

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
September 14, 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, Brian Dwight, Leory Ose, Gene Tiedemann, Terry Sorenson, Allan Page, and Tom Anderson. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Ann Joppru, Corey Hanson, Lindsey Kallis, Tony Olson, Erick Huseeth, Nate Koland, Melissa Bushy and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Anderson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda with the addition of RLWD permit No. 23168. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the August 24, 2023, minutes. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve the August 24, 2023, Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated September 13, 2023. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the Financial Report dated September 13, 2023, as presented. Motion carried.

Staff member Ann Joppru reviewed the Edward Jones Certificate of Deposits (CD) information. One CD will mature on September 15, 2023, with the second CD maturing on September 22, 2023. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Anderson, to approve re-investing both CD's each for 1-year at the current interest rate of 5.45%. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Page to approve the invoice for the 2023-24 League of MN Cities membership dues in the amount of \$2,221. Motion carried.

Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, reviewed RLWD Project No. 92A, Red River Basin Long Term Flood Solution. Ten years ago, the RLWD Board created a subcommittee for this project. HDR Engineering went out and looked at multiple sites and came up with a strategic plan and helped the District prioritize a list of potential top six sites. From that came the Black River project. Since then, no other action has occurred. Discussion was held on scheduling a meeting amongst the sub-committee members in the near future. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, that Manager Nelson will replace Manager Tiedemann, on the 20% Flood Damage Reduction Committee. Motion carried.

Parnell Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 81 – Property Line: Landowner, Mike Gasper is requesting the District consider letting him purchase property from the District on the north side of the Parnell Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 81, located in Section 3, Parnell Township, Polk County. Mr. Gasper would like to purchase the property from his tree line to the North side of the exterior ditch of the impoundment. Mr. Gasper has indicated he will pay for all costs

incurred. Discussion occurred, with a motion made by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to leave the property lines as is. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a Petition for a boundary change from the Sandhill River Watershed District. A motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Sorenson to approve the boundary change as previously presented, subject to Sandhill River Watershed District and BSWR approval. Motion carried.

Staff member Erick Huseth provided an update on maintenance on RLWD Project No. 14, State Ditch 83. Huseth said the side water inlet has been repaired near the Liedberg Farm.

Administrator Tammy Audette stated the MnDNR funding applications have been submitted for both the RLWD Project No. 129 BB, Cardinal Ring Dike, and RLWD Project No. 129 BC, Payment Ring Dike. Audette shared that we have not heard anything back yet.

The Board reviewed Change Order No. 1 to Lunke's Inc. for construction of the Beich Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AY. There was a net decrease in the amount of \$10,144.74. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve Change Order No. 1 to Lunke's Inc. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 2 to Lunke's Inc. for construction of the Beich Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AY in the amount of \$27,430.42. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to approve Pay Estimate No. 2 to Lunke's Inc. in the amount of \$27,430.42 for work on the Beich Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AY. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Change Order No.1 Anderson Excavating for construction of the Fladeland Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129 AX. There was a net decrease in the amount of \$5,000. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve Change Order No. 1 to Anderson Excavating. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 3 to Anderson Excavating for construction of the Fladeland Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AX in the amount of \$5,263.95. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page. to approve Pay Estimate No. 3 to Anderson Excavating in the amount of \$5,263.95 for work on the Fladeland Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AX. Motion carried.

Staff member Tony Olson reviewed RLWD permit no. 23-168 from the Pennington County Highway Department. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann to approve RLWD permit no. 23-168. Motion carried.

Staff member Tony Olson addressed RLWD permit no. 97-184, Keith Swenson. This permit was never satisfied. Upon further discussion it was determined that Olson will follow up with Mr. Swenson on the next steps.

Staff member Tony Olson addressed RLWD permit no. 23139 – 23143 from the Polk County Highway Department. Upon further discussion, a motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Tiedemann, to deny all five permits due to the fact that the permit requests would constitute an improvement of a legal ditch system and did not contain sufficient information of Staff member Tony Olson to determine a primary roadway or transportation purpose. Motion carried.

Staff member Tony Olson addressed RLWD permit no's. 23081, 23082, and 23104. After further discussion, a motion was made by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to withdraw the following RLWD permits: 23081, 23082, and 23104. 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. 23145, MnDOT District 2, Holst Township, Clearwater County; No. 23146, Curt Swanson, Bray Township, Pennington County; No. 23147, Darrel Muzzy, Silverton Township, Pennington County; No. 23151, Thomas Scholin, Bray Township, Pennington County; No. 23153, Richard Huffman, Crookston Township, Polk County; No. 23155, Michael Yaggie, Poplar River Township, Red Lake County; No. 23156, Tim Wavra, Louisville Township, Red Lake County; No. 23157, Rovella Weiland, Belgium Township, Polk County; No. 23158, Gene Tiedemann, Fanny Township, Polk County; No. 23159, Monte Casavan, Black River Township, Pennington County; No. 23160, Sandra Gagner, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; No. 23161, Kevin Krueger, Sullivan Township, Polk County; No. 23162, Kevin Krueger, Sullivan Township, Polk County; No. 23165, Dave Kiecker, King Township, Polk County; and No. 23167, Vance Haugen, Mayfield Township, Pennington County. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette shared the upcoming dates for the 2023 BWSR Academy. The conference will be held October 24-26 at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd, MN. We have a few staff members who will be attending the conference.

Administrator Audette discussed summer hours and how they went. A log of missed calls was provided which noted very few were missed on Friday afternoons. Discussion occurred but no action was taken.

A resignation from staff member Ann Joppru was reviewed. A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to accept the resignation of RLWD Accounting Officer, Ann Joppru. Motion carried. A separate motion was made by Ose, seconded by Anderson to advertise, and post for an Accounting Officer replacement. Motion carried.

### **Administrator's Report:**

**Pennington County Outdoor Education Day:** Staff members Corey Hanson and Lindsey Kallis participated in the Pennington County Outdoor Education Day on September 13<sup>th</sup>. This day is geared towards 6<sup>th</sup> grade students with students participating in various stations. Hanson led the Incredible Journey Water Cycle Station, and Kallis was at the Aquatic Invasive Species Station.

**NW Minnesota Water Festival.** Staff members Corey Hanson and Lindsey Kallis will assist in the NW Minnesota Water Festivals in Fertile and Warren next week. The festival is geared towards 4<sup>th</sup> graders, with approximately 200 students each day attending from area schools.

**Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge Climate Adaptation Workshop:** Staff members Hanson and Audette participated in this workshop sponsored by the USFWS.

**Agassiz and Farmes Pool releases:** Agassiz NWR began releasing waters from Farmes Pool/Elm Lake on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Release from the Agassiz Pool began on September 11<sup>th</sup>. As of September 13<sup>th</sup>, 170 cfs were being released from Agassiz Pool and 84 cfs from Farmes Pool/Elm Lake. Agassiz NWR, MnDNR and the District will coordinate with Houston Engineering for inspection of the Farmes Pool/Elm Lake structure and the Lost River Pool structure.

**Technology Update:** Staff members Tammy Audette and Melissa Bushy met with the District's IT company, Corporate Technology, regarding updating of the District's technology. The Meraki subscription, which serves as the District's Firewall, is set to expire on October 8<sup>th</sup>. We also need to update the District's server license to a current operating system. Discussion and training were also discussed regarding Cyber Security. More information will be provided at the September 28<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

**Minnesota Watersheds Annual Meeting:** Houston Engineering, Inc., contacted our office and the Sauk River Watershed District regarding presenting the implementation of the 1W1P process at the Minnesota Watersheds Annual meeting held in late November, in Alexandria. The abstract that was submitted to Minnesota Watersheds was accepted, with a tentative schedule for presentation on Thursday morning of the conference. More information to follow on this item.

**Maple, Badger, and Mitchell Lakes Outlet Structures:** A meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon at the Mentor Community Center with the Polk County Highway Department, Maple Lake Association, MnDNR, Manager Terry Sorenson, Myron Jesme, Tony Nordby and Tammy Audette.

**Outlet to Polk County Ditch 99:** Polk County Highway Department is requesting a possible realignment to the outlet of Polk County Ditch 99 east of Crookston. This project is partially funded by the District, RRWMB, 1W1P, Polk County ditch funds, MPCA and FEMA. This project was already bid out, with Davidson Construction being the low bidder and construction set to begin this month. HDR Engineering and District staff met with Polk County to review their request, with no set conclusion. More information will follow on this matter.

**RRWMB meeting:** Tammy Audette plans to attend the RRWMB meeting held in Ada on September 19<sup>th</sup>. As a reminder, Manager Ose will not be able to attend that meeting date.

Improvement to Polk Co. Ditch 39 – Legal fees: This is related to the Supreme Court Appeal. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to approve paying 50% of the costs

Red Lake Watershed District

September 14, 2023

Page 5 of 5

related to the Supreme Court appeal as the subject matter is germane to watershed issues at large. Motion carried.

Legal Counsel Sparby gave an update on State of Minnesota in Supreme Court A22-1163. The Supreme Court granted review of the Court of Appeals decision. He said the Appellant's briefing is due October 16.

The Board discussed the option of using Benton, Safranski, and Co., LLP to help us in the interim while we look to hire a new Accounting Officer. A motion was made by Page, seconded by Sorenson, to approve hiring the services of Benton, Safranski, and Co., LLP for accounting services as needed. Motion carried. Motion by Page, seconded by Sorenson, 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