

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
October 9, 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; and Orville Knott. Staff present were Myron Jesme, Arlene Novak, and Sandy Radniecki. Legal Counsel Delray Sparby was also present. Bob Proulx was absent.

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

Brent Johnson, Houston Engineering, requested to appear before the board regarding the State Ditch 83 Petition.

Arlene Novak read the minutes of September 25, 2003. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Smeby, that the board approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed the Financial Report. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the Financial Report dated October 8, 2003.

Brian Dwight, Board of Water and Soil Resources, and Henry VanOffelen from the MN Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA), were present to explain the NRE (Natural Resource Enhancement) aspect of the Ten Year Overall Plan. Brian stated they would be identifying areas within the watershed district that are potentially successful NRE areas. He requested that the RLWD consider being the fiscal agent for the grant monies that will be received from the Board of Water and Soil Resources to perform the NRE. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD be the fiscal agent in administering the grant monies, in the amount of \$25,716.00, which will be appropriated to the MCEA.

Brian Dwight stated he should be receiving word from the Governor's office as to whether or not Project 60 was chosen as the pilot project under the Clean Water Act.

Mr. Dwight also stated that he and Jodi Horntvedt have compiled a 'draft' training session program for watershed districts, SWCDs, county commissioners and anyone who might be involved in sound water management.

Administrator Jesme presented a letter from Gene Merriam, MN DNR Commissioner, regarding Badger Creek.

Manager Nikolayson excused himself from the meeting.

Corey Hanson, Water Quality Coordinator, presented an update to the board regarding the Small Cities Stormwater Project grant application. This project includes the cities of Bagley, Clearbrook, and Gonvick. Following his presentation, a motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Smeby, and passed by unanimous vote that President Nelson be authorized to sign the resolution for the grant application, and upon recommendation by Legal Counsel Delray Sparby, that the resolution should state the RLWD would not be responsible should the grant be denied.

Corey Hanson also presented a Work Plan for the Clearwater River/Walker Brook TMDL Project.

Permits were reviewed by the board. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the board approve the following permits: No. 03095 from Ron Reitmeier, Fanny Township, Polk County; No. 03105\* from Steve Goodwin, Keystone Township, Polk County; No. 03106\* from Parnell Township, Polk County; and No. 03107\* from Wendell Teigland, Goodridge Township, Pennington County. \*With conditions stated on permit.

The following permits were also reviewed by the board:

- A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Johnson, and passed by unanimous vote that the RLWD deny permit No. 03090 from Leon Iverson, Goodridge Township, Pennington County.
- A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote to approve permit No. 01155 from the City of Goodridge, Pennington County, with specific conditions stated on permit.
- A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote to approve permit No. 03093 from Joseph Garry, Belgium Township, Polk County.

The MN Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) annual meeting on December 4, 5, and 6 was discussed by the board. Administrator Jesme and Managers Nikolayson and Ose plan to attend the MAWD annual meeting.

Administrator Jesme presented his update to the board. Discussion was held regarding the emergency repair of Seeger Dam. It was the consensus of the board that Administrator Jesme should contact the Red River Watershed Management Board for possible cost sharing on this repair.

Land acquisition for the Parnell Operating Plan was discussed. The board authorized Administrator Jesme to offer \$750.00 per acre to Mitch Doda and Don Doda for flowage easements for the operation of Parnell Impoundment.

Legal Counsel Sparby presented his update to the board.

The board discussed the burning of brush piles on Moose River Impoundment. Two quotes, in the amount of \$5,500 from Holthusen Construction and \$4,500 from Jerry Rychlock were received by the RLWD. A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Ose, that the RLWD accept the low quote of \$4,500.00 from Jerry Rychlock to burn the brush piles on Moose River Impoundment. Motion carried.

Brent Johnson, Houston Engineering, appeared before the board to discuss the petition for State Ditch 83 repair. He compared the current petition to the petition previously received by the RLWD. Brent presented cost estimates for different engineering options and requested the board's direction on if and how to proceed. A motion was made by Smeby, seconded by Knott, that Houston Engineering should proceed with the engineering on the State Ditch 83 Petition, not to exceed the base price of \$15,206.00 and excluding the final engineer's report. Motion carried with Managers Johnson and Ose voting naye.

The board met in executive session for the purpose of conducting Administrator Jesme's six-month performance evaluation.

General discussion was held regarding Administrator Jesme's work performance. The board agreed unanimously to increase Administrator Jesme's annual salary by \$2,000.00, effective October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003, which was previously agreed upon at the time of Administrator Jesme's acceptance of the position.

A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Knott, and passed by unanimous vote that the meeting adjourn.

Signed  
Dennis Nikolayson, Secretary