



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
May 17, 2016
Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, May 17, 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 LeRoy Ose
 Daniel Wilkens Greg Holmvik
 Jerome Deal

Others present were: Naomi Goral, Administrator
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Kevin Ruud, Administrator – Wild Rice WD
Jerry Bents, Engineer – Houston Engineering, Inc.
Nate Dalager, Engineer – HDR Engineering, Inc.
Daron Selvig, Advanced Engineering & Environmental Services, Inc. (AE2S)
Rob Sip, Environmental Policy Specialist – MDA
Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering, Inc.
Myron Jesme, Administrator – Red Lake WD
Danny Omdahl, Administrator – Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
Allen Wold, Manager – Bois de Sioux WD
Chad Engels, Engineer – Moore Engineering, Inc.
Henry Van Offelen, Red River Basin Coordinator – MDNR
Blake Carlson, Engineer – WSN Engineering, Inc.
Roger Hanson, Manager – Sand Hill River WD
April Swenby, Administrative Assistant – Sand Hill River WD
Jim Ziegler, Regional Manager – MPCA
Tracy Halstengard, Administrator – Roseau River WD

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

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

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. **Motion** by Manager Ose to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

The bills to be approved as of May 17, 2016 were as follows:

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
05/17/2016	8019	ACS	Phone line, Fax/Internet	\$153.02
05/17/2016	8020	Adv. Engineering & Environmental Services	Public Information Consulting Services - Inv. No. 48102	\$2,892.00
05/17/2016	8021	Brandner Printing	Invoice No. 10843 - Business cards	\$79.45
05/17/2016	8022	Charles W. Fritz	Professional Services - 04-08 - 05-13	\$4,375.50
05/17/2016	8023	Fargo Rubber Stamp Works, Inc.	Name badge	\$17.64
05/17/2016	8024	Henry Van Offelen	Meeting Expense - 04/20/16	\$49.60
05/17/2016	8025	Houston Engineering, Inc.	TAC - Inv. No. 29605	\$988.44
05/17/2016	8026	International Water Institute	RRBFDRWG - Pay Req. No. 1 (FY16)	\$30,491.03
05/17/2016	8027	Marco Technologies LLC	Photocopier Maintenance - Invoice Nos. INV3099123, 3235051 & 3309148	\$966.63
05/17/2016	8028	MCI	Long distance service	\$39.71
05/17/2016	8029	Naomi Goral	Reimbursed Expenses	\$379.56
05/17/2016	8030	Ronald D. Harnack	Project Coordinator Exp. - May 2016	\$383.15
05/17/2016	8031	RTW, Inc.	Workers Comp. Ins. 07/20/16 - 07/20/17	\$821.00
05/17/2016	8032	Smith Partners PLLP	Invoice No. 37875, April 2016	\$1,677.77
05/17/2016	8033	Virtual Systems	Invoice No. April 2016-21	\$105.00
05/17/2016	8034	Widseth Smith Nolting & Assoc., Inc.	Invoice No. 109132	\$152.50
05/17/2016	8036	Red River Basin Commission	Local Government Share	\$75,000.00
				\$118,572.00

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

USACE Proposal to Provide Staffing for Coordinated Agency Review of RCPP Projects

Manager Finney referred to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) developed by the USACE to be entered into between member watershed districts and the USACE to provide for expedited permit evaluation for a prioritized list of projects. At the previous monthly meeting, the board requested member districts to discuss the MOA with their respective boards and develop recommendations for further consideration at the next RRWMB meeting.

Managers Carriere and Ose indicated that their boards were in favor of pursuing the MOA with the USACE. In the report distributed by R. Harnack, it stated that the USACE has assigned a person to focus on RCPP coordination efforts for the next 90 days. R. Harnack also suggested in his report that should the USACE demonstrate a concerted effort during the 90-day period, further consideration should be given to executing the MOA.

D. Thul reported that Chad Konickson has been named Regulatory Branch Chief at the USACE's district headquarters in St. Paul, MN. This position was formerly occupied by Tamara Cameron who was promoted to the Deputy Operations Chief position.

Public Information Initiative

D. Selvig reported that much of April and the first part of May were spent preparing material for, and the continued design of, the new RRWMB website. Newsletter articles including highlights of the 18th Joint Annual Conference and celebrating Wayne Goeken's accomplishments and contributions to River Watch over the past two decades have been developed. After the new website launches, electronic and print versions of the new e-newsletter will be distributed.

At last month's Joint Communications Meeting, a desire was expressed to draft general talking points regarding the mission of the RRWMB. These have been drafted and will be discussed further with the Public Information Committee.

At the Public Information Committee meeting this afternoon, discussion will occur regarding Congressman Peterson taking the Board up on its offer to tour a farmstead that has installed tiling. The tour has been scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, June 5. The Committee will discuss details of the tour and make final arrangements. **Motion** by Manager Money to authorize the board to sponsor the aforementioned bus tour, **Seconded** by Manager Ose, **Carried**.

Water Quality Project Monitoring

C. Fritz distributed the IWI Monitoring and Education Activity Report. Staff have been assisting River Watch teams with equipment issues and monitoring. Many of the teams began monitoring in early March.

IWI staff have been busy coordinating with Wilderness Inquiry staff in planning June paddle events on the Red Lake River. Full day events are scheduled for June 8th in Crookston, June 9th in Thief River Falls, June 10th in East Grand Forks, and a ½ day event on June 11th in East Grand Forks. These paddle events are open to the public.

Administrator Report

A) Women's Agricultural Leadership Event

N. Goral reported that discussion regarding the possibility of co-sponsoring a women's event in the Red River basin with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to focus on water management, water quality and environmental issues has occurred. Several of these events, which are often co-sponsored by non-governmental units and local units of government, have been conducted in southern parts of the state which were well-attended. A meeting has been scheduled for May 23, 2016 to discuss the merits of conducting such an event as well as identifying program goals and objectives.

B) Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

N. Goral explained that she's been in contact with the Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead regarding scheduling the *19th Joint Annual Conference* in 2017. Potential meeting dates include: Wednesday, March 22 – Thursday, March 23, 2017 (these dates are immediately following the March 21st RRWMB meeting), or Wednesday, March 29 – Thursday, March 30, 2017. Following board discussion, the board directed N. Goral to inquire with MAWD about upcoming legislative events in order to avoid scheduling conflicts.

C) Fargo-Moorhead Flood Risk Management Project Final EIS

N. Goral reported that the MDNR released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public review. J. Bents added that the board's TAC previously submitted comments on the EIS.

D) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. **Joint Meeting of the RRWMB & FDRWG Public Information Committees**, Tuesday, May 17, 2016 immediately following the board meeting.
2. **Planning Meeting for Proposed Women's Agricultural Leadership Event**, Monday, May 23, 2016, 1:00 p.m. at Ag Country Farm Credit Services, Ada, MN.
3. **House Committee on Agriculture/Subcommittee Bus Tour**, Sunday, June 5, 2016 departing from the Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead, MN. Time of departure tbd.
4. **Red River Basin Watershed Feasibility Study**, Tuesday, June 14, 2016, Houston Engineering, Inc. Fargo, ND.
5. **Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group**, June 21, 2016, TRF, MN, following the regular monthly RRWMB meeting.
6. **MAWD Summer Tour, Bluff Country on the Mississippi**, Wednesday, June 22 to Friday, June 24, 2016, Winona, MN.

Project Coordinator Report

In the absence of Ron Harnack, the Project Coordinator Report was distributed. The statewide Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Program includes bill requests in excess of \$20 million dollars. R. Harnack encouraged member watershed districts to contact their legislators and discuss the importance of including this appropriation in the bonding bill.

Discussion has occurred with L. Smith of Smith Partners regarding the development of a model buffer rule. Funding is available through BWSR to assist in the development of the rule, should the board decide to coordinate the effort. The buffer bill states that each county or watershed district must make a decision on assuming jurisdiction by March 2017.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

D. Thul reported that he participated in a meeting with the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD and MNDOT to further discuss replacing a highway bridge near Oslo. The Border Township Associative Group (BTAG) would prefer a 100-year floodway incorporated through the entire reach from Grand Forks to Drayton, however, MNDOT is considering replacing the bridge and providing a by-pass channel.

District Reports

- The Wild Rice WD reported that the District plans to contact landowners in the Goose Prairie project area for access to conduct wetland delineations. This determination will assist in identifying the number of acres that could be potentially impacted by the project.

District's Funding Requests

1. Roseau River WD / Step III Submittal / Roseau River Wildlife Management Area (RRWMA) Project

The information required for a Step III submittal was distributed. The Project covers an area of over 74,000 acres, including about 10,600 acres of shallow water in four pools. It is managed to provide both wildlife benefits and flood control. The purpose of the Project will be to provide reduced peak flows downstream on the Roseau River by better timing outflows from the RRWMA, and taking better advantage of the existing storage in Pool 2 and Pool 3.

The current estimated cost of the project is \$2,523,900 with the following cost-share requested: State of Minnesota \$1,892,925 (75%), RRWMB \$420,650 (2/3 of 25%) and RRWD \$210,325 (1/3 of 25%). **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to accept the Step III submittal to be acted on at the next regular monthly meeting, **Seconded** by Manager Ose, **Carried**.

Other Issues

- Manager Finney reported that the Joe River WD is in the process of updating their Comprehensive Overall Watershed Plan. The District is planning to proceed with the development of the plan update rather than wait for completion of the One Watershed, One Plan.

The next meeting will be on June 21, 2016, 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 12:05 p.m. following lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Deal
Secretary

Naomi L. Goral
Administrator