



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

May 19, 2015

Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, May 19, 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
- Tony Nordby, Engineer – Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Kevin Ruud, Administrator – Wild Rice WD
- Jeff Lewis, Executive Director – RRBC
- Jim Ziegler, Regional Manager – MPCA
- Wally Sparby, Congressman Peterson's office
- Keith Mykleseth, Acting Regional Manager – MDNR
- Zach Herrmann, Engineer – Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Chuck Fritz, Director – International Water Institute
- Roger Hanson, Sand Hill River WD
- Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering, Inc.
- Myron Jesme, Administrator – Red Lake WD
- Rob Sip, Environmental Policy Specialist – MDA
- Danny Omdahl, Administrator – Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD

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

The bills to be approved as of May 19, 2015 were as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
05/19/2015	7664	ACS	Phone line, Fax/Internet	\$151.68
05/19/2015	7665	Marco, Inc.	Photocopier Maintenance - Invoice No. INV2573609	\$280.88
05/19/2015	7666	MCI	Long distance service	\$38.61
05/19/2015	7667	Moore Engineering, Inc.	Invoice No. 10083	\$775.00
05/19/2015	7668	Naomi Goral	Reimbursed Expenses	\$370.91
05/19/2015	7669	Red Lake Watershed District	Grand Marais Creek - Pay Req. No. 32	\$2,624.50
05/19/2015	7670	Ronald D. Harnack	Project Coordinator Exp. - May 2015	\$720.52
05/19/2015	7671	Roseau River Watershed District	Webpage Maintenance - 2015	\$839.00
05/19/2015	7672	RTW, Inc.	Workers Comp. Ins. 07/20/15 - 07/20/16	\$1,425.00
05/19/2015	7673	Smith Partners PLLP	General (April 2015)	\$220.00
05/19/2015	7674	Virtual Systems	Invoice No. April 2015-28	\$80.00
				<u>\$7,526.10</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 Coordinator Contract

Keith Mykleseth, Acting Regional Manager - MDNR discussed the State of Minnesota Income Contract between the MDNR and the RRWMB. The contract is to jointly fund the Red River Watershed Coordinator position (Dan Thul) with the State to provide ~ 38% of a full-time equivalent at a cost of \$28,000 for a one-year period from the RRWMB in order to coordinate activities between the MDNR and the RRWMB. The term of the contract is effective July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

Motion by Manager Deal to authorize the State of Minnesota Income Contract for a one-year period at a cost of \$28,000, **Seconded** by Manager Kleinwachter, **Carried**.

Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)

D. Thul distributed a draft of the Priority Screening Questions reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) regarding the Small Watershed Protection Planning Process requirements related to the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The TAC agreed to recommend that the RRWMB members on the RRRA adopt the Priority Screening Questions at the RRRA meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2015

Water Quality Project Monitoring

C. Fritz distributed the IWI Monitoring and Education Activity Report. The Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network (WPLMN) event sampling has begun with the first heavy rain of the year causing streams and rivers to rise. The WPLMN is designed to obtain spatial and temporal pollutant load information from Minnesota's rivers and streams and track water quality trends.

Site-specific stream flow data from United States Geological Survey and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is combined with water quality data collected by the MPCA, local units of government, state universities, nonprofit organizations and Metropolitan Council Environmental Services to compute annual pollutant loads at river monitoring sites across Minnesota.

Monitoring sites span three ranges of scale:

Basin — major river main stem sites along the Mississippi, Minnesota, Rainy, Red, Des Moines, and St. Croix rivers.

Major Watershed — tributaries draining to major rivers with an average drainage area of 1,350 square miles (8 digit HUC scale). A Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) is assigned by the USGS for each watershed.

Subwatershed — major branches or nodes within major watersheds with average drainage areas of approximately 300-500 square miles.

C. Fritz added that he continues to work with the Green Meadow Project Team's Project Acceleration effort. The USACE has requested additional information regarding potential environmental effects of the options before providing concurrence on GMPT No. 3. C. Fritz noted that he plans to attend a meeting scheduled on May 21, 2015 with K. Ruud, J. Bents, H. Van Offelen, and B. Dwight to discuss a response strategy.

D. Thul inquired whether the board should consider retaining an economist to provide guidance to assist plan sponsors as they proceed with completing the Small Watershed Protection Planning Process requirements. D. Omdahl questioned whether NRCS would be providing that service. C. Fritz responded that he wasn't aware that NRCS would be providing economists for plan sponsors.

D. Thul suggested inviting J. Leitch to attend the next RRRRA meeting to determine if he would be interested in participating in this effort. Following discussion, the Board of Managers requested N. Goral to coordinate with C. Fritz and invite J. Leitch to participate in this effort as an economist on behalf of the RRWMB.

Governing Documents Committee

Manager Deal, Chairman of the Governing Documents committee, reported that at the April 21, 2015 board meeting the Board of Managers requested that all additional comments regarding revisions to the Governing Documents publication be forwarded to N. Goral by Friday, May 8th. N. Goral reported that no additional comments were received.

Motion by Manager Deal to authorize printing 30 copies of the Governing Documents publication, **Seconded** by Manager Holmvik, **Carried**.

Project Coordinator Report

In the absence of Ron Harnack, the Project Coordinator Report was distributed. Information from BWSR regarding the proposed buffer legislation in H.F. 846 was discussed. The legislation would enact a new section that would generally require a minimum 30 foot with an average 50 foot buffer on public waters (by November 1, 2017) and public drainage systems (by November 1, 2019), with some exceptions. Watershed Districts would be required to amend their comprehensive watershed

management plans to incorporate buffer recommendations from Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Otherwise, this legislation would not create any obligations or responsibilities for watershed districts or drainage authorities, and these entities would not be obligated to be involved in the proposed 103F legislation except as they may choose. The proposed buffer legislation is entirely separate from the existing buffer requirement for drainage systems in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103E.

