



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

March 15, 2016

University of Minnesota – Crookston campus, Crookston, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at the University of Minnesota - Crookston campus, Crookston, 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
Jerry Bents, Engineer - Houston Engineering, Inc.
Nate Dalager, Engineer - HDR Engineering, Inc.
Daron Selvig, Advanced Engineering & Environmental Services, Inc. (AE2S)
Julie Goehring, South Basin Manager – RRBC
Dan Weber, Asst. State Conservationist - USDA-NRCS
Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator – USDA-NRCS
Myron Jesme, Administrator – Red Lake WD
Danny Omdahl, Administrator – Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
Tom Athens, Attorney – Bois de Sioux WD
Linda Vavra, Manager – Bois de Sioux WD
Chad Engels, Engineer – Moore Engineering, Inc.
Ron Adrian, Engineer – Houston Engineering, Inc.
Blake Carlson, Engineer – WSN Engineering, Inc.
April Swenby, Administrative Assistant – Sand Hill River WD

Manager Finney requested adding Comprehensive Overall Watershed Plans to the agenda under *Other issues*.

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 Holmvik, **Carried**.

The bills to be approved as of March 15, 2016 were as follows:

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
03/15/2016	7961	ACS	Phone line, Fax/Internet	\$153.06
03/15/2016	7962	Adv. Engineering & Environmental Services	Public Information Consulting Services - Inv. No. 46826	\$1,456.83
03/15/2016	7963	Adv. Engineering & Environmental Services	Public Information Consulting Services - Inv. No. 47193	\$1,851.25
03/15/2016	7964	Charles W. Fritz	Professional Services - 02-12 - 03-15	\$2,547.86
03/15/2016	7965	Courtyard by Marriott	Meeting Expense	\$311.36
03/15/2016	7966	Houston Engineering, Inc.	TAC - Inv. Nos. 28833 & 28942	\$2,336.45
03/15/2016	7967	Marco Technologies LLC	Photocopier Maintenance - Invoice No. INV3165207	\$322.21
03/15/2016	7968	MCI	Long distance service	\$37.71
03/15/2016	7969	Moore Engineering, Inc.	Invoice No. 12273	\$935.00
03/15/2016	7970	Naomi Goral	Reimbursed Expenses	\$910.61
03/15/2016	7971	Ronald D. Harnack	Project Coordinator Exp. - March 2016	\$1,503.58
03/15/2016	7972	Roseau River Watershed District	Advance for Roseau Lake Bottom Project	\$135,000.00
03/15/2016	7973	Roseau River Watershed District	Project Team Reimbursement FY2016	\$15,000.00
03/15/2016	7974	Smith Partners PLLP	Invoice No. 37722, February 2016	\$3,636.20
03/15/2016	7975	Virtual Systems	Invoice No. February 2016-25	\$330.00
03/15/2016	7976	Widseth Smith Nolting & Assoc., Inc.	Invoice Nos. 108611-12	\$1,774.50
				\$168,106.62

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

Water Quality Project Monitoring

C. Fritz distributed the agenda for the 2016 Red River Basin River Watch Forum. An invitation was extended to RRWMB board members, staff and attendees for lunch in Brown Dining Hall. Following lunch, board managers were requested to view the River Watch poster displays in Bede Ballroom and vote on the *Manager's Choice Award*.

Public Information Initiative

D. Selvig reported on the upcoming Joint Annual Conference. The statewide *News & Views* radio show of Joel Heitkamp will be broadcasting live from the conference. Several board members and agency representatives have been invited to discuss issues on air.

A joint meeting of the RRWMB Public Information Committee and the Work Group's Communication Team was discussed. Following discussion, the board agreed to attempt to schedule the joint meeting immediately following the April board meeting rather than try to conduct it during the conference.

A. Swenby reviewed two options for consideration for updating the board's homepage of their website. The Public Information Committee (PIC) identified their preferred selection and recommended the board authorize A. Swenby to proceed with finalizing revisions to the website. D. Selvig noted that plans include posting the board's print version of their newsletter on the website as well. The board requested D. Selvig and A. Swenby to discuss further revisions to the website during the next regular monthly meeting with the entire board.

Red River Basin Commission

J. Goehring, South Basin Manager – RRBC referred to the Agricultural Engagement and Input Forums scheduled to discuss Nutrient Management Strategies for Agricultural Land in the Red River basin. The Upper Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource Board will be conducting a meeting on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 in Valley City, ND.

An update on the Natural Resources Framework Plan (NRFP) was also distributed.

Administrator Report

A) Governing Documents' Revisions

N. Goral reported that the revisions recommended by the Governing Documents Committee and approved by the Board of Managers are complete and have been forwarded to the printer for publication in a new three-ring binder. A hard copy format will be available to board managers and member districts, while others are encouraged to obtain this information on our website.

B) USACE Watershed Feasibility Study (WFS)

N. Goral discussed the proposed amendment to the Project Management Plan (PMP) of the USACE WFS authorized at the previous monthly meeting. The motion was contingent upon close coordination of the Minnesota portion of the joint MN/ND Advisory committee to adapt the concurrence point framework to the watershed planning approach. She explained that by requiring coordination of the Minnesota members of the joint MN/ND Advisory committee, the members appointed by the RRWMB will be incurring expenses on behalf of the board.

C) Board Retreat

N. Goral reported that the board retreat has been scheduled for March 22nd from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to coincide with the 18th Joint Annual Conference. A draft agenda was distributed.

D) 18th 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. The Planning Committee has encouraged member watershed districts to develop poster displays or handouts again this year to highlight accomplishments they wish to share with conference participants.

E) Member District Visits

N. Goral stated that she attended the Roseau River WD board meeting on Wednesday, March 2, 2016. The Roseau River Lake Bottom Project was discussed and the District executed the Funding Advance Agreement with the RRWMB.

F) 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. **18th 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 10th St. E, St. Paul, MN 55101. An updated handout of current legislators has been developed and will be emailed to watershed districts.

Project Coordinator Report

R. Harnack distributed the Project Coordinator Report. Bills have been introduced requesting \$26 million for Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant bonding initiatives.

Significant discussion has occurred related to clarification of the buffer legislation that passed last year. Sen. Rod Skoe and Rep. Paul Torkelson are addressing this issue in the legislature.

District Reports

- The Wild Rice WD reported that two ring dike applicants are ineligible to receive NRCS funding for improvements to their current dikes. The District is exploring other opportunities for funding assistance.

District's Funding Requests

1. Bois de Sioux WD / Funding Advance / Redpath Project

C. Engels discussed the status of land acquisition for the Redpath Project. The District has been negotiating with landowners that have property necessary for the development of the river restoration portion of the project. Nearly all property owners are willing to convey their land to the District for appraised value.

The District was awarded a Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) grant in 2014 in the amount of \$2,440,000. The grant allocated \$520,000 for land acquisition and \$1,920,000 for construction. The District had planned to use the grant for land acquisition, however, the LSOHC is unwilling to redistribute the allocation for the majority of funds to be used toward land acquisition.

C. Engels inquired about the RRWMB financial commitment to the project. N. Goral distributed a spreadsheet of the board's Project and Program Commitments as of February 29, 2016.

On November 18, 2008, a Step I submittal was approved with an estimated RRWMB commitment of \$2,175,000. On June 16, 2009 a \$1,000,000 commitment was reallocated from the North Ottawa Project along with an additional authorization of \$750,000 to provide match for state funds

for the project. A board commitment of \$3,925,000 (\$2,175,000 + \$1,000,000 + \$750,000) was estimated at this time.

On December 15, 2009, a Step II submittal was approved with a revised cost-share for the RRWMB of \$5,000,000. The cost-share approved in the Step II submittal was as follows: \$21,000,000 - State of Minnesota (75%); and \$5,000,000 – RRWMB and \$2,000,000 – BdSWD/local split for the remaining 25%.

C. Engels noted that due to additional information, the TAC may want to consider recalculating the Star Value for the project. Manager Money suggested the TAC meet to determine whether a revised Step II submittal is necessary. Manager Deal noted that following the recalculation of the Star Value, the District can decide whether the RRWMB commitment is sufficient to fund the remaining land acquisition or if a funding advance from the board would also be required in anticipation of state funds.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul reported that the USACE WFS is progressing with plans to develop a comprehensive plan utilizing the RRBC's Long Term Flood Solutions plan.

Thul added that his scheduled retirement date is July 6, 2016. Discussions are underway between the MDNR and the RRWMB relative to the Red River Coordinator position.

Other Issues

- Manager Finney reported that the Joe River WD is in the process of updating their Comprehensive Overall Watershed Plan. Further discussion relative to cost-share availability will be addressed at the next monthly meeting.

The next meeting will be on April 19, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:25 p.m. following lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Deal
Secretary

Naomi L. Goral
Administrator