

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
November 13, 2003

President Dale M. Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District office at 102 North Main Avenue, Thief River Falls, MN.

Present were Dale M. Nelson; Vernon Johnson; LeRoy Ose; Dennis Nikolayson; Lowell Smeby; Bob Proulx; and Orville Knott. Staff present were Myron Jesme, Arlene Novak, and Sandy Radniecki. Legal Counsel Delray Sparby was also present.

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda.

Arlene Novak read the minutes of October 23, 2003. A motion was made by Proulx, seconded by Smeby, that the Board approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Johnson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated November 12, 2003.

The following were in attendance to discuss the potential Polk County Ditch 19 Improvement Project: Kurt Deter, Rinke-Noonan; Randy Huelskamp, Polk County NRCS; Dave Jones, NRCS Regional Office; Sonja Johnson, NRCS State Office; Jody Beauchane, Polk County Ditch Inspector; Polk County Commissioners Warren Strandell and Gerald Jacobson; and several landowners in the affected area. Kurt Deter, representing Polk County, gave a brief history of the potential project. He explained why he felt it should be constructed under MN State Statute 103D.705, rather than under 103E. Following discussion, Mr. Deter stated he felt the next step would be to have the landowners withdraw the first petition, submit a new petition for the improvement to be constructed under 103D.705, and form a work group made up of representatives from the watershed district, NRCS, county, etc.

President Nelson recessed the meeting.

Upon reconvening, Administrator Jesme presented a list of requests from Mitch Doda and Don Doda, in addition to the previously offered \$750.00 per acre for flowage easements on the Parnell Impoundment Project. Each item was discussed, with Mitch Doda present to answer questions from the Board. It was the consensus of the Board that they will take these requests under advisement and make a determination at the next Board meeting.

Permits were reviewed by the Board. Manager Nikolayson had specific concerns about No. 03123 from the Nature Conservancy and wanted it noted in the minutes that the RLWD would approve this permit, contingent upon legal procedures have been followed to abandon the township road. A motion was made by Proulx, seconded by Nikolayson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the following permits: No. 03104*

rom Roger Hagen, Sullivan Township, Polk County; No. 03118* from Todd Evenson, Vineland Township, Polk County; 03119* from Steve Goodwin, Euclid Township, Polk County; No. 03120* from Michael Oedwich, Crookston Township, Polk County; No. 03121* from David Vathauer, Red Lake Falls Township, Red Lake County; No. 03122* from Nesbit Township, Polk County; No. 03123 from the Nature Conservancy, Polk County. *With conditions stated on permit.

The following permits were also reviewed:

- A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Proulx, and passed by unanimous vote to deny permit No. 03117 from Paul Novacek, Sullivan Township, Polk County;
- A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote to table permit No. 03110 from Brad Lunke, Holt Township, Marshall County.

Administrator Jesme explained that funding for the 2005 ring dike program was now available upon receipt of a signed grant resolution. Motion was made by Ose, seconded by Smeby, and passed by unanimous vote, that the Board approve the signing of the ring dike grant resolution for 2005, in the amount of \$15,000. (See attached resolution)

The Board discussed the NRE Grant Agreement for the Ten-Year Overall Plan. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Red Lake Watershed District is in a long-range planning process, and

WHEREAS, in that long-range planning process the Red Lake Watershed District need to do a Natural Resource Enhancement inventory/assessment, and

WHEREAS, this grant needs a local one-to-one match;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Red Lake Watershed District will sign this contract to be the fiscal agent for BWSR and MCEA to perform these duties and will provide the needed one-to-one match, in the amount of \$25,716.00;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, in conjunction with the MCEA, the Red Lake Watershed District will assist in providing the needed in-kind match through project team participation, board members, staff, and appointed citizens of the Red Lake Watershed District in the long-range planning process.

Administrator Jesme presented a handout on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and informed the Board that an informational meeting will be held at the Cedar Auditorium, Northland Community College, on November 20.

The Board discussed a request from the Highlanding Snowmobile Club for permission to construct and maintain a snowmobile trail within the right-of-way along the south spoil of the Red Lake River from the Highlanding Bridge to the Neptune Bridge. Administrator Jesme is to determine if the RLWD has the fee title for these properties. The Board will act on this request at a later meeting.

Corey Hanson, Water Quality Coordinator, discussed the wetland banking for Greenwood 27 and stated he was informed that title insurance was needed for this project. He stated he had discussed this issue with Legal Counsel Delray Sparby and, as a result, it was recommended by Legal Counsel Sparby that a Title Opinion would suffice. Following discussion, a motion was made by Nikolayson, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the procedure for obtaining a Title Opinion on the Greenwood 27 Project area.

The Board reviewed a letter from Gene Merriam, MN DNR Commissioner, regarding State Ditch 83. It was the consensus of the Board that Administrator Jesme should contact Brent Johnson, Houston Engineering, and get his opinion regarding this letter.

Administrator Jesme presented his update to the Board. In regard to the Lost River Erosion Project, the DNR is suggesting the use of J hooks versus the bend weir structure in the plan. Administrator Jesme is in contact Chad Konickson, DNR, regarding this issue.

Legal Counsel Delray Sparby presented his update to the Board. He discussed an issue concerning the maintenance of the Elm Lake structure. Administrator Jesme stated the RLWD has an agreement with Agder Township that is signed by the RLWD but has not been executed by Agder Township. Administrator Jesme will contact Agder Township to see if they accepted the Agreement that was signed by the RLWD in 1990.

A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Knott, that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

Signed
Dennis Nikolayson, Secretary