



**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**

**February 16, 2016**

**Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota**

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

In the absence of the President, Ben Kleinwachter-Vice President called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

LeRoy Carriere	Dan Money
LeRoy Ose	Daniel Wilkens
Greg Holmvik	Jerome Deal

Others present were:

- Naomi Goral, Administrator
- Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
- Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator
- Congressman Collin Peterson
- Danni Halvorson, Director – Education and Monitoring, IWI
- Rob Sip, Environmental Policy Specialist – MDA
- Kevin Ruud, Administrator – Wild Rice WD
- Tony Nordby, Engineer – Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Jim Ziegler, Regional Manager – MPCA
- Matt Fischer, Board Conservationist – BWSR
- Brian Dwight, Clean Water Specialist – BWSR
- Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering, Inc.
- Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator – USDA-NRCS
- Myron Jesme, Administrator – Red Lake WD
- Danny Omdahl, Administrator – Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Tracy Halstensgard, Administrator – Roseau River WD
- Carter Diesen, Manager – Roseau River WD
- Chad Engels, Engineer – Moore Engineering, Inc.
- Ron Adrian, Engineer – Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Blake Carlson, Engineer – WSN Engineering, Inc.
- Roger Hanson, Manager – Sand Hill River WD
- April Swenby, Administrative Assistant – Sand Hill River WD
- Allen Wold, Manager – Bois de Sioux 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 Deal to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Manager Ose, **Carried**.

The bills to be approved as of February 16, 2016 were as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
02/16/2016	7935	ACS	Phone line, Fax/Internet	\$153.06
02/16/2016	7936	Charles W. Fritz	Professional Services - 01-01 - 02-09	\$2,457.70
02/16/2016	7937	Courtyard by Marriott	Meeting Expense	\$311.36
02/16/2016	7938	HDR Engineering, Inc.	Invoice Nos. 473227 & 474110	\$4,181.45
02/16/2016	7939	Houston Engineering, Inc.	TAC - Inv. No. 28524	\$603.50
02/16/2016	7940	International Water Institute	CWL River Watch - MPCA Pay Req. No. 7 (Grant No. 63748)	\$39,625.00
02/16/2016	7941	Jon Schauer/Consulting Unlimited Inc.	Invoice No. 3502	\$1,620.00
02/16/2016	7942	Liberty Mutual Insurance Company	Bond Renewal	\$746.00
02/16/2016	7943	MCI	Long distance service	\$38.97
02/16/2016	7944	Moore Engineering, Inc.	Invoice No. 12080	\$1,128.45
02/16/2016	7945	Naomi Goral	Reimbursed Expenses	\$901.64
02/16/2016	7946	Ronald D. Harnack	Project Coordinator Exp. - February 2016	\$204.91
02/16/2016	7947	Smith Partners PLLP	Invoice No. 37665, January 2016	\$4,981.68
02/16/2016	7948	U.S. Geological Survey	Bill No. 90413220, Stream Gaging - Fiscal Year 2016	\$28,371.00
02/16/2016	7949	Virtual Systems	Invoice No. December 2016-22	\$105.00
02/16/2016	7950	Widseth Smith Nolting & Assoc., Inc.	Invoice No. 107675	\$362.50
02/16/2016	7959	Red Lake Watershed District	Project Team Reimbursement FY2016	\$3,310.06
02/16/2016	7960	Western National Insurance Group	Commercial Package Renewal	\$6,453.00
				<b>\$95,555.28</b>

**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.

**Public Information Committee**

Manager Deal reported that the Public Information Committee (PIC) met on February 11, 2016 at the Courtyard by Marriott, in Moorhead, MN. D. Selvig and A. Boe attended from AE2S and discussed ideas for the board's website redesign. A. Swenby participated for a portion of the meeting via telephone. A suggestion was made to update the individual board manager photos that are posted on the website. M. Jesme offered price comparisons for what it cost the Red Lake WD to obtain photos of their board managers.

**Motion** by Manager Deal **seconded** by Manager Kleinwachter to authorize arranging for professional photos of the Board of Managers for use on the website. Motion failed 6-1 with Manager Deal voting yes.

**Water Quality Project Monitoring**

D. Halvorson distributed the IWI Monitoring and Education Activity Report. The River of Dreams project activities began in December with a web application kick-off meeting and a meeting with the target schools (Marshall County Central, Red Lake County Central, Fertile, and Fisher).

Project materials have been delivered to the target schools and teachers have begun utilizing the materials with students. IWI staff held classroom mapping and watershed sessions in February and scheduled tentative canoe release dates in March and April. A total of 5 teachers and 107 students are expected to participate in this project in 2016.

### **Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)**

Congressman Peterson inquired about the progress relative to adopting the proposed amendment to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Red River Basin Watershed Feasibility Study (WFS) Project Management Plan (PMP).

N. Goral responded that at the January board meeting, the proposed amendment to the PMP of the WFS was discussed. Due to the increased workload associated with permit review for Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) projects, the USACE is lacking resources to meet the required regulatory staffing needs.

D. Thul stated that a short-term option to meet this demand would be to include a task in the PMP of the WFS which would provide funding for USACE staffing to adapt the concurrence point framework to the watershed planning approach. This option would involve amending the PMP by adding \$25,500 to the budget but could be very beneficial for those watershed districts completing the PL566 Small Watershed Protection Planning Process.

Following further discussion, it was suggested that the option to amend the PMP be contingent upon close coordination with the Minnesota portion of the joint MN/ND Advisory committee identified in the WFS including: D. Thul, R. Harnack, C. Anderson, J. Bents, D. Money, and also C. Fritz of IWI as a committee participant.

**Motion** by Manager Deal to amend the Red River Basin WFS PMP to provide funding for USACE staffing to adapt the concurrence point framework to the watershed planning approach by adding Coord-Fed task 2: 404 permitting Coordination, Budget: \$25,500; and to allow for close coordination with the Minnesota portion of the joint MN/ND Advisory committee identified in the WFS including: D. Thul, R. Harnack, C. Anderson, J. Bents, D. Money and C. Fritz, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

Congressman Peterson noted that significant effort was required to reauthorize the PL566 program. The key to success for the 22 projects in the process of completing the PL566 Small Watershed Protection Planning Process under RCP is for coordination between the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the USACE.

### **Project Coordinator Report**

R. Harnack distributed the Project Coordinator Report. A list of Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Bonding Initiatives for member watershed districts for FY2017-18 was distributed. The bonding funds needed for FDR projects in FY2017 is \$5,650,000, and in FY2018 is \$10,838,000.

A comprehensive list of State Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Funding and Funding Requests for 2016 and 2017 developed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Ecological & Water Resources Division was distributed.

### **Red River Basin Commission**

J. Goehring, South Basin Manager, RRBC referred to the 33rd Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference conducted on January 19-21, 2016 in Grand Forks, ND and thanked everyone who attended.

A report developed by the Environmental Quality Board was distributed which discussed climate change in Minnesota.

### **Administrator Report**

#### **A) Board Retreat**

N. Goral reported that as per previous board discussion, the board retreat has been scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to coincide with the 18<sup>th</sup> Joint Annual Conference. A meeting room has been reserved at the Courtyard by Marriott to accommodate the Board of Managers and following staff/consultants: N. Goral, D. Thul, R. Harnack and C. Fritz.

To assist with identifying specific tasks associated with appropriate staff / organizations, a handout was distributed of a task matrix developed by C. Fritz in coordination with R. Harnack and N. Goral.

#### **B) 18<sup>th</sup> Joint Annual Conference**

The Joint Annual Conference (March Conference) is scheduled for March 23-24, 2016 at the Courtyard by Marriott & Conference Center, Moorhead, MN.

N. Goral reported that the Planning Committee would like to encourage member watershed districts to develop poster displays or handouts again this year to highlight accomplishments they wish to share with conference participants.

#### **C) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences**

1. **River Watch Forum**, Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at the University of Minnesota - Crookston Campus. The March board meeting has been scheduled in conjunction with the forum. Chris Laveau – USGS is on the agenda and has offered to conduct an onsite demonstration for the board.
2. **18<sup>th</sup> Joint Annual Conference (March Conference)**, Wednesday, March 23, 2016 - Thursday, March 24, 2016, Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead, MN.
3. **MAWD Legislative Reception/Breakfast & Day at the Capitol**, Wednesday, March 30 and Thursday, March 31, 2016, Embassy Suites, 175 10<sup>th</sup> St. E, St. Paul, MN 55101. An updated handout of current legislators has been developed and will be emailed to watershed districts.

### **District Reports**

- The Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD reported that the Board of Managers met with DNR representatives on November 16, 2015. Information was distributed regarding opportunities for increasing flood damage reduction (FDR) benefits at the East Park Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The discussion identified a practical option for a future FDR project.

A landowner on the east side of the proposed project is willing to cooperate with the District to explore storage options on the property. The natural lay of the land, proximity to the Judicial Ditch No. 19 system and East Park WMA seem to allow for potential storage capabilities.

### **District's Funding Requests**

#### **1. Roseau River WD / Step III Extension Request / Roseau River Wildlife Management Area Project (RRWMA)**

T. Halstensgard reported that a funding advance for the Roseau Lake Bottom Project was approved at last month's meeting. While developing the Funding Agreement between the two parties, it was discovered that the District failed to comply with a previous funding advance from the Board for the RRWMA Project.

The terms of the funding advance for the RRWMA Project required the District to obtain Step III approval by November 19, 2013 but, unfortunately, they were unable to do so and did not apply for an extension. Therefore, the Roseau River WD requests an extension for Step III for the RRWMA Project until July 19, 2016 while they await final permit approval.

**Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize a Step III extension for the RRWMA Project until July 19, 2016, **Seconded** by Manager Holmvik, **Carried**.

**Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize the Funding Agreement in the amount of \$135,000 for the Roseau Lake Bottom Project, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

The next meeting has been scheduled to coincide with the River Watch Forum at UMC on Tuesday, March 15, 2016.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:00 p.m. following lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jerome Deal  
Secretary

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Naomi L. Goral  
Administrator