

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
April 25, 2024

President, Gene M. Tiedemann, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District Office, Thief River Falls, MN.

Present: Managers: Gene Tiedeman, LeRoy Ose, Tom Anderson, Grant Nelson, Brian Dwight, Terry Sorenson, and Allan Page. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Elaine Rychlock, Melissa Bushy, Lindsey Kallis, Corey Hanson, Erick Huseh, Nate Koland, and Tony Olson, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby. Guests: Nate Dalager, Tony Nordby, Gary Kiesow, Jim Graham, and Darrold Rodahl.

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

The Board reviewed the April 11, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the April 11, 2024, Board meeting minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated April 24, 2024. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the Financial Report dated April 24, 2024. Motion carried.

Quotes for the Payment Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129BC were opened at 4:30 p.m., on April 24, 2024, at the District office. Administrator Audette stated that we received 3 quotes for the Payment Ring Dike. Engineers Estimate of probable cost was \$57,712. Quotes submitted for consideration were from Anderson Excavating in the amount of \$95,547.60, Olson Construction in the amount of \$75,519.80, and from Ryan's Backhoe Service LLC in the amount of \$229,456.56. Motion made by Dwight, seconded by Nelson, to award the apparent low quote to Olson Construction in the amount of \$75,519.80 for construction of the Payment Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129BC, subject to administrative and legal review. Motion carried.

The board discussed the Elm Lake Screw Gate Replacement, RLWD Project No. 52. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to move forward with receiving quotes for the work. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette shared with the Board the tentative list of names for the SD 83 Flooding Concerns Project Work Team. Audette has made phone calls to area landowners filling them in on what it would mean to be on this work team as well as reiterating the time commitment it would entail. A motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Ose, to develop a project work team that includes both upstream and downstream landowners. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the need for engineering services with SD 83 Flooding Concerns. After much discussion, a motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Anderson, to appoint Houston Engineering to work with the RLWD on the SD 83 Flooding Concerns project work team. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed RLWD Project No. 180C, Mud River Project. After much discussion, a motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to proceed with Task Order No. 3, with HDR Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$190,550 for completion of the Preliminary Design of the Mud River Project, RLWD Project No. 180C. Motion carried with Manager Dwight voting in opposition. Manager Dwight stated that he is opposed in supporting this motion because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is engaged in discussions regarding the transfer of the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge to the White Earth Reservation, with concerns this same conversation could take place at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge.

Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, provided an update to the Board on the 20% Flood Damage Reduction Tour that was held in March 2024 with the 20% Flood Damage Reduction Committee.

Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, gave an update on Turtle Cross Connection, RLWD Project No. 114. A Project Work Team meeting will be held on April 29, 2024.

Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, provided an update on Chief's Coulee, RLWD Project No. 46S.

Don Bajumpaa, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) reviewed the Organizational Report through the Performance Review and Assistance Plan (PRAP). PRAP is set up to systematically review the performance of local units of government to ensure effective operation. The PRAP report documents the results of the review. PRAP was set up as part of the Minnesota Legislative Audit to track the effectiveness of funding received from the state. Bajumpaa stated that the District should be commended for the efforts of the Board and staff for good working relationships with various partners in making the District a very successful organization in delivering high quality water management projects and programs to the District's partners and producers.

The Board reviewed a funding request from the Pennington SWCD for the Sorvig LLP Grade Stabilization Structure Project located in Section 4, Polk Centre Township, Pennington County in the amount of \$1,400. The project cost estimate is \$19,095. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Dwight, to approve the funding request from the Pennington SWCD for the Sorvig LLP Grade Stabilization Structure Project in the amount of \$1,400. Motion carried.

Staff member, Tony Olson, discussed a permit violation located in Hickory Township, Pennington County. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Sorenson, to require the landowner to obtain an after-the-fact permit and bill charges for staff time associated with the violation. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Ose, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 24019, Randy Weiss, Lake Pleasant Township, Red Lake County; No. 24020, Darrell Payment, Gervais Township, Red Lake County; No. 24021, Danny Payment, Gervais Township, Red Lake County; 24022, Danny Payment, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; and 24023, Otter Tail Power Company, Lambert Township, Red Lake County. Motion carried. A motion was made by Ose,

seconded by Page to table No. 24028 and require that the landowner notify the RLWD upon completion. Motion carried.

Staff member, Tony Olson, reviewed the vehicle quotes he received from Northern Motors, Thief River Ford, and Thibert Chevrolet. After much discussion, a motion was made by Page, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the trade-in and low quote purchase of a new truck from Thibert Chevrolet. Motion carried.

RLWD staff are requesting summer hours from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend, which would entail working Monday – Thursday, 7:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (9-hour days) and Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (4-hour day), therefore closing the office at noon on Friday’s. Consideration would be given for construction activities and water sampling schedule as per approval by the Administrator. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the request of District Staff for summer hours between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend. Motion carried. Manager Dwight asked for summer hours to be reviewed after Labor Day to possibly consider having a modified schedule year-round.

Administrator Audette discussed the schedule for the week of July 4, 2024 at the RLWD office. Audette proposed the office to be closed on July 4, 2024, and July 5, 2024. A motion was made by Page, seconded by Nelson, to approve the RLWD office to be closed July 4, 2024, and July 5, 2024, with staff using vacation time for July 5, 2024 hours. Motion carried.

Administrators Update:

- **Houston Engineering GPS/survey training:** District staff participated in the survey training sponsored by Houston Engineering, Inc. Staff reported that the training was extremely beneficial to them.
- **Pine Lake levels:** District staff installed an additional stoplog on Monday, April 22. The lake elevation was at 1283.45, with summer target elevation at 1283.5.
- **Good Lake Impoundment:** Staff delivered new stoplogs to Good Lake Impoundment on Tuesday, April 23rd. The gate tender requested an additional 8 stoplogs. Four to install to allow water to get up to the spillway elevation, which will allow for 4 extra stoplogs. Staff reported that the top of the dike roadway is in rough shape.
- **RLWD Ditch Maintenance on the following:**
 - Burnham Creek Project, RLWD Project No. 43B
 - Polk County Ditch Improvements 104, 61, 47, 94, RLWD Project No. 119-sediment deposits, SWI repairs
 - Ditch 10, RLWD Project No. 161-minor sloughing was completed by Anderson Construction on April 23rd
 - Ditch 11, RLWD Project No. 166-headcutting of the outlet
 - Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177-Northland Township non-functioning abandoned culvert that is caving in needs to be removed (Board prior approved removal)

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A motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Dwight, to approve the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians for the Upper/Lower Red Lake One Watershed One Plan, RLWD Project No. 149C. Motion carried.

Motion by Nelson, 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 centered on the page.

LeRoy Ose, Secretary