

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

The Board reviewed the agenda. Manager Torgerson requested the addition of changing the date of the November 23, 2017 Board meeting. Administrator Jesme requested the addition of the Thief River Falls West Side Flood Damage Reduction Project. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Page, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda with the addition of changing the date of the November 23, 2017 Board meeting and the West Side Drainage. Motion carried.

Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Torgerson, to dispense reading of the September 14, 2017 Board meeting minutes and approve them as printed. Motion carried.

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

Staff member Arlene Novak stated that Certificates of Deposit will expire on September 29, 2017 and September 30, 2017. Novak received a quote from Ultima Bank, to renew the Certificate of Deposit for 12 months at 1.00% interest; and recommended soliciting quotes to purchase a new Certificate of Deposit that will mature with Edward Jones. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Dwight, to authorize staff to renew the Certificate of Deposit with Ultima Bank for 12 months at 1.00 percent, and cash in the maturing Certificate of Deposit with Edward Jones and solicit quotes for purchase of an additional Certificate Deposit. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 1 in the amount of \$75,465.00 for Gerit Hanson Contracting, Inc., for construction on the Blackduck Lake Outlet Repair and Fish Passage, RLWD Project No. 50E. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Ose, to approve Pay Estimate No. 1 for Gerit Hanson Contracting, Inc. for the Blackduck Lake Outlet Repair and Fish Passage, RLWD Project No. 50E in the amount of \$75,465.00. Motion carried.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., discussed downsizing the design of the inlet ditches of the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176, to lower the project costs. Nordby stated that by reducing the size of the ditch, it would require less right-of-way, along with removal of some rock structures, which would decrease the cost of the project slightly. Nordby indicated that they are still modeling the system to determine what design the diversion ditches would be. Administrator Jesme stated that he has been in contact with MnDNR staff in regard to the chance of future bonding for Flood Damage Reduction projects. Jesme indicated that at this point it appears to be an uphill battle for funding this legislative session. Discussion

was held on the increased cost of adding the additional drainage area. Nordby questioned the Board as to, what should be submitted to the RRWMB for a Step 2 Funding submittal, a 10 year ditch design, or a lessor design? Discussion was held on the Star Value funding process used by the RRWMB and estimated engineering expenses. Nordby estimated that 50% of the engineering is complete on the project. It was the consensus of the Board, to authorize Nordby to proceed with a Step 2 funding submittal to the RRWMB with a 10 year design for the diversion ditches, with the assumption of State FDR funding. Administrator Jesme and Manager Ose will have a discussion with the RRWMB in regard to the apparent lack of State bonding dollars. Jesme indicated that a meeting with members of the Black River Church will be held on October 10th. The Wetland Delineation Report will be completed next week, to allow for continued discussion with permitting agencies. Manager Dwight discussed wetland banking options.

The Board reviewed correspondence from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) dated September 15, 2017, in regard to lowering the outlet culvert of Judicial Ditch No. 5, RLWD Project No. 102 to an elevation of 1423.8, to allow the District to make repairs to the ditch system. Administrator Jesme indicated that the District would contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to inform them of the Board decision, prior to lowering the outlet culvert, due to the possibility of a permit required for placement of fill. Legal Counsel Sparby stated that by lowering the culvert, the ditch would be back to the original ditch design. Once the repairs are complete, the District could still consider a Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) project and replace the outlet structure with an operable structure. Discussion was held on maintenance of the existing system being the responsibility of the District. Legal Counsel Sparby recommended sending notice to all landowners regarding the lowering of the outlet culvert.

Administrator Jesme stated that District staff will be gathering right-of-way information for the redetermination of benefits of Judicial Ditch 72, RLWD Project No. 41. Polk County staff will also assist with the process. Jesme discussed the lack of road access to several of the laterals within the ditch system, and the need for a land description to obtain right-of-way. Legal Counsel Sparby suggested a satellite map attached with a simple legal land description for documentation of the acquired right of way.

President Nelson welcomed new Staff Members, Brady Stanley and Christina Slowinski, to the District. Staff member Loren Sanderson stated that he toured the western impoundments sites with Stanley and Slowinski, and will complete the remaining projects as time permits.

The Board reviewed correspondence from the MnDNR, regarding a FEMA mapping meeting for Red Lake County on October 26, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Falls City Hall.

The Board reviewed correspondence from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission regarding public hearings for the Enbridge Energy Line 3 Replacement Project.

Staff member Loren Sanderson discussed his concerns with a potential culvert installation request in relation to RLWD Permit No. 17116, Michael Gasper, Euclid Township, Polk County. Sanderson discussed the existing surface drainage flow patterns and existing culverts. The request for drainage would be to outlet water into a separate benefitted area, to which the current

land does not pay assessments. It was the consensus of the Board that the landowner would have to petition into the system first to consider allowing installation of the proposed culvert.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Ose, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 17127, Howard Applequist, Onstad Township, Polk County; No. 17132, Chelsey Liemsand, Eckvoll Township, Marshall County; No. 17135, Robert Umphrey, Grove Park Township, Polk County; No. 17136, Bob Proulx, Black River Township, Pennington County; No. 17137, Pennington County Highway Department, Wyandotte Township, Pennington County; and No. 17138, Michael Gasper, Louisville Township, Red Lake County. Motion carried.

Manager Torgerson indicated that the November 23, 2017, Board meeting date falls on Thanksgiving Day. Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Ose, to change the November 23, 2017 Board meeting to November 20, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the District office. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the purchase of iPads for the Board members to be used for District Board meeting. Administrator Jesme and Staff member Tammy Audette updated the Board on information received in the purchase of iPads or Microsoft Surface Pro. It was the consensus of the Board, to authorize staff to obtain quotes for the purchase of Microsoft Surface Pro for the Board members' use.

Administrator Jesme requested the purchase of office furniture for Staff member Christina Slowinki's office. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to approve the purchase of office furniture as requested. Motion carried.

Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Manager Ose attended the RRWMB meeting on September 19th. The RRWMB agreed to fund \$25,000, contingent upon the match from North Dakota, for the International Water Institute to maintain the LiDAR Viewer. Deadline for the Executive Director position is September 29, 2017.
- Jesme participated in the interview process for the MAWD Executive Director position on September 15th at the Capital Region Watershed District located in St. Paul.
- Jesme, Managers Torgerson, Page and Sorenson, along with District staff members attended the Clearwater River Open House on September 25th in Red Lake Falls.
- Jesme participated in a Red Lake River 1W1P Planning Group meeting to further discuss project ideas in preparation for potential funding through BWSR.
- All signatures were received for the petition for establishment of RLWD Ditch 16. Pribula Engineering has completed the preliminary survey and will be working on the Preliminary Engineer's report for a potential hearing in late January.
- The Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement will meet in the District office on September 29th at 11:00 a.m.

Manager Torgerson complimented the design and information on the brochure for the Clearwater River Open House.

Manager Dwight questioned how many applications were received for the RRWMB Executive Director position. Manager Ose stated that to his knowledge, six applications had been received to date.

Administrator Jesme and Legal Counsel Sparby stated that the City of Thief River Falls and Pennington County have approved a petition to investigate a potential project on the west side of Thief River Falls to provide flood damage reduction benefits and protection. Sparby stated that a bond is not required since it is a governmental entity requesting the project. If the project would not proceed, expenses would be the responsibility of the petitioners. Discussion was held on how a flood damage reduction project would relate to legal ditch systems currently in place. Discussion was held on the potential cost savings to the project, due to the Minnesota Department of Transportation assistance in culvert replacements scheduled for 2020. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to accept the petition from the City of Thief River Falls and Pennington County for the Thief River Falls West Side Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178, and appoint HDR Engineering, Inc., as the engineering firm for the project. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that he had a conversation with BWSR employee, Tom Gile, who indicated that most watersheds have taken enforcement of buffer strips under Statute 103F.

Manager Torgerson stated that he received a phone call regarding a potential land purchase downstream of the Four Legged Lake, RLWD Project No. 102 area. The individual questioned the impact of a potential FDR project.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary