



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
November 17, 2015
Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota.

President John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were: LeRoy Carriere Dan Money
 Ben Kleinwachter LeRoy Ose
 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
Jim Ziegler, Regional Manager – MPCA
Chuck Fritz, Director – International Water Institute
Dr. Jay Leitch
John Jaschke, Executive Director – BWSR
Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering, Inc.
Julie Goehring, South Basin Manager – RRBC
Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator – USDA-NRCS
Danny Omdahl, Administrator – Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
Wallace Sparby, Congressman Peterson's office
Tracy Halstensgard, Administrator – Roseau River WD
Nate Dalager, Engineer – HDR Engineering, Inc.
Daron Selvig, Advanced Engineering & Environmental Services, Inc. (AE2S)
Zach Herrmann, Engineer – Houston Engineering, Inc.
Tony Nordby, Engineer – Houston Engineering, Inc.
Brian Dwight, Clean Water Specialist – BWSR
Phillip Swenson, Manager – Sand Hill River WD
Blake Carlson, Engineer – WSN Engineering, Inc.
Chad Engels, Engineer – Moore Engineering, Inc.
Matt Fischer, Board Conservationist – BWSR
Rob Sip, Environmental Policy Specialist – MDA
Mark Anderson, Manager – Buffalo-Red River WD
Peter Fjestad, Manager – Buffalo-Red River WD

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

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

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
11/17/2015	7817	ACS	Phone line, Fax/Internet	\$152.58
11/17/2015	7818	Courtyard by Marriott	Meeting Expense	\$229.50
11/17/2015	7819	HDR Engineering, Inc.	Invoice No. 463961-H	\$3,449.22
11/17/2015	7820	Houston Engineering, Inc.	TAC - Inv. No. 27189	\$3,263.50
11/17/2015	7821	Jon Schauer/Consulting Unlimited Inc.	Invoice No. 3497	\$975.00
11/17/2015	7822	Marco, Inc.	Photocopier Maintenance - Invoice No. INV2928972	\$322.21
11/17/2015	7823	MCI	Long distance service	\$37.37
11/17/2015	7824	Naomi Goral	Reimbursed Expenses	\$1,199.16
11/17/2015	7825	Ronald D. Harnack	Project Coordinator Exp. - November 2015	\$273.65
11/17/2015	7826	Smith Partners PLLP	Invoice No. 37431, October 2015	\$220.00
11/17/2015	7827	U.S. Postal Service	Annual - P.O. Box Fee	\$220.00
11/17/2015	7828	Virtual Systems	Invoice No. October 2015-22	\$105.00
11/17/2015	7829	Widseth Smith Nolting & Assoc., Inc.	Invoice Nos. 106265 & 106349	\$2,979.00
				\$13,426.19

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

District's Funding Requests

1. Roseau River WD / Step I Submittal / Roseau Lake Bottom

T. Halstensgard referred to the Roseau Lake Bottom project and stated that surveying was completed late this summer. Discussion occurred regarding whether the surveying conducted was adequate to qualify as preliminary engineering. N. Goral distributed a memo from legal counsel as to the board's funding procedures for project loans or advances.

T. Halstensgard invited the Board of Managers to conduct the December board meeting in Roseau in order to tour the project as to meet the board's Step I requirements. Following discussion, the board agreed to change the venue for the December board meeting from Fertile to Roseau in order to accommodate the request.

Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)

Manager Finney reported that a December board meeting should be scheduled as three new applications have been submitted for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The study applications are as follows: Sargent County Resource District, Roseau River WD, and Pembina County Water Resource District.

Manager Finney added that last month he and Manager Money met with Cathee Pullman – NRCS State Conservationist in Minnesota. A tour was conducted of the Joe River WD, along with the Springbrook and Klondike project sites in the Two Rivers WD.

Water Quality Project Monitoring

C. Fritz distributed the IWI Monitoring and Education Activity Report. The IWI staff met on September 9, 2015 to begin planning for the 2016 River Watch Forum and the 2015 Fall Kick Off events. The 2016 Forum is scheduled for March 15, 2016 with 3 Kick Off events to be held November 17-19, at Crookston, Barnesville, and Thief River Falls.

Benefit-Cost Analysis Template / Green Meadow Subwatershed

Dr. Leitch stated that the objectives of the discussion relative to economics and the Benefit/Cost Analysis (BCA) template include perspective, benefit categories, and quantifying benefits.

Identifying the benefits and costs of a project depends on the evaluator's perspective. Locals may realize different benefits than someone from afar. Perspectives are: Individual/private, Local, Regional/state, National/federal, and Global.

Public flood water management projects can benefit whomever, whenever, or wherever. Categories can be both exhaustive and/or mutually exclusive. Benefit categories include: Agriculture, Silviculture/forestry, Infrastructure, Structures, Recreation, Environment/ecosystem, Social, and Regional.

Benefits are included in a Benefit/Cost Ratio by the following:

1. Identify: Describe with respect to change in flood elevation or other action (e.g., retention pond)
2. Quantify: Measure the flood elevation changes (e.g., bushels, culverts, structure damage, etc.)
3. Monetize: Convert measurements into dollar values
4. Convert to Present Values: Using project life and discount rate
5. Display in a Single-value Measure: Such as BCR or National Economic Development (NED) Plan

Issues to consider when developing a BCA template:

- Assume full employment of labor and resources before the project.
- Are market values (e.g., crop prices) true prices or administered/influenced?
- Ignore inflation.
- Include risk and uncertainty where possible.
- Use appropriate valuation tools.
- Use plausible assumptions, tell believable stories. The valuation process should be defensible, credible, and replicable.
- BCR is an efficiency measure, not an equity measure. Government has four roles: efficiency, equity, stability, and growth. Demand and supply imply willing and able to participate in the market.

- Several academic/theoretical issues exist with BCA.

Valuation methods include:

1. Market prices (e.g., \$/bushel, \$/hour to repair, etc.) Some prices need to be normalized to remove artificial influences.
2. When there isn't a market price, need to estimate one; these are called proxy, shadow, surrogate, implicit, or synthetic prices/values.

Runoff-Based Drainage Assessment GIS Application Grant

C. Fritz distributed a work plan and budget for the *Runoff-Based Drainage Assessment GIS Application Grant*. He explained that Clean Water Funds (CWF) in the amount of \$94,182 were appropriated to the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) for this conservation program in consultation with the Drainage Work Group (DWG).

The project consists of retrofitting existing drainage systems with water quality improvement practices, evaluating outcomes, and providing outreach to landowners, public drainage authorities, drainage engineers and contractors, and others. Alternative assessment methods as well as proposed framework outlines will be presented to BWSR, a Project Advisory Committee (PAC), and the Drainage Work Group. Manager Wilkens stated that A. Kean of BWSR asked for volunteers for the PAC and he agreed to participate.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to authorize the 2016 Runoff-Based Drainage Assessment Grant Agreement in the amount of \$94,182 between the State of Minnesota, acting through BWSR and the RRWMB, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Public Information Initiative

Manager Deal, Chair of the Public Information Committee, reported that the contract for the position of Public Information Consultant with AE2S was prepared by the board's legal counsel.

Manager Holmvik inquired about the number of applicants for the position and specifically who submitted applications. Manager Deal responded that the following four applicants interviewed for the position: Red River Basin Commission (RRBC), Flint Communications, Dot.Com Connection (April Swenby), and Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. (AE2S).

Manager Deal noted that the Public Information Committee spent a significant amount of time deliberating during the selection process for the board's new Public Information Consultant.

N. Goral stated that the RRBC had withdrawn their name from consideration prior to submitting a cost proposal which left three remaining candidates. She added the committee voted to recommend AE2S to the board.

Manager Holmvik requested that N. Goral email the position announcement, letters of application, resumes and cost proposals to the board members for review prior to the next board meeting. Manager Finney stated that execution of the contract with AE2S will be on next month's agenda.

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D. Selvig of AE2S stated that the Public Information Strategy will be presented to the board at the December board meeting. He also plans to attend the upcoming MAWD Annual Meeting & Trade Show in Alexandria, MN.

Board of Water & Soil Resources Update

J. Jaschke, Executive Director – BWSR, discussed implementation of the new buffer law. Minnesota Statute 103F.48 establishes a requirement for landowners to maintain a buffer adjacent to public waters and public drainage systems, including ditches within the benefitted area. This law includes new enforcement authorities to address potential landowner noncompliance and local government failure to implement.

It is the policy of BWSR that failure to implement/non-implementing of the law is defined as when a county, watershed district or metropolitan watershed management organization and SWCD have agreed to assume responsibility for implementing the new buffer law requirement but did not perform the necessary duties.

Project Coordinator Report

R. Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. Each watershed district has been forwarded draft project legislative briefings for review and updating for the 2017-18 Capital Investing Bonding. Plans are to meet with the Districts at MAWD or by conference call to have the briefings finalized by the December board meeting.

R. Harnack reported that he participated in a meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) including T. Cameron, B. Cox, C. Fritz, and H. Van Offelen to discuss the USACE's timeliness, participation on project teams and the Work Group, and permitting status and Points of Concurrence (POC) for current projects. He added that he is currently developing a joint letter from the RRWMB and the Work Group to the Colonel of the St. Paul District addressing many of these concerns.

Red River Basin Commission Report

J. Goehring, South Basin Manager, RRBC distributed the program for the 33rd Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference scheduled for January 19-21, 2016 in Grand Forks, ND. This year's conference is titled Making Connections: People – Places – Water.

J. Goehring referred to the Red River Basin (RRB) Natural Resources Framework Plan (NRFP) that was developed in 2006 and has been a guiding framework behind the RRBC's work since its development. She asked for organizations to share a success story that has contributed to any of the 13 NRFP goals. The stories will be celebrated at the upcoming annual conference.

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

N. Goral reported that at the previous monthly meeting, the board requested she develop a letter to forward to the USACE relative to the additional documentation requirement on previously approved Work-in-Kind credit submittals. A handout was distributed.

B) Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

N. Goral stated that she attended the Work Group meeting on November 16, 2015 in Detroit Lakes, MN. An update on issues related to the buffer legislation was conducted by Dave Leuthe – MDNR, and John Jaschke – BWSR.

She stated that D. Leuthe discussed the Buffer Mapping Project Timeline currently being conducted by the MDNR. The project consists of four phases including: Public Waters Mapping, Ditch System Mapping, Preliminary Buffer Maps, and Final Buffer Maps (July 2016 available via the web).

She stated that the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget was discussed and the spending plan of \$264,000 for 2016 was approved.

She reported that the Roseau River WD submitted a Project Acceleration Grant application of \$10,000 for the Roseau Lake Bottom project which was approved. A funding recommendation for the project is also included in the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council bill for 2016-17 for \$2.65 million dollars.

C) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. **MAWD Annual Meeting & Trade Show**, December 3-4, 2015, Arrowwood Conference Center, Alexandria, MN.
2. **Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group**, December 9, 2015, 9:30 a.m. in conjunction with the Prairie Grains Conference at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, ND.
3. **Red River Basin Commission's 33rd Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference**, *Making Connections: People – Places – Water*, January 19-21, 2016, at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, ND.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

D. Thul referred to the State Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Fargo-Moorhead Diversion Project. He explained that he coordinated with District Administrators and the TAC and determined that relevant issues merited a letter from the RRWMB.

D. Thul noted that the TAC drafted a letter utilizing the complex operating plan, and he and N. Goral further revised the letter and forwarded it prior to the end of the comment period which expired on October 28, 2015. A handout was distributed.

District Reports

- The Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD reported that the District is working with the City of Newfalden regarding the Middle River. A Newfalden River Restoration Committee was formed

Page 7 November 17, 2015. Red River Watershed Management Board Meeting Minutes in order to determine whether a low flow augmentation feature could be designed and operated during the summer months. The District plans to determine whether property can be located upstream from the city to develop a Flood Damage Reduction project.

The next meeting will be on December 15, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. at the Roseau River Watershed District, Roseau, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 1:00 p.m. following lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Deal
Secretary

Naomi L. Goral
Administrator