

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
September 26, 2019

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, Terry Sorenson, Les Torgerson, Allan Page, and Brian Dwight. Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel Delray Sparby.

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

The Board reviewed the September 11, 2019 minutes. Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the September 11, 2019 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the September 12, 2019 minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to approve the September 12, 2019 Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated September 25, 2019. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the Financial Report dated September 25, 2019, as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Investment Summary dated September 24, 2019. Staff member Arlene Novak stated that a Certificate of Deposit is set to mature on October 3, 2019. Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to reinvest the Certificate of Deposit that will mature on October 3, 2019. Motion carried.

Staff member Arlene Novak stated that Staff health insurance premiums with Blue Cross Blue Shield will see a 7.5% increase in premium for 2020. Dental insurance rates will remain the same.

Chester Powell and Brielle Prokosch, Clearwater SWCD, presented a cost share proposal for the Pine Lake Township Road Ditch Stabilization Project. Powell stated Silver Creek is head cutting where water enters into the system from a local ditch. The proposal includes the installation of a rock chute structure and streambank regrading to mitigate erosion. The Engineer's estimate is \$31,000, with a local contractor bidding \$11,500. Powell is requesting that the RLWD pay 25% of the actual project costs up to \$7,750. Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Tiedemann, and passed unanimously, to approve a cost share of 25%, up to \$7,750, from the 2019 RLWD Erosion Control Funds, RLWD Project No. 164, for the Pine Lake Road Ditch Stabilization Project for the Clearwater SWCD.

Administrator Jesme stated that the contractor on Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177, plans to move in equipment in the next week or so, recent rain events have delayed the start of

construction. Boring of utilities along Highway 220 will begin on September 27th. CenturyLink requires payment in advance for moving of their lines. Jesme recommends requesting payment of a portion of the costs upfront. Jesme informed the Board that we are still waiting for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit. Jesme indicated that one of the delays in receiving the permit is the 30-day review period the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has, in which to review the Cultural Survey report. Jesme shared his frustration in that he asked the USACOE staff person why they waited until September 11th to send the report for review when they received the report from the District on June 25th? No answer was given to Jesme as to why they waited three months to send the report for review.

Discussion was held on addressing changes to the Brandt Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60D, where water enters the impoundment and elevation of the emergency spillway. Landowner Ron Salentine stated that with recent rain events, he is concerned that water will come around the outside of the dike and breakout across his field. Discussion was held on the installation of a berm at the inlet to keep the water in the channel where it enters the impoundment. Jesme stated that staff has been waiting for the leaves to drop to complete the survey. Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, stated that the recent rainfall amounts could constitute an emergency situation, recommending a metered release of water to match what is coming in under the terms of the operation of the impoundments. Staff member Loren Sanderson stated that there are trigger points for operating the impoundments during spring and summer flood events, but not for the present situation being experienced. Discussion was held on operating the metered release of water according to prudent operations per the engineer's recommendations. Discussion was also had on Euclid East and if there were any concerns with water levels on that impoundment. Sanderson indicated that inflows to that impoundment have subsided and that at this point it was not as great a concern. Administrator Jesme stated that County Ditch 66 Branch C is the outlet of the Euclid East Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60C, which most likely was designed for somewhere between a 2-3-year event. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to authorize staff from the District and HDR Engineering, Inc., to monitor the inflows and outflows of the Euclid East Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60C, Brandt Impoundment and RLWD Project No. 60D, and to operate the release in accordance to the operating plan and to consult with the engineer should there be a need to release accordingly should an emergency situation occur due to the recent rain events. Motion carried. Sanderson noted that the Parnell Impoundment area did not receive as much rain and is presently being released out of the Lateral 2 weir, with the gates closed at the west outlet, as County Ditch 126 is full of water.

The Board reviewed the Final Hearing Order for Damages awarded for the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178 which were provided by John Kolb, Rinke-Noonan. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Torgerson, to approve the Final Hearing Order for Damages for the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178 as presented. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that Attorney John Kolb is working on the purchase agreement for property owned by Marland and Sharon Johnson for the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178. Jesme questioned if the District should pay the 2nd half of the 2019 Property Taxes for said property. Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson,

that the District will pay for the 2nd half of the 2019 Property Taxes for property purchased from Marland and Sharon Johnson for the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178. Motion carried.

District staff members Christina Slowinski and Myron Jesme and Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., met with staff from FEMA to discuss damage to the outlet of RLWD 10, RLWD Project No. 161 during the 2019 Spring flood event. Nordby presented three alternatives for repair/replacement of the existing outlet structure. Administrator Jesme stated that this project is listed as a potential project in the Work Plan for the Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149 for the upcoming Watershed Based Funding.

Administrator Jesme noted that in today's Financial Report, Pay Estimate No. 1 was listed for Wright Construction, Inc., on the Burnham Creek-Russia 12 Project through the West Polk SWCD, which is funded through the Red Lake River 1W1P.

The Board reviewed information for the purchase of River Watch apparel for students involved in the District's River Watch Program. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Torgerson, to approve the purchase of approximately 45 jackets at a cost of \$40 each for River Watch students participating in the District's River Watch Program. Motion carried.

Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Torgerson, to approve a one-year extension for RLWD Permit No. 18130, John Garry, Euclid Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 19133, Raymond Zajac, Winsor Township, Clearwater County; No. 19135, Marshall County Highway Department, Agder Township, Marshall County; No. 19142, Douglas Peterson, Sullivan Township, Polk County; No. 19143, Terry Lubitz, Excel Township, Marshall County; No. 19144, David Bray, North Township, Pennington County; No. 19145, Patrick Harzke, Silverton Township, Pennington County; No. 19146, Philip Quam, Lessor Township, Polk County; No. 19147, Lorrain Stone, Smiley Township, Pennington County; No. 19148, Wayne Vettleson, Equality Township, Red Lake County; No. 19149, Pennington County Highway Department, Hickory Township, Pennington County; No. 19150, Gerald Wayne, Grand Plain Township, Marshall County; No. 19151, Pennington County Highway Department, Mayfield Township, Pennington County; No. 19152 and 19153, Pennington County Highway Department, North Township, Pennington County; No. 19154, Pennington County Highway Department, Smiley Township, Pennington County; No. 19156, Herb Torstveit, Rocksbury Township, Pennington County; and No. 19159, Pennington County Highway Department, Hickory Township, Pennington County. Motion carried.

Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Managers Ose and Torgerson attended the RRWMB meeting on September 17, 2019 in Ada. Jesme also attended the Budget and Finance Committee meeting

following the regularly scheduled Board meeting. Included in the packet was the highlights of the meeting.

- Jesme, with assistance from staff from HDR and MnDNR, submitted a Conservation Legacy Grant to assist in funding the repair to the outlet structure of the BR-6 Wildlife Habitat Pool along the east side of the Burnham Creek Impoundment.
- Jesme and Manager Page presented the 2018 Annual Report to the Red Lake County Commissioners on September 24th.

Discussion was held on payment of damages for the Thief River Falls Westside FDR Project, RLWD Project No. 178.

Manager Torgerson stated that rocks were placed in the outlet culvert of the Judicial Ditch 5 (Four-Legged Lake), RLWD Project No. 102. Staff members Christina Slowinski and Nick Olson removed the rock. Administrator Jesme will contact the Dudley Township Supervisor to discuss the issue.

Manager Tiedemann discussed the Clearwater SWCD Tour he participated in, and the pollinator project presented by members of the Clearwater County 4H Program.

Manager Dwight discussed a meeting regarding Bartlett Lake and the development of a Water Management Plan for the lake.

Manager Sorenson discussed the request for a DNR Aeration Permit for Cameron Lake.

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



Terry Sorenson, Secretary