

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
December 28, 2017

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

Present were: Managers Dale M. Nelson, Terry Sorenson, Allan Page, LeRoy Ose, and Gene Tiedemann. Absent: Les Torgerson and Brian Dwight. Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel Sparby.

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Page, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the December 14, 2017 minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the December 14, 2017 Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated December 27, 2017. Motion by Page, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the Financial Report dated December 27, 2017 as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Investment Summary as of December 27, 2017. Staff member Arlene Novak stated that a Certificate of Deposit will mature on January 4, 2018 through Unity Bank-CDARS program. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to invest the Certificate of Deposit that will mature on January 4, 2018 with Unity Bank-CDARS program for a 6-month term at 1.25%. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the General Fund budget as of December 27, 2017.

Staff member Arlene Novak reviewed the 2017 General Fund Budget as of December 27, 2017. Novak stated that payroll and any outstanding bills prior to year-end will be paid and are yet to be reflected in the balances. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to accept the 2017 General Fund Budget as of December 27, 2017 as presented. Motion carried.

Novak reviewed the proposed Capital Project Fund Transfers as of December 27, 2017. After discussion by the Board, motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve the Capital Project Fund Transfers as of December 27, 2017, as proposed, with adjustments to be made following final payroll and payments of the year, and year end interest allocation. Motion carried.

Novak reviewed the 2017 League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust Property/Casualty Dividend Report, noting that the \$385 dividend the District received is listed in the Financial Report, which goes into the General Fund Miscellaneous Revenue Account.

Novak stated that as of January 1, 2018 the Federal Allowable Mileage rate increases to 54.5 cents.

The Board reviewed a resolution passed by the Clearwater County Commissioners to withdraw the letter dated July 22, 2105, objecting to the abandonment of Judicial Ditch No. 5; and a resolution from the Dudley Township Board in support of the Petition for Abandonment of Judicial Ditch 5. The Dudley Township Resolution states that the township will continue to maintain culverts that pass under Dudley Township roads, including the periodic eradication of beavers and beaver dams from in and around those culverts. Legal Counsel Sparby discussed the abandonment hearing, further stating that since the hearing is closed he did not think it was proper to consider additional information being presented outside of the hearing process. Administrator Jesme stated that we have a landowner that wishes to be removed from the abandonment petition. Jesme stated that he requested Dudley Township's attendance at a District Board meeting regarding lowering of the pipe in the township road. The Board reviewed correspondence from Manager Torgerson dated December 22, 2017.

Theresa Ebbenga, MnDNR, and Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc. appeared before the Board to discuss the process of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Four Legged Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 102A. Ebbenga stated the completion of the Environmental Assessment, would develop different alternatives, which helps the decision makers of a project make that decision. MnDNR Wildlife and Small Lakes Program both recommend the maximum elevation of Four Legged Lake at 1425, as the preferred number. Ebbenga discussed the Environmental Assessment matrix, which allows everyone to see the different alternatives and the effects of the alternatives. MnDNR would go through the MnDNR-Public Waters to decide the appropriate water level of the basins. Discussion was held on why the MnDNR did nothing when the culvert was raised, and DNR wildlife noticed water levels rose? MnDNR-Wildlife would put together a project plan for this basin, work with the area hydrologist to look at the hydrology to determine what was done illegally and how they can rectify the situation for wildlife benefits. The MnDNR would go through the process of a project plan and work with the landowners, county and the District. The NRCS PL566 Program and Environmental Assessment (EA) is a federal process that falls under the National Environmental Policy Act. Dalager stated that completion of the EA was always part of the Four Legged Lake project plan, but in trying to agree upon water elevations, the process has taken longer. Dalager discussed his concern that we may be expecting too much from the EA in terms of determining a preferred alternative. The EA is based on available GIS data, and it may or may not clearly indicate the best alternative. Dalager stated that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) may look at more detail. Ebbenga discussed information that will be used to complete the EA, which will give the opportunity to bring in other public available data and public input.

Nate Dalager stated that the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) is being reviewed by the EA committee for the Pine Lake Area Project, RLWD Project No. 26. A preferred alternative should come out of the EA process to move forward with a project, if the Board chooses to do so.

Nate Dalager stated that he has been working on the design for the Little Pine Lake Wildlife Management Area outlet structure, which is also known as Site "F" of the Pine Lake Area Project, RLWD Project No. 26. By replacing the outlet structure, the District will receive a two-foot wedge for Flood Damage Reduction. Dalager stated that construction would begin as soon as spring conditions allow.

Administrator Jesme stated that the land rental agreement with Craig Stroot on the Parnell Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 81, expires December 31, 2017. The current land rental agreement was for 107 acres; the renter was able to increase the acreage to 144.73 acres. Jesme indicated that the current rental rate is \$30.00 per acre. The renter is requesting a three-year contract extension. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve a three-year contract extension until December 31, 2020 with Craig Stroot for 144.73 acres at \$30.00 per acre for land within the Parnell Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 81. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed correspondence from BWSR regarding the initial comments on the draft Buffer Ordinance for Koochiching County.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 17176, Digi Key/Widseth Smith Nolting, North Township, Pennington County. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a Request for Proposals from the RRWMB for the provision of office and associated spaces for the RRWMB that was submitted to the District and the Wild Rice and Sand Hill Watershed Districts. Proposals are due to the RRWMB on February 1, 2018.

#### Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Manager Ose attended the RRWMB in Ada on December 19<sup>th</sup>. The next RRWMB meeting will be held at the District office on January 16<sup>th</sup>.
- A Planning Committee teleconference for the Thief River 1W1P was held December 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss the upcoming public informational meetings on January 9<sup>th</sup> in TRF and January 10<sup>th</sup> in Grygla.
- A Planning Committee meeting for the Thief River 1W1P will be held on January 4 at the Pennington SWCD office. This meeting is a result of the approved Clean Water funding from BWSR which will be coming soon. The Planning Committee will address the Work Plan to be presented for approval by the Policy Committee.
- There will be a JD 72 Joint Board meeting at the regular Polk County Board meeting on January 2, 2018. The main agenda item will have to do with the possible consolidation of various ditches that overlap drainage areas.
- There will be a Thief River Westside Flood Damage Reduction meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the District office with staff, Pennington County, City of Thief River Falls, MnDOT and HDR. The meeting is intended to get input from MnDOT as they proceed

with the design and construction as well as timeline for their project in and around the west side of the City of TRF.

Manager Sorenson inquired on the status of the Darrell Dolalie drainage issue located in Pine Lake Township, Clearwater County. Administrator Jesme stated that he had spoken to Pine Lake Township, informing them they have the authority to proceed with the cleaning. Pine Lake Township is a concerned about staying within the right-of-way to complete the cleaning.

Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "LeRoy Ose". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the text.

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LeRoy Ose, Secretary