

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
April 11, 2019

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

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

The Board reviewed the March 28, 2019 minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the March 28, 2019 Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the April 4, 2019 Special Board meeting minutes. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the April 4, 2019 Special Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated April 10, 2019. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve the Financial Report dated April 10, 2019 as presented. Motion carried.

Staff member Arlene Novak reviewed the General Fund Budget as of March 31, 2019.

Discussion was held on the continuation of the yearly audit by Brady Martz and Associates. Staff member Arlene Novak stated that in the past, the District had signed a three-year contract with Brady Martz for completion of the yearly audit which has since expired. It was the consensus of the Board, to request a proposal for continuation of the District's audit from Brady Martz for a three-year term.

The Board reviewed an agreement between the District and the Thief River Falls School District for the River Watch Program. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Dwight, to approve agreement between the District and the Thief River Falls School District for the River Watch Program. Motion carried.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc. and Deb Walchuk, NRCS appeared before the Board to discuss the Pine Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 26. Dalager referred to the meeting held with MnDNR on March 15, 2019. Following is a list of potential next steps of the project as developed by a group consensus from that meeting: Site E alternatives, Pine Lake levels and operation, conduct stream gaging measurements in 2019, and regulatory hurdles. Discussion was had amongst the Board on what are the tangible next steps, and associated costs. Walchuk

asked what the potential of the project is. The NRCS agreement expires the end of September 2019. The NRCS could grant a one-year extension. If the District decides to cease planning, the NRCS will close out the agreement and the District will need to write a written statement of the information that was gathered, and the obstacles that were encountered. Walchuk stated that the Retention Authority could write a letter of support to the NRCS. Manager Dwight discussed his concern of moving forward with the project, and the hurdles that the MnDNR has laid out. Manager Sorenson made reference to the handout presented at the meeting with the MnDNR, where the MnDNR listed 12 items of consideration. Dalager estimates an additional \$20,000 in costs to gather the additional information. It was the consensus of the Board to call a meeting of the Pine Lake Project Work Team in the near future and report back to the Board.

Deb Walchuk, NRCS, stated that the District did submit written confirmation to close out the agreement for the Four-Legged Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 102A. Walchuk stated that there is additional documentation that will need to be completed.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., reviewed the impacts of moving the west boundary of the potential wetland banking site to the summer 25-year, 24-hour event, peak water elevation of 1015.3 for the proposed Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176. Nordby stated that normal operation of the project would not cause inundation to the proposed wetland banking site that is outside the allowable guidelines referenced in Technical Paper 1 for acceptable bounce on wetlands. Nordby further stated, that by moving the west boundary from the 100-year elevation to the 25-year elevation, the District would be able to capture an additional 6-7 acres of potential wetland credits and an overall additional banking area of approximately 65 acres, which has the ability to get credited at a lesser rate. It was the consensus of the Board, to proceed with moving the west boundary of the wetland banking site to the approximate 25-year elevation as referenced.

Discussion was held on the estimated market value (EMV) of property for the Thief River Falls West Side FDR Project, RLWD Project No. 178. It was the consensus of the Board, to offer the highest of the EMV multiplied by 1.2, to landowners along the project area. Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., stated that the next project coordination meeting will be held on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at the HDR office. Dalager stated that the railroad will not cost share in the bridge removal near TH#32 and Greenwood Street intersection but will remove material from the bridge. Pennington County has scheduled a hearing for the County Ditch 70 system.

At 10:00 a.m., President Dale M. Nelson recessed the general meeting and called the Preliminary Hearing for Ditch 17, RLWD Project No. 179 to order. President Nelson briefly addressed the audience concerning the purpose and format of the hearing and its process. The hearing was videotaped and is available for viewing at the RLWD office. It was noted that the appropriate notices as required by statute had been given. Jerry Pribula and Nick Pribula, Pribula Engineering, engineers for the project, presented the Engineers Preliminary Survey Report for the project and entertained questions from the Board and the audience. The MN DNR Director's Advisory was read into the record. It was noted that the MN BWSR Advisory Report was available for all in attendance and was placed as part of the record. There was considerable discussion had, concerning the need for the improvement to continue through Polk County

Highway #20 into Section 14, Keystone Township. There was also considerable discussion of waters leaving Polk County Ditch #66 and flowing west to Polk County Ditch #39. After all, in attendance were given a chance to ask questions and/or make comments, the preliminary hearing was closed for public comment. Nelson then opened the hearing up for Board questions. Discussion was held on potential options which could include extending the improvement farther east to better capture waters from the benefited area or to extend the improvement south one-half mile along west side of Polk County Highway #20. After considerable discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve the Engineers Preliminary Survey Report, with inclusion for a potential alternative to better capture waters presently draining into the proposed RLWD Ditch No. 17, RLWD Project No. 179. Motion carried. Legal Counsel Sparby explained the next steps and statutory requirements of the project. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to appoint viewers consisting of three disinterested residents of the state to complete a Viewer's Report for the Project and authorize the Engineer to complete the Detailed Survey Report for RLWD Ditch 17, RLWD Project No. 179. Motion carried. Administrator Jesme noted that he will work with the Petitioner's to increase the bond amount.

Discussion was held on the process to move forward with Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to issue the order for the Engineer to proceed with the completion of the Plans and Specifications for the construction of Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Motion carried. Legal Counsel Sparby presented the Detailed Findings and Order, which includes all statutory findings for Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the Detailed Findings and Order for signature and filing, as presented, for Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Motion carried. The Board reviewed a Cooperative Construction Agreement between the District and Minnesota Department of Transportation for replacement of a box culvert in Trunk Highway No. 220 for construction of Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to authorize President Nelson and Secretary Sorenson, the authority to sign the Cooperative Construction Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Motion carried. Discussion was held on funding the project and the need for Polk County to complete a bond sale to assist in the construction of Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to authorize Administrator Jesme to contact Polk County, requesting the county to complete a bond sale for construction of Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177. Motion carried.

President Nelson turned the meeting over to Vice President Tiedemann.

Manager Page discussed the closure of gates on the Schirrick Dam, RLWD Project No. 25.

#### Administrators Report:

- Jesme and Manager Ose will attend the RRWMB meeting April 16, 2019 at the District office.
- Included in the packet is the MAWD legislative update and a letter from the RRWMB to Collin Peterson.

- Jesme participated in a Red Lake River 1W1P Planning Workgroup telephone conference on April 10<sup>th</sup>. The intent of the meeting was to review the existing Work Plan and incorporate new projects that have surfaced since the plan was approved.
- There will be a Thief River 1W1P Policy Committee meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the District office. The meeting will focus on Section 4 review.
- Jesme will attend a Local Roundtable Workgroup and BWSR Clean Water Team meeting in St. Cloud on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will cover items such as overview of watershed-based funding, assurance measures, watershed-based funding policy, desired outcomes and various other agenda items.
- Jesme will attend the Pennington County Township Association meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>, to discuss the Thief River Falls Westside FDR Project and the Black River Impoundment project.
- Jesme attended a meeting at the Roseau River Watershed District to assist in the meeting with several potential viewers for northern Minnesota.

Staff member Loren Sanderson discussed water levels on District impoundments and ditches. The Parnell, Euclid East and Brandt Impoundment gates were all closed on April 6, 2019. All three have similar operating plans, with trigger elevations at East Grand Forks and Crookston. One foot of water has been going over the Lateral 2 weir on Parnell Impoundment, which regulates water that goes south from the Parnell Impoundment to Judicial Ditch 60. The east pool of the Parnell Impoundment is beginning to fill, with approximately 11 feet of water on the west end. There is currently 8 feet of water by the structure of the Euclid East Impoundment. The Brandt Impoundment has approximately 14.5 feet of water at the structure. The District's Gate Tender will continue to monitor all three impoundments. Inspection of the dams will take place after the water recedes. Gates on the Schirrick Dam were closed on April 10<sup>th</sup>. The Schirrick Dam takes the peak off the crest of Crookston or East Grand Forks. Closure of the structure needs to be done 60 hours in advance of the crest. When closed, two county roads are inundated.

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



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Terry Sorenson, Secretary