

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
February 23, 2017

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

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

Motion by Page, seconded by Sorenson, to dispense reading of the February 9, 2017 Board meeting minutes and approve them as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report and Investment Summary dated February 22, 2017. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve the Financial Report and Investment Summary dated February 22, 2017 as presented. Motion carried.

Staff member, Arlene Novak, stated that she received quotes for the two Certificate of Deposits that will expire prior to the next Board meeting. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve the reinvestment of a Certificate of Deposit that will mature on March 3, 2017 with Citizens State Bank Roseau and reinvest the Certificate of Deposit that will mature on March 4, 2017, with American State Bank Grygla. Motion carried.

Brad Johnson, Houston Engineering, Inc. updated the Board on the hydrologic and hydraulic modeling completed on the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176. Johnson discussed the two options discussed at the previous project team meeting. One option was to keep the template of the proposed impoundment as previously discussed with the landowners and another option was to add an additional 500 feet west of the current site. Johnson stated that meetings with the landowners will be scheduled in the near future to discuss local drainage patterns as well as share the information provided today to the Board.

Staff member, Loren Sanderson, discussed the recent warm weather and rain event, and the effect on District projects. Snow sampling was completed at 8 sites, with an average depth of 13" of snowpack, with an average of 2.75" of water content. Little to no frost was found at each site. Sanderson stated that the ice is out in the Clearwater River in Red Lake Falls.

Staff member, Loren Sanderson, and Engineer, Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., presented photos and video of the recent runoff event at the Chuck Flage Erosion Control Project, RLWD Project No. 174. This project was an erosion control project that diverted water from a severe erosion area, which included the construction of a diversion channel as well as the installation of a strategically placed drop structure to reduce the volume of water as it enters the flood plain prior to entering the Red Lake River.

Staff member, Loren Sanderson, displayed photos of the recent runoff event at the outlet of RLWD Ditch 10, RLWD Project No. 161. The District completed erosion repairs at the outlet chute late last fall. A full inspection of the site will be completed this Spring.

District staff have been monitoring a farmstead along the Kenneth Johnson Petition, RLWD Project No. 117. With the recent rain events, water has been backing up into the farmstead due to the ditch being full of snow. Sanderson indicated that he instructed a contractor to remove the snow in the vicinity of the farmstead to alleviate flood concerns.

The Chris Ross ring dike located east of Crookston along Highway 2, was constructed in the summer of 2016. Staff member Loren Sanderson indicated that he received an e-mail from Ms. Ross this week thanking the District for completing her dike last summer. She indicated that because of the rapid snow melt and rain event last week, her home would have been flooded due to overland flooding.

The District was informed that the MnDNR will complete a Dam Inspection of the Euclid East Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60C this summer. Engineer, Nate Dalager, stated that the District should consider doing consistent inspections every 10 years, to include a survey of the top of the dikes and physically walking the slopes looking for gopher holes, erosion, tree/brush growth on all the District impoundments. Administrator Jesme stated that MnDNR will also complete a Dam Inspection on the Miller Dam, RLWD Project No. 50C.

Engineer, Nate Dalager, updated the Board on recent activities of the Pine Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 26 and the Four Legged Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 102A. Dalager stated that he has been working with Dave Jones with the NRCS to finalize the Purpose and Need Statement for both projects. Dalager indicated that geotechnical and soil borings should take place this spring. Design for the Little Pine Lake WMA will be completed in the near future with construction slated for this summer. Manager Sorenson expressed his concern about losing lack of interest from the landowners on Pine Lake due to the project not progressing forward fast enough.

Staff member, Loren Sanderson, stated that aeration on Pine Lake, RLWD Project No. 35 started on February 7, 2017. The District is the permit holder for the aeration system. The Sportsman's Club is using an oxygen meter that was provided by the District to monitor the oxygen levels.

Manager Nelson discussed the process of moving forward with an additional FDR Project within the District. It was the consensus of the Board, that the 20% Flood Damage Reduction Committee should meet to review the sites that were original identified and report back to the Board.

Administrator Jesme stated that landowner, Jeff Anderson, has decided to maintain his 7.7 acres of RIM on the Grand Marais Creek Channel Restoration Project, RLWD Project No. 60F.

The Board reviewed a Buffer Program updated published by BWSR on February 21, 2017. Discussion was held in regard to non-compliance of ditches under the jurisdiction of the District. Legal Counsel Sparby stated that in his opinion, installation of buffer strips would fall under Minnesota State Statute 103E, which would require the District to hold a hearing for each project where the landowners would be assessed for the purchase of right of way and installation of the

buffer strip. Staff member, Nick Olson, discussed the process of obtaining survey information to determine additional right of way that will be required. Further discussion was held on the hiring of additional summer staff to assist Olson with survey requirements.

Staff member, Nick Olson, stated that he submitted a proposal to the Conservation Corps requesting an estimate for removal and clearing of trees in the dredged portion of the Clearwater River, RLWD Project No. 3. Olson stated that he was recently made aware that the District is required to maintain the portion downstream of the dredged area of the Clearwater River to Highway 59, for a total of 10.62 miles. Olson stated that he will report back to the Board once an estimate is received.

Staff member, Nick Olson, stated that while viewing the dredged portion of the Clearwater River, RLWD Project No. 3, it was determined that there were several log jams that needed removal prior to the spring runoff. Olson stated that due to the recent warm weather and rain event, ice conditions were deteriorating so an immediate decision was made to hire a crew to remove the area of concern. Olson stated that it took three crew members 3 days to remove the debris at a cost of \$75/per hour.

The Board reviewed a letter drafted by Administrator Jesme to the MAWD Board President, Ruth Schaefer requesting MAWD to hold a special Board meeting for the purpose of amending the bylaws. Jesme stated that for MAWD to hold a special meeting, their bylaws require requests from 15 watersheds to do so. The items for the special meeting will be to review and amend their bylaws, review budget items and due structures as we move forward with the newly approved Strategic Plan. Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to submit the letter of request for MAWD to move forward with a special meeting for the purpose of amending the MAWD bylaws and review due structures. Motion carried.

MAWD dues for 2017 were presented to the Board. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, and passed unanimously to approve paying \$4,000 for the 2017 MAWD dues. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed correspondence from the Heron Lake Watershed District to the MAWD Board of Directors.

The Board reviewed correspondence from the City of Grygla for their Wellhead Protection Plan, Part 1.

Administrators update:

- Jesme attended the February 21, 2017, RRWMB held at the District office, followed by the Red River Basin FDR Workgroup meeting. Jesme introduced the Black River Impoundment Project to the FDR Workgroup.
- A Planning Committee meeting for the Thief River 1W1P will be held on March 3rd at the District office, with a training session for the Policy Committee to be held at the District office on March 27th. Jesme and Staff members Hanson and Hitt participated in a phone conference to discuss the Thief River 1W1P PTMApp grant. The Scope of Services is being finalized which will outline the tasks that we have to complete as part of the grant.

- Brian Fischer, Houston Engineering, Inc. will be in the District office on March 2, 2017, to review the Drainage DB (data base) program. The District received a grant from BWSR for development of the Drainage DB program to better manage our legal drainage maintenance files.
- Jesme and Staff member Olson met with staff from the West Polk SWCD and Joint Powers Engineer on February 13th to discuss the timeline for design and construction bids for the Clean Water Fund Grant that was received for the repair of the outlet to RLWD Project No. 135 near Crookston. Construction will occur late summer or early fall.
- The annual Parnell Impoundment Advisory Committee meeting was held at the District office February 22nd.

Discussion was held on the RRWMB meeting held at the District office on February 21, 2017.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary