

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
June 29, 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 Tiedeman, Terry Sorenson, Tom Anderson, LeRoy Ose, and Allan Page. Absent: Brian Dwight. Staff Present: Myron Jesme, Tammy Audette, Ann Joppru, Melissa Bushy and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby. Guests: Nate Dalager, Tony Nordby, Kelly Dahlen, Matt Fischer, Brian Fuder, and Keith Weston.

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 as presented. Motion carried.

A request to appear was made by Keith Weston, Red River Retention Authority.

The Board reviewed the June 8, 2023, minutes. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to approve the June 8, 2023, Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated June 28, 2023. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Financial Report dated June 28, 2023. Motion carried.

Staff member Ann Joppru presented an Invoice for the District's 2024 Workers Compensation Premium from the League of Minnesota Cities in the amount of \$4,411.00. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve the premium and to pay the invoice in the amount of \$4,411.00 to the League of Minnesota Cities. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the 2024 Budget and Salary timeline. The Budget and Salary Committee will meet prior to the July 27, 2023, Board meeting to prepare the budget.

Administrator Jesme addressed Ditch No. 1, RLWD Project No. 175, indicating that District staff found several areas of bank sloughing and erosion. Jesme noted that this project received damage from the 2022 Spring rain event that will be paid for through FEMA and repaired this summer. Jesme is recommending that the additional work be completed by the same contractor at an hourly rate. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to authorize District staff, the authority to complete the necessary ditch repairs at the hourly equipment rental rate for Ditch No. 15, RLWD Project No. 175. Motion carried.

Matt Fischer, BWSR, reviewed the most recent BWSR Legislative Update. This included a comprehensive summary of 2023 legislation impacting BSWR's work – including the work of our external partners statewide, particularly Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Watershed Districts.

Manager Nelson introduced landowner Kelly Dahlen. Mr. Dahlen farms near the Good Lake Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 67, and has concerns with downstream drainage. Dahlen spoke with Al Pemberton, Red Lake DNR, who gave written permission for Dahlen to be the Gate

Tender for the project. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve Kelly Dahlen as the Gate Tender for the Good Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 67. Motion carried.

Keith Weston, Red River Retention Authority, informed the Board of his intention to retire from his position late this Fall. Weston introduced Brian Fuder, who will replace Weston.

Administrator Jesme stated that a small amount of additional permanent and temporary right-of-way is needed for the replacement of the box culvert on the Pine Lake Project-Phase 2, RLWD Project No. 26B Project. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Tiedemann, to authorize Legal Counsel Sparby to prepare Easement's between the District and the landowners for the purchase of permanent and temporary right-of-way for the Pine Lake Project-Phase 2, RLWD Project No. 26B. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme reviewed the summary construction costs and funding sources for Polk County Ditch No. 99 Outlet Stabilization Project, Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD No. 149.

Administrator Jesme stated that he was contacted by Engineer, Rich Sanders, Polk County Highway Department, regarding the Maple Lake outlet and potential replacement of the outlet. Discussion was held on the potential Flood Damage Reduction storage potential on Maple Lake and or Badger Lake. Jesme will ask Polk County to submit a letter of request for assistance from the District.

Peter Nelson, Pennington SWCD and Coordinator for the Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149, requested the District be the Fiscal Agent for a \$30,000 grant for the Continuous Reserve Program (CRP) through the Red Lake River 1W1P. This grant would augment the price of CRP by \$10.00 per acre per year on new or re-enrollment CRP contracts. There is a \$5,000 maximum one-time payment per landowner. The landowner would enter into an agreement with the SWCD for the incentive amount. Sites would be located within the priority areas of the Red Lake River. Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the District as the Fiscal Agent for the Continuous Reserve Program through the Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149 this. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme discussed the renewal of a CRP Rental Lease Agreement with landowner Roger Hagen for property on the Brandt Channel, RLWD Project No. 60E. Mr. Hagen would like to renew his rental lease agreement with the District. The agreement is from October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2033. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page to approve the renewal of the CRP Rental Lease Agreement with landowner Roger Hagen. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a funding request from the Red Lake SWCD for the Mark Vettleson Streambank Shoreland Protection Project. The Red Lake County SWCD would like to request \$7,000 from the District to assist with the local match requirement for this project. Motion by Page, seconded by Anderson, to approve the funding request from the Red Lake SWCD for the Mark Vettleson Streambank Shoreland Protection Project in the amount of \$7,000, from the District's Clearwater River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149B funds. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a funding request from the Red Lake SWCD for the Randy Derosier-Grade Stabilization Project: The Red Lake County SWCD is requesting \$6,000 from the District to assist with the local match requirement for this project. Motion by Page, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the Red Lake SWCD funding request for the Randy Derosier Grade Stabilization project in the amount of \$6,000 from the District's Clearwater River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149B funds. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a funding request from the Red Lake SWCD for the Matt Knutson-Grade Stabilization Project. The Red Lake SWCD would like to request \$10,000 from the District to assist with local match requirement for this project. Motion by Page, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the Red Lake SWCD funding request for the Matt Knutson Grade Stabilization Project in the amount of \$10,000 from the District's Clearwater River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149B funds. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a funding request from the Red Lake SWCD for the Gary Purath-Grade Stabilization Project. Due to a lack of funding through the Red Lake River Watershed Based Implementation Funding, the Red Lake SWCD tabled this project until additional funding is available. In 2022, the District approved funding \$7,000 towards this project. Motion by Ose, seconded by Anderson, to table further funding requests for the Gary Purath Grade Stabilization Project, until additional funds are available. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Page, seconded by Sorenson, to approve revising Permit No. 23-012, Poplar River Township, as requested Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve tabling the revision of Permit No. 23-049 Jim Hagge, Poplar River Township, Red Lake County, to allow for further review by District staff and staff from Houston Engineering, Inc. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed permits for approval. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the following permits with conditions as stated on the permit: No. 23033, Solheim Farms Inc, Fairfax Township, Polk County; No. 23034, Solheim Farms Inc, Fairfax Township, Polk County; No. 23035, Solheim Farms Inc, Fairfax Township, Polk County; No. 23036, Solheim Farms Inc, Fairfax Township Polk County; No. 23039, Solheim Farms Inc, Farifax Township, Polk County; No. 23056, David & Diane Faldet, Lessor Township, Polk County; No. 23067, Pederson Bros, Polk County, Badger Township; No. 23068, Michael Schafer, Gervais Township, Red Lake County; No. 23079, Timothy Hruby, Highlanding Township, Pennington County; No. 23084, Josh Michaelson, Parnell Township, Polk County; No. 23085, Alex Yaggie, Rocksbury Township, Pennington; No. 23087, MnDOT District 2, Lee, Hamre, Steenerson, Benville, Spruce Grove and Minnie Townships, Beltrami County; No. 23099, Mike Gasper, Fanny Township, Polk County; Motion carried.

The Advisory Board Tour was held on Monday, June 26th. Twenty-five people attended the bus tour. A motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Ose, to approve the addition of Kelly Dahlen to the RLWD Advisory Board. Motion carried.

Administrators Update:

- Red River Watershed Management Board – Jesme, Manager Ose, and Staff member Tammy Audette attended the RRWMB meeting held June 27th in Ada. Various items of interest were discussed which included Watershed Based funding for PCD 99, Project Team funding as well as ring dike funding. Ose and Jesme introduced Tammy Audette to the Board and other partners present.
- MN Watersheds Summer Tour – Jesme, and Managers Tiedemann, Ose, and Dwight attended the MN Watersheds Summer Tour in Albert Lea June 20th through June 21st. Jesme felt the event was a great success for MN Watershed and Shell Rock, Cedar River and Turtle Lake Watershed District. They covered various cool projects throughout the three watershed districts and did a very nice job. It would have been better to have more attendance from northern Minnesota Watersheds but at least our District was well represented.
- Thief River 1W1P – June 12th at 9:00 am there was an Advisory/Policy Committee meeting held in the District’s boardroom. Various projects and budgets were covered, which included the discussion of closing out the 2020 WBIF grant.
- Red Lake River 1W1P – Wednesday June 14th at 9:30 am the Policy Committee held their monthly meeting in the District’s Board room. Long and short of this meeting was trying to figure out how to get all the projects completed that are already in construction phase. This is a good thing and a nice problem to have.
- Clearwater River 1W1P – The Planning Workgroup for the Clearwater River 1W1P met at 9:00 am yesterday June 28th. The discussion mostly covered budget items, project updates and procedures for submittal of projects to the PWG.
- Drainage Workgroup Meeting – On June 8th at 11:00 am, the Drainage Workgroup met for the first time since the legislative session closed. There was a lot of discussion of tasks handed down by legislation this year which included adequate outlet, possible legislative changes in statute as well as clarifying drainage portal needs, or not.
- Mud River Project – On June 8th at 1:00 pm we held a landowner meeting on site to better show the landowners where the potential project would be located as well as the description of the project goals. The meeting was well attended with a lot of good questions shared.
- Adequate Outlet subcommittee – The fifth meeting of the DWG Adequate Outlet Committee was held June 26th in Alexandria. I feel we made some progress on various items with the hope of one more meeting being held in July with the hope of completing a report to the DWG in August.
- Advisory Committee Summer Tour – RLWD staff and Board members attended the Overall Advisory Committee tour held on June 26th. There were upwards of 25 people on the tour, which staff felt went very well. Board members who attended the tour were invited to comment, in the Board update.
- Tynsid Township Section 36 slough – Please find the letter submitted by Nicole as it relates to major sloughing that occurred on private land located in Section 36 Tynsid Township.

- Myron Jesme indicated that this will close his last administrators report to the Board and wishes the Board all the best as it proceeds in completing the good work of the Red Lake Watershed District. Administrator Jesme stated that he couldn't thank the Board and staff enough for all they have done to make the last 20 years so great.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "LeRoy Ose". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

LeRoy Ose, Secretary