

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
February 25, 2016

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, Gene Tiedemann, LeRoy Ose, Allan Page and Terry Sorenson. Absent: Les Torgerson and Lee Coe. Staff Present: Myron Jesme, Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby.

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

Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to dispense reading of the February 10, 2016 Board meeting minutes and approve them as printed. Motion carried.

Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to dispense reading of the February 11, 2016 Board meeting minutes and approve them as printed. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated February 24, 2016. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve the Financial Report dated February 24, 2016 as presented. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that it has become apparent that from time to time he may be requested to provide technical assistance to other Watershed Districts outside of normal RLWD interests. He asked the Board if there were any such future requests, how the District would like him to handle these requests in terms of compensation or time gone from work. It was the consensus of the Board that if the requests for services does not benefit the District's goals or directly reference projects the District is working on, Administrator Jesme should do so on his own time with compensation for services to be between Jesme and the entity requesting his services.

Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc. presented an update on the Pine Lake Area Project, RLWD Project No. 26 to the Board. Dalager discussed the project team meetings, project status to date, landowner meetings and benefits of modifying the outlet of Pine Lake. A Project Team meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. at the District office. The Board reviewed the HDR Engineering, Inc. Task Order No. 2 to provide planning services for the development of the Pine Lake Area Project, RLWD Project No. 26 in the amount of \$757,395.00. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to approve the HDR Engineering, Inc., Task Order No. 2 for development of the Pine Lake Area Project, in the amount of \$757,395.00. Motion carried.

Staff member Nick Olson stated that he surveyed the District's right-of-way area in Section 34, Highlanding Township, Pennington County, which is located within the benefitted area of the Red Lake River, RLWD Project No. 2. Pennington County owns the adjacent property and wishes to develop wetland banking credits within the property. At the February 10, 2016

meeting, the Board instructed District staff to survey the area to determine the needs of the District for future maintenance concerns. Olson reviewed a cross section profile survey of the area that he recently completed. Olson stated that in order to drive continuously on the east side of the river within the District's right-of-way for access, the District would have to install three side water inlet crossings. The west side of the bank has some access concerns as the riverbank is lined with trees. Clearing and snagging of the area could be accessed via snowmobile in the winter months. Legal Counsel Sparby stated that the District could release the easement to Pennington County in a quit claim deed, or determine what the District would need for future maintenance and separate that area from existing easement, which would be retained for future access to the legal drainage system. Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to authorize the outright release of the right-of-way easement using the quit claim option along the east side of the Red Lake River, RLWD Project No. 2, located in Section 34, Highlanding Township, Pennington County, to Pennington County to allow the county to develop wetland banking credits within the property. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that the District has received the executed NRSC Cooperative Agreement for the Four Legged Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 102A.

Staff member Loren Sanderson stated that the current Special Land Permit with the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians' Tribal Council for the Good Lake Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 67 will expire in April 13, 2016. The Special Land Permit grants the District access to the site for operation and inspection. The Red Lake Tribal Council granted the District a 20 year agreement that expired in 2010. The District went for approximately one year without an agreement at which time a five year agreement was approved in April of 2011. Sanderson has been working on dialog with staff from the Red Lake DNR on the approval/extension of another five year Special Land Permit for continued access to the site from the Red Lake Tribal Council. Maintenance of the project is a combined effort of the District and Red Lake DNR.

Administrator Jesme stated Polk County has recorded the Conveyance of Forfeited Lands to the District for property once owned by John Weiland from Orfino, Idaho and located within the Brandt Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60D.

Discussion was held amongst the Board on public outreach, and how the District can make the public more aware of what the District does.

The Board reviewed information regarding a Manager Training session sponsored by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources that will be held in conjunction with the 18th Annual Joint Conference in Moorhead on March 23-24, 2016.

The 2016 MN Viewers Association dues request was submitted to the Board. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, and passed unanimously that the RLWD submit annual dues in the amount of \$125 to the MN Viewers Association.

The 2016 MAWD Legislative Reception and Breakfast and Day at the Capitol will be held March 30-31, 2016.

Administrator Jesme stated that Ray Bohn, Lobbyist for the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) will be retiring within the next several years. The MAWD Board has been looking at strategic planning and duties of MAWD. As part of this process, MAWD has developed a Training and Education Survey and are requesting Board and staff members to complete the survey.

The Board reviewed correspondence regarding the City of Plummer Wellhead Protection Plan, Part 1.

Administrators update:

- Jesme and Manager Ose attended the RRWMB meeting held at the District office on February 16th. Jesme participated in the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Workgroup meeting that same afternoon where Jesme presented an update on NRCS RCPP funding for the Four Legged Lake Project and the Pine Lake Area Project. The next RRWMB meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at UM Crookston in conjunction with the River Watch Forum. The RRWMB will meet in the morning, and participate in the River Watch Forum following lunch.
- Jesme and Staff member Olson participated in a Drainage Database Auditor User Group Webinar on February 18th. This group assists in the program management as well as assists by sharing ideas as to how the program can be better utilized. The District is presently in the early development of this program which will streamline ditch maintenance and inspection, and will allow better records management for each system.
- Jesme and Staff member Hanson will attend a Grand Marais Creek Core team meeting on March 3rd to discuss TMDL update (review e-coli and dissolved oxygen stream impairments addressed by the TMDL report), WRAPS report which will include discussion of 1W1P status and potential integration into WRAPS, walk through Mustinka River WRAPS example and identify elements to be included in the Grand Marais Creek WRAPS and to schedule a WRAPS kick-off meeting with the Technical Team.
- Jesme attended a meeting regarding a future road/drainage project at the west side of the Thief River Falls on February 17th, with staff from the City of Thief River Falls and Pennington County. Various options are being looked at, but it is too early in the discussion to see if any role will be asked or required of the District short of permitting.
- Included in the packet was various maps showing the Outstate and Metro Watershed and Legislative Districts. These maps will be beneficial for the upcoming MAWD Legislative Briefings the end of March.
- Jesme participated in a meeting of the RRWMB Administrators Advisory Committee (AAC) on February 22. Included in the packet was a memo drafted by the AAC that was submitted to the RRWMB.

Discussion was held on the Drainage and Wetland Conference that several Board and Staff members participated in at St. Cloud on February 11th.

Discussion was held on the health insurance rebate check the District received from the Northwest Service Cooperative insurance pool. The refund amount of \$13,682.29 is a result of the 2014 experience year and less insurance claims than anticipated. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, and carried unanimously, to disburse the health insurance rebate received from the NW Service Cooperative Health Insurance Pool as a rebate to reduce staff members' monthly health insurance contributions, for employees that were participating in 2014 in the insurance plan, until the funds are exhausted.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary