

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
June 8, 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, Allan Page, Gene Tiedemann, LeRoy Ose, Les Torgerson, Absent: Terry Sorenson and Brian Dwight. Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel Delray 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.

Motion by Page, seconded by Torgerson, to dispense reading of the May 25, 2017 Board meeting minutes and approve them as printed. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report and Investment Summary dated June 7, 2017. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Torgerson, to approve the Financial Report and Investment Summary dated June 7, 2017. Motion carried.

Bryan Malone, Pennington SWCD, introduced Alicia Loecker, MN Conservation Corps who will be interning with the SWCD for the summer. Malone stated that the streambank stabilization project on the Thief River Falls Golf Club Green #5 was recently completed; construction was delayed due to the lack of receiving a BWSR grant. The District previously approved a \$12,500 cost share with the Pennington SWCD from the District's 2015 Erosion Control Funds, RLWD Project No. 164.

The Board reviewed correspondence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), requesting the District to partner with the USFWS, on a grant application for potential wetland restoration in the Thief River Watershed and other various locations throughout the District. The grant application could require a small match from the District. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the submittal of a grant application with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for wetland restoration in the Thief River Watershed and other various locations throughout the District. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that he was informed that the Black River Impoundment Project, RLWD Project No. 176 did not receive a Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant through the MnDNR. Funding for the project will be from the RRWMB and the District. Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., stated that he met with Administrator Jesme and Legal Counsel Sparby to work on the required landowner easements. Staff from Houston Engineering surveyed the section corners and are working on the completion of the legal descriptions, modeling of the ditches, and sizing of culverts. Nordby stated, that meetings with the landowners will be held once the design is complete, and right-of-way numbers are available. Discussion was held on the possible redetermination of benefits of ditch systems that are within the project area.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 2-Final to Davidson Construction Inc. for repairs to the Erskine Memorial Park, RLWD Project No. 164 in the amount of \$17,310.00. Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve Pay Estimate No. 2-Final in the amount of \$17,310.00 to Davidson Construction Inc. for the Erskine Memorial Park, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion carried.

Administration Jesme stated that the Planning Group for the Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149, met to gather prioritization areas for future projects. A Policy Committee meeting will be scheduled to proceed with moving forward with the grant application process.

Discussion was held on the jurisdiction and riparian aid for implementation of the buffer strip program. Administrator Jesme stated that a meeting will be held at the Pennington County Highway Department on June 13, 2017, to better understand the next steps and timing with compliance and enforcement of the Buffer Law. Jesme stated that the District needs to submit a breakdown of how many miles of ditches that the District has jurisdiction over by June 14th. By June 28th, the District will have to submit notice to BWSR, if the District intends to take enforcement of the Buffer Law for public drainage systems for which we have jurisdiction. Recent legislation was approved, for funding to Watershed Districts and Counties who take enforcement authority of the Buffer Law.

Manager Page stated that the Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement, RLWD Project No. 159, is applying for a \$12,500 grant application through the NW MN Foundation Grant to assist in public information. Matching funds are required for the grant application. Motion by Page, seconded by Ose, to commit \$500 per year, for two years, to assist with a publication information grant through the Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement Project, RLWD Project No. 159. Motion carried.

Legal Counsel Delray Sparby reviewed his recommended changes to the RRWMB Strategic Planning proposal. Motion by Ose, seconded by Torgerson, to approve the RRWMB Strategic Planning proposal with the recommended changes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed correspondence from Minnkota Power Cooperative regarding line maintenance as well as blink mitigation in Section 3 and 4, Parnell Township, Polk County; which is near the Parnell Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 81.

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. 17008, Danny Payment, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; No. 17053 and 17054, Richard Pletschett, Pine Lake Township, Clearwater County; No. 17059, Fred Barret, Grand Forks Township, Polk County; No. 17060, John Barrett, Sullivan Township, Polk County; No. 17061, Fred Barrett, Huntsville Township, Polk County; No. 17062, Thriving Life Church, Knute Township, Polk County; No. 17063, John Barrett, Grand Forks Township, Polk County; and No. 17064, Emardville Township, Red Lake County. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that, when presenting the 2016 Annual Report to the Polk County Commissioners, landowner Mary Ann Simmons volunteered to serve on the District's Advisory

Committee representing the Burnham Creek area. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Torgerson, to approve the appointment of Mary Ann Simmons to the District's Advisory Committee, representing the Burnham Creek area. Motion carried.

Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Manager Torgerson presented the 2016 Annual Report to the Clearwater County Commissioners on May 30th. Jesme and Manager Sorenson attended the Polk County Commissioners meeting on June 6th, followed by the Marshall County meeting with Manager Ose. Jesme and Manager Dwight will attend the Beltrami County Commissioner's meeting on June 20th.
- A tentative date for the JD 72 landowner meeting is scheduled for June 29th in McIntosh.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., stated that a meeting will be held on June 16th regarding the long term drainage issues on the west side of the City of Thief River Falls.

Legal Counsel Sparby recommended that a motion by should made authorizing Administrator Jesme to submit the miles of public drainage ditches to BWSR that the District has jurisdiction over. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to authorize Administrator Jesme to submit, to BWSR, the miles of public drainage ditches under the jurisdiction of the District. Motion carried.

Manager Page discussed the replacement of a crossing along a Red Lake County road for a permit that the District authorized. Page indicated that landowner is not satisfied with the work that was completed and would like it repaired to his satisfaction. After discussion by the Board, it was the consensus of the Board, that if the crossing does not meet the approval of the District, a letter should be submitted to the road authority to assure our permit guidelines are adhered to.

Administrator Jesme informed the Board, that staff member Nick Olson, resigned from the District effective June 9, 2017. Jesme stated that he met with Mr. Olson, and performed an exit interview. Motion by Page, seconded by Torgerson, to accept the resignation of staff member Nick Olson, effective June 9, 2017.

Administrator Jesme discussed posting for the open position vacated by Mr. Olson. Jesme has posted the application on college websites, and discussed the costs of advertising. Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Ose, to authorize Administrator Jesme, to post the position for a Technician II/Ditch Inspector in the local paper and others sources he deems necessary to fill the position.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary