



Red River Watershed Management Board

Board of Managers

John Finney, President-Humboldt LeRoy Carriere-Roseau Dan Money-Hallock Ben Kleinwachter, Vice President-Strandquist
LeRoy Ose-Thief River Falls Daniel Wilkens, Treasurer-Fertile Greg Holmvik-Ada Jerome Deal, Secretary-Wheaton
Naomi Goral, Administrator-Detroit Lakes

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
August 16, 2016
Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 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 Les Torgerson
 Daniel Wilkens Greg Holmvik
 Jerome Deal

Others present were: Naomi Goral, Administrator
Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator
Henry Van Offelen, Red River Coordinator
Chuck Fritz, Director – International Water Institute
Dr. Jay Leitch
Kevin Ruud, Administrator – Wild Rice WD
Jerry Bents, Engineer – Houston Engineering, Inc.
Nate Dalager, Engineer – HDR Engineering, Inc.
Chad Engels, Engineer – Moore Engineering, Inc.
Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering, Inc.
Myron Jesme, Administrator – Red Lake WD
Brent Silvis, Administrator – Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
Jeff Lewis, Executive Director – RRBC
Tony Nordby, Engineer – Houston Engineering, Inc.
Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator – USDA-NRCS
Torin McCormack, Technician – Roseau River WD
April Swenby, Administrative Assistant – Sand Hill River WD
Allen Wold, Manager – Bois de Sioux WD
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Motion by Manager Deal to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as written with minor corrections, **Seconded** by Manager Holmvik, **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 August 16, 2016 were as follows:

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
08/16/2016	8106	ACS	Phone line, Fax/Internet	\$152.98
08/16/2016	8107	Adv. Engineering & Environmental Services	Public Information Consulting Services	\$878.00
08/16/2016	8108	Brandner Printing	Invoice No. 11176 - Newsletter	\$1,007.35
08/16/2016	8109	Charles W. Fritz	Professional Services - 07-20 - 08-15	\$1,611.82
08/16/2016	8110	Marco Technologies LLC	Photocopier Maintenance - Invoice No. INV3505089	\$322.21
08/16/2016	8111	MCI	Long distance service	\$40.58
08/16/2016	8112	Naomi Goral	Reimbursed Expenses	\$381.73
08/16/2016	8113	Ronald D. Harnack	Project Coordinator Exp. - August 2016	\$1,378.47
08/16/2016	8114	Smith Partners PLLP	Invoice No. 38107, July 2016	\$883.48
08/16/2016	8115	Verizon	Conference Calling Charges	\$163.04
08/16/2016	8116	Widseth Smith Nolting & Assoc., Inc.	Invoice No. 111001	\$1,280.00
08/16/2016	8117	Wild Rice Watershed District	Farmstead Ring Dike Program - Pay Req. No. 3 (Visser)	\$3,961.46
08/16/2016	8118	Wild Rice Watershed District	Farmstead Ring Dike Program - Pay Req. No. 4 (Ramstad)	\$2,656.65
				<u>\$14,717.77</u>

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

Benefit-Cost Analysis Update

Dr. Leitch stated that a template was developed for the Green Meadow Subwatershed in the Wild Rice Watershed District. Following final review of the draft template it will be suitable for use to carry out Benefit-Cost Analyses (BCA) in other similar, small watersheds.

The BCA template includes perspective, benefit categories, and quantifying benefits. It compares the present value of the stream of upfront and ongoing costs over a project's life.

J. Bents referred to the incidental environmental benefits that are often realized as a result of flood damage reduction projects. Although some of the benefits are incidental, the State of Minnesota cost-share could be affected as usually the cost-share is 50% of the total project cost, however, if a project includes significant natural resource enhancement (NRE) components cost-share could be as high as 75%.

C. Engels inquired whether both local and Red River mainstem benefits should be considered when applying for federal funds. R. Harnack responded that cumulative benefits should be included since Minnesota and North Dakota are both trying to achieve 1,000,000 acre-feet of storage. Manager Finney added that projects meeting federal design guidelines should submit applications for funding as there are time constraints with the Farm Bill.

Water Quality Project Monitoring

C. Fritz distributed the IWI Monitoring and Education Activity Report. Staff has been working with H. Van Offelen to begin planning for the 2016 project monitoring reports which will incorporate wetland plant community conditions, water quality, and other available information. A draft report has been developed utilizing information for the Brandt Impoundment.

Red River Retention Authority

At the July board meeting, T. Halstensgard requested the board consider providing cost-share to member watershed districts for planning efforts associated with Small Watershed Protection Planning Process relative to the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

Manager Finney explained that for the plans progressing through the Small Watershed Protection Planning Process, total funds available through the RRRRA is \$11,040,000 with nearly all project sponsors receiving \$500,000 as RRRRA cost-share for the studies. Discussion by the RRRRA addressed the issue that although some federal funding will be allocated toward planning efforts conducted by watershed and water resource districts, the remaining costs of completing the planning efforts should be the responsibility of the local sponsor.

M. Jesme requested that, in the absence of T. Halstensgard, the RRWMB consider providing cost-share to member districts for planning efforts. Manager Kleinwachter inquired whether those member watershed districts with insufficient funds for planning efforts would have sufficient funds for project construction.

Manager Money stated that although historically the board has provided funding only for land acquisition and project construction, Section 4, Sub-Section III – Funding Procedures for Flood Damage Reduction Projects and Related Programs of the *Governing Documents* publication provides guidelines for requesting funding assistance for initiatives other than project construction.

Motion by Manager Deal to direct member watershed districts to refer to the Governing Documents publication, Section 4, Sub-Section III – Funding Procedures for Flood Damage Reduction Projects and Related Programs when requesting funding assistance from the board, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

K. Weston referred to the Statement of Work for the Cooperative Agreement between the RRRRA and the NRCS. The purpose of the agreement is to develop an outreach plan for the Red River of the North Basin to promote watershed protection for the twenty identified watersheds in the basin that were selected for RCPP funding.

K. Weston explained that a key component of watershed planning is providing outreach and education to the residents and landowners in a watershed area. A summary of watershed outreach efforts is included in the Cooperative Agreement and states that NRCS has partnered with the RRBC, IWI, RRWMB and RRJWRD to promote conservation systems. The Statement of Work includes a provision stating that NRCS will provide payment to the RRRRA for actual costs of allowable expenses incurred to complete the deliverables of the agreement, not to exceed \$70,000.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to direct the RRRRA delegates from the RRWMB to approve authorization of the Cooperative Agreement between the USDA-NRCS and the RRRRA for RCPP outreach efforts in the amount of \$70,000, **Seconded** by Manager Kleinwachter, **Carried**.

Project Coordinator Report

R. Harnack distributed the Project Coordinator Report. A special session may occur to address both the tax and bonding bills. The current bonding bill should provide adequate funding to complete Halstad at \$2.3 million and provide \$1 million for Redpath.

Discussions have begun with River Watch and the RRBC regarding funding needs for the next biennium. Individual watershed districts were also encouraged to update their five-year plans and legislative briefings for projects.

A draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for the position of Project Coordinator was distributed. Manager Finney explained that the RFP contains two components including lobbying efforts and RRWMB member watershed district project coordination and support. Applicants can apply for either one of the two components or for both.

Motion by Manager Deal to direct R. Harnack and N. Goral to collaborate and finalize the draft RFP for board review, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

Administrator Report

A) Red River Basin Women's Forum and Initiative

N. Goral reported she attended a meeting on Monday, August 1, 2016 at the Ag Country Farm Credit Services, in Ada, MN. Discussion included an update on the "Banquet in a Field" event. Information will be obtained from the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association who sponsored the event.

B) Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

For fiscal year 2016, the Work Group approved a cap of \$15,000 per project team with remaining project team expenses incurred to be discussed at a later date.

At the June 21, 2016 meeting, the Work Group approved the unexpended FY2016 funds to be reallocated to project teams to reimburse those watershed districts that submitted funding requests in excess of \$15,000. N. Goral and H. Van Offelen will meet to finalize the fourth quarter expenses and reallocate unexpended FY2016 funds.

C) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Watershed Planning Meeting

A meeting has been scheduled following the September RRWMB meeting to further the discussion conducted at the June 7, 2016 meeting conducted in West Fargo, ND.

Representatives from the USACE, MDNR and NRCS will be in attendance to answer questions relating to the roles of a cooperating agency, concurrence points, EAW, and the watershed scoping process.

D) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. **Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group**, 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 17, 2016, Detroit Lakes, MN.
2. **Red River Basin Commission Ex-Officio Board Meeting**, 9:00 a.m., Thursday, September 1, 2016, Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead, MN.
3. **Joint Meeting of the RRWMB & FDRWG Public Information Committees**, Wednesday, September 21, 2016, Detroit Lakes, MN.
4. **RCPW Watershed Planning Meeting**, Tuesday, September 20, 2016, Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead, MN, following the RRWMB meeting.
5. **MAWD Annual Meeting & Trade Show**, December 1 – 3, 2016, Arrowwood Conference Center, Alexandria, MN.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

H. Van Offelen reported that he and C. Jarnot – USACE have met and discussed the Points of Concurrence (POC) process. A TAC meeting will be scheduled in either September or October to address the Cost-Benefit Analysis template.

Red River Basin Commission Report

J. Lewis, Executive Director – RRBC distributed the program for the 34th Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference scheduled for January 17-19, 2017 in Fargo, ND.

The RRBC partnered with Dr. Dan Svedarsky of the University of Minnesota – Crookston for the LCCMR final project report titled “Cattail Management in the Northern Great Plains.” Management techniques for cattails including energy use are included in the report.

District Reports

- The Red Lake WD reported on the progress of One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P). On July 20, 2016, the Red Lake River 1W1P was approved by the BWSR Policy Committee for a 60-day public review contingent upon final review by participating LGU staff. The review is now in final form and partners are taking steps as outlined by the State of Minnesota to begin the 60-day public comment period.
- The Wild Rice WD reported that preliminary calculations from the Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) completed for the Green Meadow Subwatershed indicated that approximately \$7 million dollars of benefits were identified. A hydraulic model for the subwatershed is being completed and plans are to schedule a Project Team meeting in either September or October.

District’s Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be at the Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead, MN on Tuesday, September 20, 2016, from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:10 p.m. following lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Deal
Secretary

Naomi L. Goral
Administrator