

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
April 9, 2009

Present were: Managers Gene Tiedemann, Lee Coe, Jim Votava, Orville Knott, and LeRoy Ose. Absent: Dale M. Nelson and Kelly Nordlund. Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Arlene Novak and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby.

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

Arlene Novak read the minutes of March 12, 2009 and April 7, 2009. A motion was made by Votava, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the minutes as corrected.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated April 8, 2009. A motion was made by Knott, seconded by Votava, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated April 8, 2009.

Staff member Loren Sanderson distributed an updated sheet on storage of the RLWD Impoundments and reviewed each site with the board. Loren stated that their annual meeting with Thief Lake and Agassiz will be scheduled for later this month.

Administrator Jesme stated that on March 30, the RLWD rented a steamer/power washer from Marshall County to unthaw the outlet structure gate on the Brandt Impoundment. He stated that in the future, the gate will have to be left open for the winter and close it in the spring. He also stated that on April 1, he and staff member Loren Sanderson, along with Minnesota DNR Commissioner Mark Holsten, DNR Director of Waters Kent Lokkesmoe and other DNR staff partook in a tour of various flood projects in Crookston that have been completed or will be completed, visited the Brandt and Euclid East Impoundment sites while they are in full operation, and onto East Grand Forks to view the massive flood control project in their City.

Merle Kolstad, Erskine, appeared before the Board to address a drainage problem on his property. After hearing Mr. Kolstad's concerns, the Board informed him that they did not have jurisdiction as his problems were generated from a non legal ditch system. The Board directed Mr. Kolstad to check with other agencies to help him or research getting into some programs such as Reinvest in Minnesota.

Staff member Corey Hanson presented a proposal for the continuation of the grant and funding of the monitoring of the RRWMB SWAG Grant. A motion by Coe, seconded by Votava, to accept the proposal for the continuation of the grant and approve the signature on the grant. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that on April 2, 2009, he and manager Tiedemann attended a hearing held by the Polk County Board of Commissioners, at Youngquist Auditorium, Crookston Minnesota. The hearing was held to address a petition from the Red Lake Watershed District which requested that the Polk County Board of

Commissioners initiate a transfer of the remaining branches of a legal drainage ditches within the Polk County Ditch #53 system referred to as Polk County Ditch 53 Branch #1, Polk County Ditch #108 and Polk County Ditch 53 Branch #2, to the Red Lake Watershed District as described in MN Statutes 103D.625 Subdivision 1 (a).

Jesme indicated that approximately 10 landowners were in attendance at the hearing. Following the presentation of information on the laterals and questions answered from those in attendance, Polk County Board of Commissioners approved the transfer of the three branches to the Red Lake Watershed District which will be combined with the existing RLWD Ditch 12 system.

Every year as part of BWSR's Plan to confirm that the RLWD is in compliance with the Buffer Strip Program along RLWD ditches, the RLWD is required to submit an annual report. Administrator Jesme indicated the annual report was filed recently and the RLWD is in compliance. Manager Coe addressed the concerns from the Advisory Committee on the buffer strip policy.

The 2008 Annual Report was distributed to the Board. The Managers were asked to review and bring changes/additions to or prior to the next Board meeting.

Administrator Jesme questioned the Board on funding of future ring dikes given the State funding shortfall. Jesme's request was that the Red Lake Watershed District would agree to a concept to modify the existing ring dike funding program thus allowing the continuation of the program should the State discontinue their funding. Although there is some fear that new funding will not be available, under the current State proposal, the RLWD has been allocated funding from the State of Minnesota for the construction of one ring dike. Presently the District has upwards of three additional requests to construct new dikes and various requests for modifications/repairs to current dikes. The consensus of the Board was to leave the funding allocation as it is now and to see if there will be additional State funding allocated for ring dikes, unless the landowner wishes to pay the State's cost share along with their cost share.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. A motion was made by Votava, seconded by Ose, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 09014, A.W.G. Farms, Inc., Lowell Township; No. 09016, Garden Valley Telephone Company, various townships, Polk and Pennington Counties; and No. 09018, Polk County Highway Department, Columbia Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on RLWD Permit No. 09015, Clarence Tadych, Maple Ridge Township, Beltrami County. A motion was made by Coe, seconded by Knott, to table the permit until further information is received relative to the permit. Motion carried.

In addition to the written Administrator's update and items already discussed, Administrator Jesme added that the last few days he has been working with landowners for signup in the Reinvest in Minnesota/CRP program for the Grand Marais Outlet Restoration Project. He reviewed with the Board, the map of the landowners showing those who have signed up.

Staff member Corey Hanson's monthly water quality report is included in the packets today.

Legal Counsel Delray Sparby updated the Board on the Hagen easement purchase stating that the land has been transferred.

The consensus of the Managers is to organize a tour for the Advisory Committee members to view RLWD projects/impoundment once crops have been seeded this spring.

Motion by Knott, seconded by Coe, with motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Orville Knott". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

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Orville Knott, Secretary