

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
January 26, 2023

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: Managers: Gene Tiedemann, Terry Sorenson, Tom Anderson, Brian Dwight, LeRoy Ose, Dale M. Nelson, and Allan Page. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

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

The Board reviewed the January 12, 2023, minutes. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Page, to approve the January 12, 2023, Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated January 25, 2023. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the Financial Report dated January 25, 2023, as presented. Motion carried.

Wayne Johnson, City of Thief River Falls, and Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., appeared before the Board for discussion on the City of Thief River Falls Reservoir water intake investigation. Johnson stated that the city has been working on the evaluation of the reservoir within the City of Thief River Falls from the dam all the way through the Thief River Golf Course property on the Thief River and to Finsbury Park on the Red Lake River. Part of the effort is due to the city studying the potential of moving the city drinking water intake from a point on the Thief River to the Red Lake River, as the water in the Red Lake River is a cleaner source. Johnson discussed his concern with Agassiz NWR plans to burn a portion of Agassiz NWR and then flood it. Dalager stated that the Corps as a precursor to see if the intake can be laid on the river bottom. The City of Thief River Falls received a grant in the amount of \$156,000 to survey the riverbank and determine the sedimentation depth to complete an evaluation of the river, which will be completed by the Corps. The evaluation would take place June 2023, after the spring runoff. The grant requires a 50% local match. Johnson stated that the city is asking the District to split the local cost, with each entity paying \$38,000 for the required local match. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Dwight, to approve a local cost share in the amount of \$38,000 for the City of Thief River Falls Water Intake Investigation. Motion carried. Fund designation will follow.

Wayne Johnson, City of Thief River Falls, stated that thanks to the efforts of Staff member Corey Hanson and Peter Nelson, Pennington SWCD; BWSR has awarded the Chief's Coulee Project a grant in the amount of \$428,750. Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., stated that the BWSR Grant Application focused on the clean water aspect of the project. The project also has infrastructure and drainage aspects. Currently, the city is collaborating with local landowners, requesting them to clean up their property. Further discussion needs to be held

with the local grain elevator. Discussion was held on the potential of diverting water into County Ditch 70 rather than coming into the North side of town, which is considered an industrial area. Dalager indicated that there is approximately 250 acres of agricultural land, which would also need BMPs installed (buffer strips, SWI). As part of the project, underground pipe would be installed within the city limits, with a grassy boulevard and three continuous deflective separation units installed to separate out the sediment and trash. All property would be left in private ownership. Dalager stated that now that a grant has been received, the next step would be to move into the design of the project. Manager Dwight stated that he would like to see use of 1W1P Funds go into the project. Dalager indicated that he could prepare a proposal of approximate costs for design of the project. It was the consensus of the Board, to continue discussion of the project at the February 9, 2023, Board meeting.

The Board reviewed a cost share payment request from the RRWMB for USGS Stream Gages in the amount of \$11,889. Motion by Page, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the cost share payment in the amount of \$11,889 to the RRWMB for USGS Stream Gages. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a legislative update from Minnesota Watersheds (formerly Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts) and information regarding the Special Meeting to be held on February 15, 2023.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Dwight, to table the following Permits to allow for further review after the snowmelt: No. 23001, Ben Gunvalson, Equality Township, Red Lake County; No. 23002 and No. 23003, Matt Knutson, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; No. 23004, Knute Knutson, Gervais Township, Red Lake County; and No. 23005, Scott Tersteeg, Badger Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

It was the consensus of the Board, not to change the date of the February 9, 2023 meeting date. Legal Counsel Sparby discussed the Court of Appeals Argument for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179. There is an audio recording of the oral argument available on the Minnesota Court of Appeals website. The Court of Appeals has 90 days to issue a written opinion.

Manager Anderson discussed the Clearwater River 1W1P Policy Committee meeting he attended on January 25, 2023, where they reviewed the plan that designated the funding that is committed.

Manager Dwight stated that Senator Mark Johnson is going to author a bill for the “Keep It Clean” Campaign that would allow Conservation Officers the ability to issue tickets if any human waste/debris/garbage is left on the ice. Dwight indicated that they have a representative in the House that is willing to back the bill. Dwight stated that Robyn Dwight, President of the Upper Red Lake Association, presented the campaign at the Red River Basin Commission in Winnipeg and, attended a DNR roundtable meeting. Dwight discussed a pilot project grant through BWSR that the Beltrami SWCD is going to apply to for the “Keep It Clean” Campaign. The application is due by February 15th, a requires a 10% match.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "LeRoy Ose". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

LeRoy Ose, Secretary