Administrator Report

A) RRB Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

N. Goral reported that, as she explained last month, due to guidelines imposed by the State Office of Management and Budget, the MDNR has required that the board submit more detailed funding requests for reimbursement of mediation funds. She has collaborated with H. Van Offelen and resubmitted a total of three revised FY2014 funding requests totaling \$193,539.24 to the MDNR for consideration. Confirmation was received that the entire amount of the combined funding requests were approved for reimbursement.

N. Goral added that P. Lynch informed her that the contract for FY2015 funds (\$264,000) is being finalized and will be forwarded to the RRWMB in the near future. As the end of the fiscal year is approaching (06/30/15), she asked the Board of Managers to consider authorizing her and J. Finney as agents to sign the contract. **Motion** by Manager Kleinwachter to authorize J. Finney and N. Goral as agents to sign the State of Minnesota Grant Contract, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

N. Goral reported that the FDR Communications Team met on Friday, May 15th at the MPCA office in Detroit Lakes, MN. Discussion occurred relative to the 17th Joint Annual Conference (March Conference) and planning has begun for next year's conference. She explained that she inquired about the availability of dates in March of 2016 with the Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead, MN. The following dates were available using the Wednesday (1 p.m. start time) – Thursday (adjourn by noon) format: Wednesday March 23 – Thursday March 24, 2016 or Wednesday March 30 – Thursday March 31, 2016.

N. Goral noted that she conferred with R. Harnack relative to the 2016 Legislative Session in order to avoid any scheduling conflicts. He noted that R. Bohn stated that the MAWD Legislative briefings would occur sometime in early April as the session begins on March 8, 2016. R. Harnack suggested that since Easter is on March 27, 2016, the preferred dates for the conference would be the week prior to the Easter holiday as the Legislature usually has that week off (Wednesday, March 23 – Thursday, March 24, 2016). Following discussion, the Board of Managers agreed that N. Goral should reserve the Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead, MN for **March 23 – 24, 2016**.

R. Sip, Chair of the Communications Team, added that the committee also developed a survey to assist in determining the public information needs of individual watershed districts and the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group. The survey was distributed for review. Following discussion regarding a few minor revisions, the Board of Managers requested N. Goral to distribute the survey to member watershed districts and ask them to forward it on to their board members.

B) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. **Human Resources Committee**, Tuesday, May 19, 2015, following the regular monthly board meeting, Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, MN.
2. **Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group**, June 16, 2015, following the regular monthly RRWMB meeting, Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, MN.
3. **2015 MAWD Summer Tour, Duluth – Twin Port’s Water: Past, Present, and Future**, Radisson Duluth Harborview, June 24 – 26, 2015.
4. **Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group**, August 19, 2015, MnDOT, Detroit Lakes, MN.
5. **FDR Work Group Communications Team Meeting**, August 19, 2015, following the Work Group meeting, MnDOT, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Red River Basin Commission

J. Lewis, Executive Director - RRBC reported on the *Red River Basin Nutrient Reduction Strategy*. The proposed effort would bring together citizens, local units of government, and state and federal interests to put together a comprehensive plan to address water quality issues within the basin, focusing on sediment and nutrients.

The RRBC would use the experience gained through the development of the Long Term Flood Solutions project, a basin wide stakeholder driven process completed in 2011, to develop a nutrient reduction implementation strategy. The RRBC has received a Bush Foundation Community Innovation Grant to provide opportunities to get stakeholders participating and will be seeking additional funding to advance this work.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

D. Thul reported on the USACE Red River Basin Watershed Feasibility Study (WFS). The USACE has been utilizing the RRBC’s Long Term Flood Solutions (LTFS) Plan and is in the process of finalizing the Halstad Upstream Retention (HUR) modeling project.

D. Thul added that the USACE has agreed to utilize federal funds to extend the modeling effort to the Canadian border to encompass the entire Red River basin. In addition to extending the HUR modeling project, coordination is also needed with individual watershed districts which will require other funding sources as federal funds can’t be utilized for this component. Houston Engineering has developed a cost estimate of ~ \$100,000 for the nine watershed districts on the Minnesota side of the Red River as part of the RFP for the USACE to coordinate the modeling effort.

Manager Finney inquired whether the Buffalo-Red River WD is included in the cost estimate. D. Thul responded that their watershed district is included as one of the nine listed. Z. Herrmann added that should the BRRWD be eliminated from the proposal the revised cost estimate would be ~ \$97,500.00.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to authorize the proposal to coordinate with the individual member watershed districts for extending the HUR modeling project to the Canadian border for an estimated cost of ~\$97,500.00, **Seconded** by Manager Carriere, **Carried**.

District Reports

- The Red Lake WD reported on the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) Project. The District along with Polk, Red Lake and Pennington Counties continue to move forward in the development of the 1W1P for the Red Lake River Watershed. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2015 and will include discussion of “Priority Issues” and how these issues should be ranked as well as better defining “Planning Regions.”
- The Wild Rice WD reported on Goose Prairie Marsh. An Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) is being reviewed at the state level and should be published soon.

District’s Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on June 16, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota. N. Goral requested that due to a scheduling conflict, the June 17th Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group meeting be conducted immediately following the regular monthly RRWMB meeting on June 16, 2015 at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, MN. The Board of Managers agreed the Work Group meeting should be scheduled in conjunction with the June 16, 2015 RRWMB regular monthly meeting.

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