

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
July 27, 2023

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: Managers: Dale M. Nelson, Gene Tiedemann, Allan Page, Brian Dwight, LeRoy Ose, and Tom Anderson. Absent: Terry Sorenson. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Ann Joppru, Erick Huseth, Nate Koland, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

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

The Board reviewed the July 13, 2023, minutes. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the July 13, 2023, Board meeting minutes with correction. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated July 26, 2023. Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to approve the Financial Report dated July 26, 2023, with corrections. Motion carried.

Included in the packet was the BWSR 2023 Estimated Taxable Market Values. This is the taxes payable 2023 estimated & taxable market values for Watershed Districts in Minnesota.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 1 to Quality Spray Foam LLC dba Anderson Excavating for construction of the Fladeland Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AX in the amount of \$88,503.43. Motion by Page, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve Pay Estimate No. 1 to Quality Spray Foam LLC dba Anderson Excavating in the amount of \$88,503.43 for work on the Fladeland Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AX. Motion carried.

Construction on the Beich Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AY has begun.

Preliminary design on the Payment Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129BC and the Cardinal Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129BB is moving forward, with the hopes of construction later this fall. Staff member Nate Koland is working on right-of-way on both ring dikes. Staff member Erick Huseth contacted the MnDNR regarding removal of a beaver dam upstream of the Pine Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 35 located within the Lost River. MnDNR staff would like to be informed of how many beavers were removed from the dam. Huseth has spoken to the local landowner regarding permission to cross their property for access to the site. Dyrdal Construction will remove the dam once the beavers have been trapped.

Staff member Erick Huseth stated that Triple D Construction completed maintenance on Ditch 8, RLWD Project No. 36. This ditch is located 12 miles north of Gully.

Executive Director Rob Sip, RRWMB, stated that the RRWMB of Managers set their 2024 Levy at 75% or 0.0003627 times the taxable market value on all taxable property within RRWMB member watershed districts. Sip reviewed the 2024 Operating Budget, Program Budget, and Project Spending Plan.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc. updated the Board on the Turtle/Cross/Connection Project, RLWD Project No. 114, and the project work team meeting that occurred on July 21 in Fosston. It was a positive meeting. We have three dams on three different lakes that are all connected which are all owned by the DNR. DNR now has two dams that have failed – Turtle & South Connection. One dam, Cross Lake, has no boards installed. The proposed action is needed to stabilize water levels for the benefit of recreational users, landowners, and fish and to provide flood storage capacity. A feasibility study would cost around \$100,000. Rob Sip suggested we get on DNR's list for assistance with this project. A subcommittee planning meeting will be set up.

The Board reviewed a proposal from Terracon to complete soil borings on the Chief's Coulee Project, RLWD Project No. 46S in the amount of \$7,000. Discussion was held on what role the District could play in the project. A motion was made by Page, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve soil boring for the Chief's Coulee Project, RLWD Project No. 46S in the amount of \$7,000. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette stated that the Red Lake SWCD was able to get additional funding in the amount of \$36,390.59 for construction of the Gary Purath Structure Replacement Project. This project was postponed at the July 13th meeting. The Red Lake SWCD is requesting funding in the amount of \$21,609.41. Audette indicated that the District had pledged \$7,000 in 2022 towards the project. A motion was made by Page, seconded by Anderson, to approve the funding request in the amount of \$21,609.41 for construction of the Gary Purath Structure Replacement Project, from the District's Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149 funds. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Minnesota Watersheds' 2023 Resolutions Process.

The Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (FDRWG) will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary with a Celebration & Tour on September 22, 2023. Plan to attend to celebrate 25 years of the Red River Basin Mediation Agreement. There will be presentations highlighting past and ongoing work, followed by a tour of local projects planned to use FDRWG's project team process.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 23122, Scott Olson, Norden Township, Pennington County; No. 23005, Scott Tersteeg, Badger Township, Polk County; No. 23023, Richard Vraa, Goodridge Township, Pennington County; No. 23053, John Dyrdahl, Bray Township, Pennington County; No. 23077, Knute Knutson, Lake Pleasant Township, Red Lake County; No. 23091, Joan Emery, Red Lake Falls Township, Red Lake County; No. 23092, Renae Lehrer, Red Lake Falls Township, Red Lake County; No. 23105, Lessor Township,

Lessor Township, Polk County; No. 23106, Lake Pleasant Township; Lake Pleasant Township, Red Lake County; No. 23108 John Dyrdaahl, Numedal Township, Pennington County; No. 23110, Scott Tersteeg, Badger Township, Polk County; No. 23111, Marc Horien, Holt Township, Marshall County; No. 23112, Jon & Paula Praska, North Township, Pennington County; No. 23113, Pennington County Highway Department, Star Township, Pennington County; No. 23114, Matt Stenberg, Garnes Township, Red Lake County; No. 23115, Matt Stenberg, Equality Township, Red Lake County; No. 23116, Alden Moe, Onstad Township, Polk County; No. 23117, Fanny Township, Fanny Township, Polk County; No. 23118, Red Lake County Highway Dept, Equality Township, Red Lake County; No. 23120, Beltrami County Highway Dept, Waskish Township, Beltrami County; No. 23121, Beltrami County Highway Dept, Washkish Township, Beltrami County; No. 23123, Scott Olson, Norden Township, Pennington County; No. 23125, Marshall County Highway Dept, Veldt Township, Marshall County; No. 23126, Marshall County Highway Dept, Excel Township, Marshall County; No. 23127, Donald Fox, Garnes Township, Red Lake County; No. 23128, Darren Wheeling, Eddy Township, Clearwater County; and No. 23129, Marshall County Highway Dept, Excel Township, Marshall County; Motion carried.

The Proposed 2024 Budget and Salary recommendations and General Fund Budget was presented by Administrator Audette. Audette presented a worksheet of descriptions of what expense is included in each line item of the budget. The proposed salaries are based on employee steps along with the 2.5% COLA for each employee and the salary structure for 2024. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to approve the proposed 2024 General Fund Budget, in the amount of \$266,630.50, and set the 2024 General Fund Budget hearing for 9:15 a.m. on Thursday, August 24, 2023, at the Red Lake Watershed District office. Motion carried.

Administrators Update:

- **Red River Watershed Management Board:** Manager Ose and I attended the RRWMB meeting held in Ada on July 18, 2023.
- **Mud River Project:** Due to the landowners harvesting rye grass, the Mud River Project Team that was scheduled for this afternoon, has been postponed to August 14, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the District office.
- **Turtle Connection Cross Project:** Managers Sorenson and Anderson and Staff members Audette and Bushy attended the Project Work Team meeting held on Friday, July 21, 2023, in Fosston. The next Project Team Meeting will be held this Fall.
- **Demarais Hanson Project:** Audette contacted the interim Red Lake County Engineer regarding potentially removing snow prior to Spring runoff upstream of the Demarais Hanson Project. A new county engineer will be in place in August, and it was suggested we wait until then to further discuss the matter.
- **Red Lake River 1W1P-Red Lake SWCD-County Road 19:** Included in the packet are pictures from a repair recently completed downstream of County Road 19, that enters the

Red Lake River upstream from Voyageurs View in Red Lake Falls. Gladen Construction completed the work.

- **BWSR Manager Training:** Staff members Audette and Bushy will attend the BWSR Manager Training session on July 28, 2023, in Warren.
- **Upper Lower Red Lake 1W1P:** Staff member Hanson and Manager Dwight attended the Upper Lower Red Lake 1W1P Advisory Committee meeting on July 25, with Staff member Audette participating virtually.
- **Black River Impoundment:** District staff closed the outlet to the Black River Impoundment on Thursday, July 26th, due to the area receiving 2-3” of rainfall. Staff will monitor water levels in the area.
- **Vacation:** Audette will be on Vacation August 3 and 4th.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary