

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
July 26, 2018

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, Dale M. Nelson, Allan Page, Les Torgerson and LeRoy Ose. Absent: Manager Brian Dwight. Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel Sparby.

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

The Board reviewed the July 12, 2018 minutes. Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the July 12, 2018 Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated July 25, 2018. Discussion was held on mowing services for District projects. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve the Financial Report dated July 25, 2018 as presented. Motion carried.

Staff member Arlene Novak reviewed the Investment Summary dated July 25, 2018. Novak stated that a Certificate of Deposit will mature at Unity Bank-CDARS Program on August 8, 2018. Discussion was held on various interest rates with local banking institutions. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to purchase a 12-month Certificate of Deposit from American Federal Bank, for \$200,000, at a rate of 2.10%. Motion carried. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Torgerson, to purchase a 6-month Certificate of Deposit from American Federal Bank, for \$200,000, at a rate of 1.95% from funds in the Northern State Bank checking account. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) 2019 Levy Resolution. Administrator Jesme stated that the RRWMB chose to do their full levy for 2019. Jesme indicated that the RRWMB is going to change their Governing Documents, which would allow Watershed District's the ability to adjust their levy if certain conditions set forth by the RRWMB are met.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., presented the Preliminary Engineers Report for the Four-Legged Lake Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 102A. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to accept for filing, the Preliminary Engineers Report for the Four-Legged Lake Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 102A. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that the RRWMB agreed to fund \$1 million for the Thief River West Side Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178. Jesme stated that RRWMB Executive Director, Rob Sip, is working on completing a press release for the Thief River West Side Flood Damage Reduction Project and the Black River Impoundment Project, RLWD Project No. 176. Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., stated that he received an email from Bryan Malone, Pennington SWCD, regarding wetland delineation of the Black River

Impoundment Project. Delineation of wetlands is a requirement of the permit process. Discussion was held on a potential landowner petition to determine the benefitted area.

At 9:30 a.m., President Dale M. Nelson recessed the general meeting and called the hearing to order for the Petition of Use of a Legal Drainage System submitted by Wayne and Debra Vetteson for the inclusion of land into RLWD Ditch No. 7, RLWD Project No. 20. Administrator Jesme presented information in regard to the proposed property to be included into the benefitted area of RLWD Ditch No. 7, RLWD Project No. 20, discussing the statutory factors to be considered by the Board. The Board reviewed the Engineer's Findings and Recommendations as prepared by Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc. After entertaining questions from the Board, and comments from the public, the hearing was closed. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, that based on the Engineers' Recommendations of no adverse downstream effects, sufficient capacity and adequate outlet with the addition of the petitioned for real property and pending the determination and payment of contingent costs to the landowner for petition proceedings, outlet fee and determination of benefits for future maintenance, for RLWD Ditch No. 7, RLWD Project No. 20, that the petitioned properties to be included into the RLWD Ditch 7, RLWD Project No. 20 be allowed. Motion carried.

Zack Gutknecht, Beltrami SWCD, and Jamin Carlson, Clearwater SWCD, appeared before the Board to request funding from the District's Erosion Control Funds, RLWD Project No. 164 on four shoreline restoration and protection projects located on the Clearwater Lake. Gutknecht stated that they were approached by the Clearwater Lake Area Association (CLAA) to assist with an application from Enbridge Energy Ecofootprint Grant in 2017. The CLAA is concerned about declining water quality due to the erosion on the shoreline and bluffs. The application was awarded, and the SWCD received a \$75,000 grant which requires a 2:1 match. Each landowner will be required to pay a 10% match. The Beltrami SWCD requested \$12,500 for two sites in Beltrami County and the Clearwater SWCD requested \$4,798 for two sites in Clearwater County from the District's 2018 Erosion Control Funds, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Torgerson, to approve the cost share request of the Beltrami SWCD for \$12,500, for two shoreline restoration projects on Clearwater Lake, from the District's 2018 Erosion Control Funds, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion carried. Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the cost share request of the Clearwater SWCD for \$4,798, for two shoreline restoration projects on Clearwater Lake, from the District's 2018 Erosion Control Funds, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion carried.

Manager Torgerson discussed a project located in the Clearbrook area by the local dam. Jamin Carlson, Clearwater SWCD, stated that he was unaware of any current projects located in Clearbrook.

The Board reviewed a Public Hearing Notice from Pennington County for the proposed partial abandonment of Judicial Ditch No. 25-Branch III. Said hearing will be held at the District office at 9:30 a.m. on August 9, 2018, to run in conjunction with the District's proposed Black River Impoundment hearing, RLWD Project No. 176. Discussion was held on the hearing process and presentation of the Engineer's Report to Pennington County board and the public. Discussion was held on presenting a potential cost for future maintenance fees on the inlet ditches during the hearing process. Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., discussed obtaining right-

of-way easements with the landowners along the inlet ditches. Administrator Jesme indicated that it may be wise to hold off on purchase of additional right of way until the funding for the project is completed. Nordby stated that he is working with the Corps and MnDNR on permitting requirements. Nordby indicated that Bryan Malone, Pennington SWCD will make his WACA recommendation to the Pennington County Board on August 14, 2018.

Administrator Jesme stated that he attended the Little Pine Lake WMA Outlet Structure Project, RLWD Project No. 26A, preconstruction meeting. As part of the MnDNR permit requirement, Jesme contacted six landowners around the Little Pine Lake WMA to discuss the aspects of the project.

Administrator Jesme stated that the Viewers for RLWD Ditch 16, Project No. 177, will meet with landowners within the benefitted area of the project on August 1, 2018 at the Sullivan Township Hall to discuss drainage patterns and any additional input the landowners may have. Landowners were notified of the meeting and were required to call the District office to set up a meeting time.

The following quotes were received for the Agassiz NWR-Wetland Habitat Quality and Management Enhancement Grant Project, RLWD Project No. 180A, for cattail spraying located within the Agassiz NWR: Larson Helicopters, LLC, \$69,555; and Scott's Helicopter Services \$73,254.10. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Torgerson, to approve the low quote in the amount of \$69,555 from Larson Helicopters, LLC, contingent upon the final audit and review of the quotes for the Agassiz NWR-Wetland Habitat Quality and Management Enhancement Grant Project, RLWD Project No. 180A. Motion carried.

Motion by Page, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve RLWD Permit No. 18028, Wayne Vettleson, Equality Township, Red Lake County. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 18052, Wyandotte Township, Pennington County; No. 18053, Olson Construction, River Falls Township, Pennington County; No. 18055 and 18056, Red Lake County Highway Department, Gervais Township, Red Lake County; No. 18057, Pennington County Highway Department, Wyandotte Township, Pennington County; No. 18058, Pennington County Highway Department, Numedal Township, Pennington County; No. 18059, Paul Johnson, North Township, Pennington County; No. 18060, Ryan Sherman, Gully Township, Polk County; and, No. 18062, Virgil Benoit, Louisville Township, Red Lake County. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the RRWMB Current Activities correspondence.

Administrator Jesme presented information on an on-line Watershed Specialist Training Program at a cost of \$850 for a 14-week session. Jesme indicated that Staff member Christina Slowinski is interested in participating in the class. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to authorize the participation of Staff member Christina Slowinski in the Watershed Specialist Training Program. Motion carried.

Administrator Update:

- Jesme and Manager Ose attended the RRWMB meeting at the Bois de Sioux Watershed District in Wheaton on July 17, 2018. Funding was the main topic of the meeting, which ultimately led to the funding of the Thief River Westside FDR Project in conjunction with discussion on the Black River Impoundment and other projects.
- Staff member Corey Hanson and Manager Sorenson attended the Maple Lake Improvement District meeting on July 14, 2018 at the Mentor Community Center. The discussion for the meeting focused on excess algae blooms in Maple Bay.
- Jesme and staff from HDR Engineering, Inc. attended the Little Pine WMA preconstruction meeting with Red Lake Builders on July 19th. The District received the MnDNR permit on July 25th. Upon receipt of the permit, Jesme sent the Notice to Proceed to the contractor.
- Included in the packet was notification of the Middle Snake Tamarac WD 2017 Annual Report.
- Included in the packet was a project proposal from the US Army Corps of Engineers that covers Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act to construct local flood risk reduction projects.
- Included in the packet was a press released developed by Jesme and Joel Praska, MSTRWD, to explain the kiosks that were installed on various projects.
- Jesme will speak at the Golden Pioneers breakfast on July 31st.
- Due to the RRWMB meeting in August, the presentation of the 2017 Annual Report to Marshall County was postponed. Presentation to Beltrami County Board will be on August 21st at the Liberty Town Hall.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that a repair letter order/notice was sent to Clearwater County Auditor to be sent on to the Dudley Township on July 24, 2018 regarding the culvert elevation at the outlet of Judicial Ditch No. 5, RLWD Project No. 102. The notice states that Dudley Township has 30 days from the date of the repair order/notice to complete the same.

Discussion was held on the Complaint/Summons that the District received for the Four-Legged Lakes Landowners and Affected Taxpayers. Legal Counsel Sparby will draft an Answer to the Complaint/Summons.

Manager Tiedemann asked if the District has received a response from the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians regarding the Special Land Permit for the Good Lake Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 67. The District has not received a response.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary