

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
May 9, 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, LeRoy Ose, and Les Torgerson. Absent: Allan Page Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel Sparby.

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

The Board reviewed the April 25, 2019 minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Dwight, to approve the April 25, 2019 Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated May 8, 2019. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the Financial Report dated May 8, 2019 as presented. Motion carried.

Staff member Arlene Novak reviewed the Investment Summary dated May 8, 2019. Novak will complete the Capital Projects Fund projection and report back to the Board at a later date.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., presented a drone video of flooded cabins on Pine Lake, RLWD Project No. 26. A project team meeting will be held May 17, 2019 a 9:30 a.m. at the District office. Dalager discussed various meetings recently held with staff from MnDNR.

EIT Dillion Nelson, HDR Engineering, Inc., stated that permits will be submitted today to the appropriate agencies, for the Thief River Falls Westside FDR Project, RLWD Project No. 178. Administrator Jesme stated that the District was made aware of potential permitting requirements with the Federal Aviation Administration, due to the proximity of the Thief River Falls Regional Airport. Letters to the landowners within the Watershed Management District, will be sent out today. Jesme has been providing additional information to the appraiser for completion of the appraisal report. Jesme discussed a requirement to have letters served to landowners that the District will need to acquire an easement from. Discussion was held on right of way staking at the lower end of the project, and the ability for local farmers to plant crops within the right-of-way. It was the consensus of the Board, that wheat could potentially be harvested prior to the construction of the project so pre-staking of right of way may not be necessary.

The Red Lake County River Watch students presented their project that they completed for the River Watch Forum, where they were awarded first place.

Discussion was held on changing the May 23, 2019 meeting time to 3:00 p.m., to allow the Board to go directly from the Board meeting to the Thief River Falls Westside FDR Project

hearing, which will be at 6:00 p.m. at the Quality Inn, Thief River Falls. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Ose, to change the May 23, 2019 regularly scheduled Board meeting to 3:00 p.m., on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to be held at the District office. Motion carried.

Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to schedule the Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177, bid opening for May 23, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. at the District office. Motion carried. Administrator Jesme stated that he received notice that the Polk County Commissioners approved the Bond purchase at an interest rate of 2.83%. Jesme indicated that the archaeological review will need to be completed. District staff completed staking of the right-of-way.

Administrator Jesme stated that he requested an increase in bond from the petitioners for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179. No additional expenditures will be incurred until the bond is received.

The Thief River 1W1P Policy Committee approved Section 4, which will allow for the assembly of all five sections of the plan, followed by a plan review by the Planning Work Group.

Staff member Corey Hanson updated the Board on the Water Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) Reports for the Thief River Watershed, Grand Marais Creek Watershed, Red Lake River Watershed, and Clearwater River Watershed, that are wrapping up this year. Hanson stated that WRAPS is a MPCA system for assessing water quality and creating restoration and plans. Hanson discussed the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Reports he wrote that address impairments and how to restore them. Discussion was held on the tasks that were completed for each WRAPS project, including Civic Engagement processes that were efforts to keep the public informed. Discussion was held on the water quality results found on the Lost River upstream of Pine Lake. Hanson will be collecting extra water quality data on the Lost Lake upstream of Pine Lake in 2019 to characterize pre-project water quality conditions in preparation for a potential FDR project in that area. Hanson noted that the Red Lake DNR took the lead role on the Upper and Lower Red Lake TMDL's; the MPCA is currently reviewing their draft TMDL report. Hanson discussed the public notice contract in the amount of \$7,500 with the MPCA for the Clearwater River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy Public Notice, RLWD Project No. 157E. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to approve the public notice contract with the MPCA for the Clearwater River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy Public Notice, RLWD Project No. 157E. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Torgerson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 19006, Shannon Blasus, Johnson Township, Polk County; No. 19014, Marshall County Highway Department, Valley Township, Marshall County; No. 19015, Rick Forsberg, Eden Township, Polk County; No. 19016, Polk County Highway Department, Fanny Township, Polk County; No. 19017, Rick Forsberg, Eden Township Polk County; No. 19018, Darrell Payment, Terrebonne and Gervais Township, Red Lake County; No. 19019, Brett Bakken, Equality Township, Red Lake County; No. 19020, Tim Raiter, Wyandotte Township, Pennington County; No. 19021, Tim Raiter, Smiley Township, Pennington County; No. 19022, Jeffrey Olson, Rocksbury Township, Pennington County; No. 19023, Grove Park/Tilden Township, Polk County; No. 19024, North

Township, Pennington County; No. 19025, Earl Pederson, North Township, Pennington County; and No., 19026, Bruce Jones, Goodridge Township, Pennington County. Motion carried.

Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Dwight, to deny Permit No. 19013, Dan Johnson, Huntsville Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

Staff member Tammy Audette reviewed quotes received from Garden Valley Technologies and Marco for a new telephone system for the District office. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the quote in the amount of \$3,911.00 from Marco, for a new telephone system for the District office. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed quotes for the purchase of a 2019 Chevrolet Silverado from Northern Motors and Thibert's Chevrolet. Sorenson questioned if any other car dealers were contacted for their services. Jesme indicated that he did request a quote from Thief River Ford, but no quote was received. Motion by Ose, seconded by Torgerson, to approve the low quote in the amount of \$36,531.58, from Thibert's Chevrolet for a 2019 Chevrolet Silverado. Motion carried with Manager Sorenson opposed.

Staff member Loren Sanderson stated that he was contacted by April Swenby from the Sandhill River Watershed District regarding a boundary issue located in Onstad Township, Polk County. Sanderson viewed the area with Swenby, noting that Swenby intends to contact MnDOT to request the removal of a culvert. Sanderson noted that the culvert in question was placed two years prior to the revised boundary with Sandhill River Watershed District. The culvert does not contribute to adverse impacts downstream. Sanderson also noted that there are additional culverts on the boundary that enter the RLWD from the Sandhill River Watershed District. Sanderson stated that he will be meeting with MnDOT staff to review the concerns brought up by Swenby. It was the consensus of the Board, to recommend leaving the stated culvert in place, and request MnDOT to review the off-take ditch and clean if necessary.

Staff member Loren Sanderson updated the Board on operation of District impoundments, and release of water from within the impoundments after the spring flood event.

Manager Tiedemann asked about the status of the emergency spillway on the Brandt Impoundment regarding the concerns of landowner Ron Salentine. Staff member Nick Olson stated that he surveyed the emergency spillway and provided the information to HDR Engineering, Inc. Olson noted that it appears the emergency spillway is one foot higher than planned design.

Staff member Loren Sanderson stated that the District tile permit application does not state that the landowner be the applicant. Administrator Jesme stated that the District's Permit Rules and Regulations state that the application should be in the landowner's name, not the renter. Motion by Ose, seconded by Torgerson, to amend the District's tile permit application to comply with the District's rules requiring the landowner to be the applicant. Motion carried.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that he is working on a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Thief River Falls for a joint effort for bidding purposes on the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that a hearing with the judge will be held later this month for the Judicial Ditch 5, (Four-Legged Lake), RLWD Project No. 102.

Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Manager Ose will attend the RRWMB on May 21, 2019 in Crookston.
- Jesme participated in a Red Lake River 1W1P Planning Workgroup telephone conference on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was to review the minor changes to the existing Work Plan and submit to BWSR for approval. Items that were addressed were a bank stabilization project in the Burnham Creek Watershed initiated by the West Polk SWCD. We also clarified funding for the stabilization of the outlet to the Thief River Falls Westside FDR Project.
- Jesme attended a Watershed Based Funding Local Round Table Work Group and BWSR Clean Water Team meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup> in St. Cloud. Various items were covered such as an overview of Watershed-based funding, Assurance Measures, Watershed based funding policy, desired outcomes and various other agenda items. This meeting was rescheduled from April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion was held on the fish passage on the Blackduck Lake. Manager Dwight discussed a concern with localized flooding and beaver dams.

Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to adjourn to the May 17, 2019 Pine Lake Area Project Team meeting at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District office, 1000 Pennington Avenue South, Thief River Falls, MN 56701. Motion carried.



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Terry Sorenson, Secretary