

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
March 9, 2000

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Vernon Johnson at 102 North Main Avenue, Thief River Falls, MN.

Present: Vernon Johnson, Dale M. Nelson, Leonard Moe,
Lowell Smeby, Dennis Nikolayson, Roger Love,
and George Dailey
Others present: Chuck Fritz, Administrator
Arlene Novak, Accounting/Secretary Tech. II
Sandy Radniecki, Secretary/Receptionist

The board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Love, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Arlene Novak read the minutes of February 23, 2000. A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Dailey, that the minutes be approved as changed. Motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed the Financial Report. A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Love, that the Financial Report dated March 8, 2000, be accepted for the record. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Fritz discussed a billing for repair work after the 1997 flood, which had been submitted through the NRCS for FEMA funds. The RLWD was notified that the funds were no longer available and Administrator Fritz requested action from the board on this matter. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Nikolayson, that the RLWD should transfer funds from the Administrative Construction fund to close out the Flood Damage Reduction Projects for 1997.

Administrator Fritz informed the board of a TIC forum in Thief River Falls on March 13; a board training put on by the NW MN Foundation on March 30 and 31; and the second annual early coordination conference on Flood Damage Reduction and Natural Resource Issues at the Northland Inn in Crookston on March 16 and 17 to discuss the mediation process, with work teams reporting on various projects. He also informed them of a Bois de Soux meeting to discuss RRWMB action.

Administrator Fritz informed the board that the Abundant Life Church Council had agreed to paying one-half of the assessment which was in question regarding the City of TRF Drainage Ditch Project. Following discussion, a motion was made by Moe, seconded by Love, that the RLWD would pay one-half of this assessment, in the amount of \$3,572.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Fritz reported on the meeting he attended with the Marshall County Commissioners on Tuesday, March 7.

A motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Dailey, that the RLWD pay the MN Association of Watershed Districts' dues for the year 2000, in the amount of \$2,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Arlene Novak informed the board that the federal allowable mileage rate was now 32.5 cents per mile..

Bids were opened for miscellaneous items for sale. One bid was received for the table. A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Nelson, that the board approve the bid of \$20.00 from Sandy Radniecki for the table. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Nikolayson, that the RLWD dispose of the computer, which is not in working order.

Administrator Fritz informed the board of a statement he received from JOR Engineering for the Parnell Operating Plan. A motion was made by Dailey, seconded by Love, that the RLWD should table payment of this statement and Administrator Fritz should contact Charlie Anderson to see what further charges will be incurred. Motion carried unanimously.

A letter from Esther Township, Polk County, was discussed by the board. It was the consensus of the board that, since this concern is not in the RLWD, the letter should be referred to the Middle River/Snake River WD.

Administrator Fritz informed the board that Monday, March 13, 2000, is Red River Basin Day at the Capitol. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Dailey, that Administrator Fritz should go to the capitol that day to encourage funding for projects in the RLWD. Motion carried unanimously.

At 10:00 a.m., Administrator Fritz called to order a final payment hearing for RLWD Project No. 82B, Emarville Erosion Site. He explained the hearing had been advertised and was being videotaped. Upon hearing no objections to final payment, the hearing adjourned at 10:02 a.m. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Dailey, that the board approve final payment to Wright Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$2,459.85. Motion carried unanimously.

Loren Sanderson, Engineering Assistant, presented the quotes he had obtained for property surveying. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the board to wait with any surveying on the Parnell Impoundment until the board adopts an Operating Plan and the appeal period is over.

Loren Sanderson gave level updates on the Moose River Impoundment and Agassiz Refuge. Cheryl Sistad, Marshall/Beltrami SWCD, was present to report on the revenue received by Beltrami County from timber harvest in the county.

A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Nelson, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the following permits: No. 00009* from Mark Naplin, Black River Township, Pennington County; and No. 00010* from Midcontinent Cable Systems of MN, Fisher Township, Polk County. *With conditions stated on permit.

The board discussed their meeting with the Middle River/Snake River WD.

Ryan Odenbach, Water Quality Coordinator, presented the following options for conservation strips that the work group had compiled: 1) the original program adopted by the board, with the contract period extended to 15 years; 2a) a flat rate of \$20.00 per acre per year; 2b) in combination with the NRCS/FSA, the landowner would receive additional incentive payments; 3) landowners would receive one lump sum from watershed district funding; and 4) use the watershed district program and obtain a permanent easement. A motion was made by Moe, seconded by Nelson to exclude option #4. Motion carried with Manager Nikolayson opposed.

Following further discussion, a motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Moe, that the RLWD adopt options 1, 2, and 3 to be considered for each conservation strip that is implemented. Motion carried unanimously.

Manager Love reported that the land, which may be available for the RLWD to purchase from Bob Ross in Section 26 of Parnell Township, is valued at \$300 to \$400 per acre. It was the consensus of the board that Loren Sanderson should determine how much water this area would hold if it were purchased for an impoundment.

Manager Johnson reported on the RRWMB meeting held at the RLWD on March 6, which was for prioritizing projects in the Red River Basin.

Delray Larson, Marshall County Commissioner, presented two letters from the ditch authorities (#11, 2, 20, 28, 33, and 46) in Marshall and Beltrami Counties. He stated he felt the settlement agreement between the RLWD and DNR was in violation of ditch code and asked to be notified of any movement to change the repair order for State Ditch 83.

Manager Smeby made a motion to move to executive session to discuss the source of funding for State Ditch 83 or lack of a source and also to hire an in-house engineer. It was the consensus of the board to include these as agenda items for the March 23, 2000 meeting. The board requested Arlene Novak to present figures from previous years as to what consultants have cost and also what previous in-house expenses have been.

A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Smeby, that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Signed

George Dailey, Secretary