



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
September 15, 2015
Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota**

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, September 15, 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
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
Jerry Bents, Engineer – Houston Engineering, Inc.
Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering, Inc.
Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator – USDA-NRCS
Ron Adrian, Engineer – Houston Engineering, Inc.
Myron Jesme, Administrator – Red Lake WD
Tony Nordby, Engineer – Houston Engineering, Inc.
Danny Omdahl, Administrator – Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
Chad Engels, Engineer – Moore Engineering, Inc.
Blake Carlson, Engineer – WSN Engineering, Inc.
Wallace Sparby, Congressman Peterson's office
Nate Dalager, Engineer – HDR Engineering, Inc.

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

The bills to be approved as of September 15, 2015 were as follows:

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
09/15/2015	7774	ACS	Phone line, Fax/Internet	\$152.66
09/15/2015	7775	HDR Engineering, Inc.	Invoice No. 456453-H	\$2,344.58
09/15/2015	7776	Henry Van Offelen	Meeting Expenses - 08/19/15, 08/24/15, & 09/11/15	\$123.09
09/15/2015	7777	Houston Engineering, Inc.	TAC - Inv. No. 26503	\$1,096.66
09/15/2015	7778	Jon Schauer/Consulting Unlimited Inc.	Invoice No. 3495	\$1,687.50
09/15/2015	7779	Kris Versdahl & Associates, Inc.	Invoice Dated 08-31-15	\$360.00
09/15/2015	7780	Marco, Inc.	Photocopier Maintenance - Invoice Nos. INV2801783 & 2808184	\$877.01
09/15/2015	7781	MCI	Long distance service	\$39.97
09/15/2015	7782	Moore Engineering, Inc.	Invoice No. 10931	\$849.10
09/15/2015	7783	Naomi Goral	Reimbursed Expenses	\$309.42
09/15/2015	7784	Ronald D. Harnack	Project Coordinator Exp. - September 2015	\$493.67
09/15/2015	7785	U.S. Geological Survey	Bill No. 90381852, Stream Gaging - Fiscal Year 2015	\$27,858.00
09/15/2015	7786	Virtual Systems	Invoice No. August 2015-23	\$105.00
09/15/2015	7787	Widseth Smith Nolting & Assoc., Inc.	Invoice No. 104911	<u>\$1,056.50</u>
				<u>\$37,353.16</u>

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.

Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)

K. Weston reported that twenty (20) applications were submitted to NRCS for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP). The applications received included: North Dakota; six (6), and Minnesota; fourteen (14).

All of the applications in North Dakota have developed cooperative agreements with the exception of one. Of the fourteen applications submitted from Minnesota, one applicant was determined to be ineligible due to the size of the contributing watershed.

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, 2015 with sites to be determined.

Benefit-Cost Analysis Template

Dr. Leitch distributed a handout which outlined the basics of economics. Economic analyses should be transparent and logical. Dollars are usually the common denominator, but there could be other mediums of exchange.

A benefit/cost analysis is a comparison of all a project's benefits through time with all of a project's costs through time. Both the future benefits and costs must be discounted to their present values using an appropriate discount rate. Low discount rates favor projects with high initial costs and ongoing benefits.

D. Omdahl inquired about using water clarity in a benefit/cost analysis and whether the USACE, MPCA or the WD's data should be utilized. Dr. Leitch responded that as long as the data included is within an acceptable range no one should question. K. Weston suggested using accepted science and technology as well.

Manager Wilkens noted that watershed districts proceeding with Small Watershed Protection Planning Processes must coordinate their efforts with the proposed BCA template to comply with federal guidelines.

Project Coordinator Report

R. Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. The farmstead and rural ring dike program was discussed. N. Goral distributed the grant contract between the State of Minnesota and the Board for \$400,000.00 effective September 20, 2015.

Motion by Manager Kleinwachter to authorize N. Goral or J. Finney to sign the grant contract between the State of Minnesota and the Board for the farmstead and rural ring dike program, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

R. Harnack discussed USACE permitting under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The USACE has been uncooperative regarding timely review of Points of Concurrence submittals, attendance at Work Group and Project Team meetings, and communication in general.

Motion by Manager Holmvik to authorize R. Harnack to coordinate with Watershed District Administrators and H. Van Offelen to develop a letter to the USACE to meet with the Co-Chairs of the Work Group, the President of the RRWMB, and potentially others, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

Administrator Report

A) 2016 Budget

N. Goral referred to the 2016 proposed annual budget approved at the July 21, 2015 board meeting. For Coordinating Services, the annual Local Government Share forwarded to the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) is \$75,000.000.

On August 20, 2013, the Board authorized contributing \$15,000 annually toward rent to the RRBC for a one-year term, contingent that the co-location includes the Red River Retention Authority (RRRA). N. Goral inquired whether or not the 2016 budget should include the \$15,000 rent contribution to the RRBC. Following discussion, the Board agreed to include the rent contribution in the 2016 annual budget.

B) 2014 Annual Audit

Brady, Martz & Associates previously recommended the RRWMB obtain levy amounts from individual watershed districts in order to estimate the amount of income that *should* be received compared to the amount *actually* received each year. The RRWMB responded by requesting each member district forward copies of their respective Form B worksheets used to calculate the levies that are collected.

A subsequent review of the Roseau River WD's calculation revealed their Form B included the levy percentage used for 2014 rather than the reduced levy of 75% that had been adopted for 2015.

The District was notified and discussions occurred with the respective auditors of both boards. T. Halstengard informed N. Goral that the individual county auditors were contacted to discuss correcting the miscalculation.

N. Goral added that the 2014 financial information has been reviewed in order to finalize the annual audit. Upon completion of the financials, the report will be published and distributed.

C) Red River Valley U.S. Geological Survey / COOP Meeting

The Annual USGS Cooperator meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in the Vector Room at the Cass County Highway Department in West Fargo, ND. The agenda items include Streamgage Funding for Fiscal Year 2016 and USGS Activities in Water Year (WY) 2015.

D) Public Information Consulting Position

The Public Information Committee is scheduled to conduct interviews on Friday, September 18, 2015 at the Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead, Minnesota.

N. Goral stated that Manager Deal, Co-Chair of the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, requested R. Sip, Chair of the Work Group's Communications Team Committee, to assist in the interview process. The Work Group indicated financial assistance may be available toward this position in order for the selected candidate to assist their organization with their public information needs.

E) Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR)

N. Goral stated that R. Harnack invited John Jaschke – Executive Director of BWSR, to attend a future board meeting. Several current BWSR initiatives could be discussed including:

1. Buffers legislation – implementation roles/responsibilities.
2. Drainage – ideas for modernizing/streamlining or alternatives for a redetermination of benefits.
3. Wetland Conservation Act – statute changes/rulemaking process (and a WOTUS update?).
4. 1 Watershed 1 Plan – moving forward from the Pilots via new 2015 legislation.

R. Harnack noted J. Jaschke is available to attend the November 17th meeting. N. Goral stated although the next meeting rotation would suggest scheduling the October meeting in Ada, perhaps the board should meet in Thief River Falls next month as the Work Group has their October meeting scheduled in Thief River Falls the day following the RRWMB meeting. She suggested the RRWMB conduct their November board meeting in Ada to accommodate J. Jaschke, and resume the regular rotation in December by meeting in Fertile. Following discussion, the board agreed to conduct their meetings at the above-mentioned locations.

F) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. **Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group**, October 21, 2015, Red Lake WD, Thief River Falls, MN.
2. **MAWD Annual Meeting & Trade Show**, December 3-4, 2015, Arrowwood Conference Center, Alexandria, MN.
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.

N. Goral noted that as the first day of the RRBC's annual conference coincides with the RRWMB's regular monthly meeting, the Board may want to consider conducting the January board meeting in close proximity to Grand Forks, ND. Following discussion, the Board requested N. Goral inquire with legal counsel regarding the requirements of conducting meetings within board jurisdiction.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

D. Thul referred to the RCPP which promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) available through NRCS provides assistance delivered in accordance with the rules of the program.

A handout was distributed of the USDA-NRCS Red River Basin Initiative of EQIP Contract Obligations. The summary by practice included information for fiscal years 2014-15 for Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. The total expenditure for the Red River basin for the combined years was \$2,553,579.00. The estimated storage provided resulted in reduced runoff in the Red River of 1,979.8 acre-feet. Therefore, the cost of storage per acre-foot is \$1,290.00.

D. Thul discussed the State Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Fargo-Moorhead Diversion Project. Previously, the Board had concerns relative to increases in downstream flows due to the diversion, however, a staging area has been added to the design to mitigate increases to downstream flood flows. The comment period for the EIS expires on October 28, 2015.

The Board of Managers requested D. Thul to coordinate with District Administrators and the TAC to determine whether any relevant issues remain that merit a letter from the RRWMB. D. Thul agreed to forward correspondence to inquire whether comments from the Board are required.

District Reports

- The Two Rivers WD reported that the District received grant funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the amount of \$500,000.00. The funds will be used for planning, preliminary engineering, permitting, economic review, and the development of an Environmental Assessment for the District's proposed Klondike Clean Water Retention Project. The funds will also be utilized for alternatives analyses, benefit/cost analysis, permit

requirements, analysis of environmental effects and consequences, and identification of a preferred alternative.

- The Red Lake WD reported on Four-Legged Lake/Judicial Ditch No. 5. A project team meeting was conducted on August 21, 2015. Preliminary designs for two structures to be incorporated into the project were discussed.

At the August 27, 2015 board meeting, the Board of Managers authorized to proceed with the NRCS cooperative agreement. The Board also authorized the initiation of a project, appointed the engineer and directed the engineer to complete the plans and specifications upon executing the NRCS cooperative agreement.

- The Wild Rice WD reported on the Lower Wild Rice. The Board received the signed grant agreement with the State of Minnesota from the Outdoor Heritage Fund of \$2.27 million. The grant expires on June 30, 2019.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on October 20, 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