

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
August 22, 2013

Present were: Managers Gene Tiedemann, LeRoy Ose, Albert Mandt, Lee Coe, Dale M. Nelson, Orville Knott and Les Torgerson. Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Arlene Novak and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby.

The Board reviewed the agenda. Heidi Hughes, Audubon Society/Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers, requested to be added to the agenda. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Torgerson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda with the addition of Heidi Hughes. Motion carried.

Motion by Coe, seconded by Knott, to dispense reading of the August 8, 2013 Board meeting minutes and approve them as printed. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated August 21, 2013. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Torgerson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the Financial Report dated August 21, 2013. Motion carried.

Heidi Hughes, Audubon Society and Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District, presented information on the Tall Grass Aspen Parkland birding trail and how birding is now the no. 2 fastest growing hobby in the U.S, second only to gardening. She shared her thoughts with the Board on how we can incorporate our flood damage reduction storage ponds with that of a tourist attraction such as bird watching. Heidi indicated that the MSTRWD has already accomplished this type of project with their Agassiz Valley project and are willing to participate again with this grant proposal. She requested a financial commitment in order to submit a grant proposal for the study to identify locations, parking areas, kiosks, etc. After considerable discussion, motion made by Tiedemann, seconded by Knott, to a \$16,000 financial commitment for the grant application for recommendations of a birding trail. Motion carried.

Brian Malone, Pennington SWCD; Mark Borseth, City of Thief River Falls; and Joe Amundson, City of Thief River Falls/Ralph Engelstad Arena appeared before the Board to request a financial cost share for the rain garden at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls. The Pennington Co. SWCD received a Clean Water grant to install a rain garden in two locations surrounding the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls. Bid opening was held and bids came in at 50% over bid estimate. Several scenarios were presented on how to address the cost overrun. An additional grant has been applied for to accommodate the cost overrun but additional partners are needed for cost share. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Mandt, to appropriate \$10,000 to the Ralph Engelstad Arena rain garden, contingent upon receiving additional grant funding to complete the project. Mr. Borseth indicated that he would forward a resolution from the City after the proposal is presented to the City Council.

Administrator Jesme reported on the pre-construction meeting and complete project tour with Davidson Construction Inc. on August 12, 2013, for the Grand Marais Creek Outlet Restoration Project. Davidson Construction Inc. has indicated they may start construction the week of August 26, 2013. Jesme also indicated that although the renter has been very cooperative with

the project, one absentee landowner has not signed the agreements for flowage easements or temporary damages. It was the recommendation of legal counsel to submit the checks along with the agreements by certified mail.

Administrator Jesme reported on the progress of RLWD Ditch No. 15. Nate Dalager, HDR, Inc., reported that permits for appropriate agencies will be submitted and a bid opening date for January 2014 is anticipated.

The 2014 Proposed Special Revenue Project levies were presented and discussed by the Board. Questions of different ditch systems were fielded. Motion by Knott, seconded by Torgerson, to approve the following Special Revenue Assessments for 2014: RLWD Ditch No. 3, RLWD Project No. 7, \$5,000; State Ditch No. 83, RLWD Project No. 14, \$50,000; RLWD Ditch No. 7, RLWD Project No. 20, \$5,000; Pine Lake Maintenance, RLWD Project No. 35, \$4,000; RLWD Ditch No. 8, RLWD Project No. 36, \$2,500; J.D. No. 72, RLWD Project No. 41, \$5,000; Burnham Creek, RLWD Project No. 43B, \$15,000; Wild Rice Allocation, RLWD Project No. 45, \$2,000; J.D. 2B, RLWD Project No. 49, \$6,500; J.D. 5 (4 Legged Lake), RLWD Project No. 102, \$2,000; Arveson Petition, RLWD Project No. 109, \$1,200; Winsor-Hangaard, RLWD Project No. 113, \$6,500; Kenneth Johnson Petition, RLWD Project No. 117, \$1,500; Polk County Ditch Improvement, RLWD Project No. 119, \$5,000; Polk County Ditch 33, RLWD Project No. 135, \$2,500; RLWD Ditch No. 10, RLWD Project No. 161, \$5,000; RLWD Ditch No. 12, RLWD Project No. 169, \$15,000. Motion carried.

A resolution identifying the Project Representative and authorizing the LCCMR grant funds for the Measuring Hydrologic Benefits from Glacial Ridge Habitat Restoration from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources was presented. Motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Knott, and approved unanimously to approve Administrator Jesme as the Project Representative and authorizer of grant funds.

The Notice of the Grant Agreement Award for the Burnham Creek Barrier Modifications was presented to the Board. This grant in the amount of \$40,000 from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) with matching funds of \$328,000 coming from State and local funding, will be used to help restore natural hydrology, connectivity, and fish passage on the Burnham Creek.

Administrator Jesme received a phone call from a property owner on Pine Lake asking him what process would be required to raise the existing lake levels. After considerable discussion on the history of the formation and operation of Pine Lake, it was the consensus of the Board to have staff contact the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource permitting department, see what their office would require on permitting or if it was even possible to permit and report back to the Board at a future meeting.

The condition of the RLWD parking was addressed by Administrator Jesme. A quote from Michael Herkenhoff, Git R Done Asphalt of Crookston, was presented and explained. Other options for seal coating the parking lot was also discussed. Motion by Coe, seconded by Ose, to approve the resealing of the parking lot from Git R Done Asphalt in the amount of \$6,388.75.

Motion carried. It was agreed by the Board that striping will also need to be completed following the recoating.

The 2013 Audit was discussed. Currently there is not an accounting firm that does Governmental audits committed to complete the RLWD's 2013 audit. It was the consensus of the Board to get a 3 year quote from the previous auditor, Drees, Risky & Vallager, and present it at the next Board meeting.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Knott, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 13079, Jeff Steer, Belgium Township, Polk County; No. 13080, Scott Reed, River Falls Township, Pennington County; No. 13081, William Hess, Cloverleaf Township, Pennington County; No. 13082, Brent and Don Strickler, Euclid Township, Polk County; No. 13083, Kristen Inc., Smiley and Silverton Townships, Pennington County; No. 13085, Nate Dalager, River Falls Township, Pennington County; No. 13086, Pederson Bros., Johnson Township, Polk County; No. 13087, Greg Hallstrom, Black River Township, Pennington County; No. 13088, Michael Erickson, Grand Forks Township, Polk County; No. 13089, Steve Goodwin, Angus Township, Polk County; No. 13090, Jim Reinbold, Mayfield Township, Pennington County; No. 13091, Dan Stroot, Euclid Township, Polk County; and No. 13092, Randall Barth, Agder Township, Marshall County. Motion carried.

Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Manager Knott attended the RRWMB meeting in Ada on August 20, 2013.
- Jesme presented the 2012 Annual Report, with Manager Nelson, to Pennington County Board of Commissioners on August 13. Jesme stated that various projects were discussed as well as the RLWD Ditch No. 14 and the TRF Flood Damage Reduction Project. The Commissioners were also invited to attend the One Plan/One Watershed meeting that will be held today, August 22, at 1:00 p.m.
- Pennington County held their annual EQIP Work Group meeting on August 15, 2013. East Polk County will hold their EQIP meeting in McIntosh on Monday, August 26, 2013, at 9:00 a.m.
- Minnesota Power is inviting the public to the open house meetings regarding the Great Northern Transmission Line Project. Date, time, and location of the meetings are indicated on the letter.
- A letter from Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership explaining the maintenance projects they have in store in the very near future.
- The July 2013 Water Quality report is included in this Board packet. There are various updates on MPCA funded water quality projects throughout the RLWD.
- Caleb Loeslie's, RLWD's Water Quality Summer Intern, last day of employment was August 21. Caleb did a very good job and hope that he chooses to return next summer.
- During the last week of August, the water quality department will be taking part in the Geomorphology study on the Grand Marais Creek.

Manager's Updates:

Orville Knott stated that some watershed districts are harvesting cattails from their impoundments. It's a way of removing the potential for phosphorus from the impoundment caused by decaying cattails.

Legal Counsel Sparby reported that a letter had been mailed to Joann Ferring explaining the results of additional survey information regarding her flooding concern and the area will be monitored during water events.

Manager Tiedemann inquired about Blue Cross Blue Shield and coverage of health insurance.

Discussion was held regarding the One Watershed/One Plan meeting to be held at the District office this afternoon, August 22, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. Orville Knott indicated that he will attend on behalf of Red Lake County Soil Water and Conservation District.

Motion by Mandt, 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 with a horizontal line underneath it.

LeRoy Ose, Secretary