

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
February 8, 2024

President, Gene 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 Tiedemann, Terry Sorenson, Tom Anderson, Brian Dwight, LeRoy Ose, Grant Nelson, and Allan Page. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Elaine Rychlock, Nate Koland, Tony Olson, Lindsey Kallis, and Corey Hanson. Absent: Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda with the additional agenda items of: Terrebonne Township, Section 25 permit and Tribal-State Relations Training. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the January 25, 2024, minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve the January 25, 2024, board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated February 7, 2024. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the Financial Report dated February 7, 2024, as presented. Motion carried.

Staff member Elaine Rychlock reviewed the 2023 General Fund as of December 31, 2023.

Administrator Audette reviewed the Capital Project Fund Transfers as of December 31, 2023. Motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to approve the Capital Project Fund Transfers as of December 31, 2023. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed the financial donation request from the Pennington SWCD for the Area I Envirothon on May 1, 2024, at Lake Bronson State Park. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Anderson, to approve the max donation of \$300 to the Pennington SWCD for the Area 1 Envirothon. Motion carried.

Red Lake County SWCD staff member, Tanya Waldo, gave a project update on recently completed projects. Waldo thanked the board for the financial support to help fund the various projects.

Manager Ose discussed the upcoming Tribal-State Relations Training for State of Minnesota employee participation held in Redby, MN March 27-28. Ose recommended Administrator Audette and staff member Koland attend this training.

Discussion was had on the status of RLWD Permit No. 23216, Terrebonne 25, in Red Lake County, and inclusion into the affected benefitted area.

Discussion was held on the Pine Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 35 lakes levels, and the ability for anyone to access the structure. District staff members discussed the potential of installing gates at various locations and signage. Motion by Ose, seconded by Anderson, to install locks on the stem of the operable gate and for staff to install additional no trespassing signage on and around the property. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the funding request of \$300,000 to the RRWMB for the construction of the Chief's Coulee Stormwater Project, RLWD Project No. 46S. The RRWMB sent the request to the Technical Advisory Committee for review. It was requested that the District submit a letter of request for mitigation of the project and to identify the Turtle Cross Connection Project, RLWD Project No. 114 as mitigation for potential impacts to the Red Lake River. If the Turtle Cross Connection Project does not proceed, the District would be required to explore additional project subwatershed specific mitigation alternatives. This request is like what was done with the funding request of the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178 and the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176.

Discussion was held on maintenance on the Good Lake Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 67.

Staff member, Tony Olson, addressed the ditch blockage in Badger Township, Section 15, Polk County and information he received from the East Polk SWCD regarding the drainage of wetlands and installation of a ditch plug. After discussion occurred, a motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Nelson, and passed by unanimous vote, to authorize staff member Tony Olson to send a letter to the landowner stating that the landowner's violation with the East Polk SWCD will need to be satisfied before the District can assist with any drainage concerns.

The Board reviewed permits for approval. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Ose, to approve the following permits with conditions as stated on the permit: No. 23-225, Lucas Wolff, Silverton Township, Pennington County. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed the details for the upcoming MN Watersheds Legislative Event in St. Paul, MN, March 6-7. Please let staff member Bushy know if you are planning to attend.

Administrator Audette reviewed the details for the upcoming RRWMB/FDRWG Conference in Moorhead, MN, March 19-20. Please let staff member Bushy know if you are planning to attend.

#### Administrators Update:

- **Lidar:** The District received the hard drive the with new Lidar data installed on it. Staff from the International Water Institute will be available for training later this spring.
- **RRWMB:** Audette plans to attend the RRWMB meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup> in Ada.
- **AMC Drainage Conference:** Staff member Erick Huseth is participating in the Drainage Conference in Alexandria this week.
- **GIS/Permitting Database:** District staff will meet with Brian Fischer, Houston Engineering, Inc. on Friday for discussion on the District's GIS mapping and permitting database. More information will follow, but I do expect some updates will be needed.

- **Ring Dikes:** District staff will be working with Legal Counsel Sparby to prepare easements for the Cardinal ring dike. We are waiting on payment for the Payment ring dike before proceeding.
- **BWSR Hydrology Training:** Staff members Corey Hanson and Lindsey Kallis participated in a Hydrology Training sponsored by BWSR.
- **FEMA:** Repairs to the gates on the Schirrick Dam were completed last week. This is the final project for the 2022 FEMA Disaster program. Staff will work on close out requirements.

In the absence of Legal Counsel Sparby, Administrator Audette stated that the Oral Argument to the Supreme Court for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179, will take place on March 5, 2024. It was the consensus of the Board that Legal Counsel Sparby should assist in the Oral Argument.

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



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LeRoy Ose, Secretary