation was provided to approve the acceleration grants, additional supporting documentation is needed from the individual watershed districts regarding the expenses incurred for the respective grants in order for the RRWMB to receive reimbursement for administering the state grant.

B) 17th Joint Annual Conference

N. Goral stated that the Joint Annual Conference (March Conference) is scheduled for March 25-26, 2015 at the Courtyard by Marriott & Conference Center, Moorhead, MN. Please visit www.rrwmb.org to register for the conference. To reserve a hotel room, contact the Courtyard by Marriott Fargo-Moorhead, 1080 28th Avenue South, Moorhead, MN 56560, telephone: 218-284-1000. The block is listed under the *Red River Watershed Management Board*.

Louis Smith of Smith Partners has been invited to participate in the Drainage Workshop the morning prior to the conference and will discuss recent legal issues involving drainage. Mr. Smith suggested conducting a brief ***Governing Documents Committee meeting on Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.*** following the conference to review the proposed changes to the funding section of the manual. The Governing Documents Committee consists of the following members: J. Deal, D. Money, L. Carriere, and G. Holmvik)

C) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. **17th Joint Annual Conference (March Conference)**, March 25-26, 2015, (Wednesday and Thursday) at the Courtyard by Marriott, 1080 28th Avenue South, Moorhead, MN. Please refer to handouts.
2. **Red River Retention Authority**, Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 10:00 a.m. in Salon E, Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead, MN.
3. **Governing Documents Committee**, Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 5:00 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead, MN.

Project Coordinator Report

In the absence of Ron Harnack, the Project Coordinator Report was distributed. The Drainage Work Group (DWG) is conducting an update of the Drainage Manual. The firms of Rinke-Noonan and Houston Engineering, Inc. have contracted with BWSR to coordinate with a stakeholder group to complete the update.

The Minnesota Association of Watershed District's (MAWD) Legislative Reception & Breakfast was conducted on March 11-12, 2015. Members of the RRWMB and individual WDs were well-represented and had an opportunity to discuss funding priorities for flood damage reduction projects in the Red River basin with area legislators.

Flood Damage Reduction Work Group Report

H. Van Offelen distributed a request to the Board of Managers for funds to match project team support. The Work Group typically allocates about \$125,000 annually for project team support and project acceleration grants each year. These funds require a 50% match from non-state sources, therefore, the entire pool of funds for project team related activities is ~ \$250,000 annually.

H. Van Offelen explained that the requests for project team support exceed the available funding in some cases and accordingly have slowed project development. A match of 1:1:1 from the Work Group, WDs, and RRWMB would result in available funding of \$375,000 or the previously discussed cost-share proposal of 1/3 respectively.

Manager Knott noted his concern about adopting a 1/3 cost-share proposal and suggested that additional project team funding could be considered on a case by case basis. Manager Deal added that prior to increasing the match for project team support, federal funding should be received through the RCPP program.

J. Bents suggested developing another step in the funding criteria for obtaining RRWMB funding. He noted that a step prior to the current Step I could be developed to address planning efforts. Manager Holmvik stated that since the Governing Documents committee is scheduled to meet in conjunction with the upcoming Joint Annual Conference, funding proposals should be tabled until after the committee has met.

Red River Basin Commission

J. Lewis, Executive Director - RRBC reported that due to the implementation of phosphorus reduction standards, fewer TMDL studies are being conducted in the basin. J. Ziegler added that the RRBC would be required to conduct the TMDL studies through Winnipeg and since the EPA is the regulatory agency, they have no jurisdiction in Canada.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

D. Thul reported that following the January board meeting, he contacted District Administrators and inquired about interest in de-authorizing old USACE projects. The projects in question included mostly erosion protection projects or rip-rap projects within municipalities (not watershed district projects) or snagging and clearing projects.

The Bois de Sioux WD expressed an interest in de-authorizing the Mustinka River USACE project associated with the Red Path project. D. Thul stated that he would follow up with the USACE how to proceed with the de-authorization.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

Other Issues

- Manager Deal reported that he was appointed to a committee on the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) to assist with the transition during Ray Bohn's upcoming retirement.

The next meeting will be on April 21, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota.

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