

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
November 14, 2024

Vice-President, Terry Sorenson, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District Office, Thief River Falls, MN.

Managers present: Grant Nelson, Terry Sorenson, Allan Page, Tom Anderson, and present via phone: LeRoy Ose and Gene Tiedemann. Managers absent: Brian Dwight. Staff present: Tammy Audette, Lindsey Deselich, Elaine Rychlock, Erick Huseth, Nate Koland, Melissa Bushy and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

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

The Board reviewed the October 24, 2024, minutes. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the October 24, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated November 13, 2024. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Nelson, to approve the Financial Report dated November 13, 2024, as presented. Motion carried.

Staff member Nate Koland discussed a request from wild rice grower, Peter Imle, on behalf of the Minnesota Cultivated Wild Rice Council for a letter of collaboration for a grant application titled "Reducing Human and Production Risk for Minnesota Cultivated Wild Rice Farmers". Koland expressed that this would not be a funding commitment, rather community engagement. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Nelson, to approve submitting the letter of collaboration for a grant application for the Minnesota Cultivated Wild Rice Council. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed the draft Upper/Lower Red Lake Watershed Comprehensive Plan Resolution to Submit, Adopt and Implement along with the Implementation Agreement. Audette stated that Manager Dwight was not able to be at the meeting today, therefore he requested this item to be an informational item only.

The Board reviewed Change Order No. 1 for the Thief River Streambank Project - Drees/Stock Sites, RLWD Project No. 149A in the amount of \$3,179.25. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Anderson, to approve Change Order No. 1 for the Thief River Streambank Project - Drees/Stock Sites, RLWD Project No. 149A. Motion carried.

Staff member Huseth shared pictures of maintenance he's been working on at State Ditch 83, RLWD Project No. 14.

Administrator Audette reviewed the NRCS inspection report for the BR-6 Impoundment Inspection, Burnham Creek, RLWD Project No. 43A. A motion was made by Page, seconded by

Nelson, to complete the minor repairs as noted in the document the NRCS Inspection Report for the BR-6 Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 43. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the joint Annual Inspection form for the Elm Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 52, and the Lost River Pool, RLWD Project No. 17. As per the agreement with the MnDNR, staff from the District, MnDNR, and Agassiz NWR are required to annually inspect both projects.

At 10:00 a.m., Vice-President Sorenson stated that the bid opening for the construction of the Chiefs Coulee Project, RLWD Project No. 46S would be conducted. Legal Counsel Sparby noted the time and that no further bid proposals would be accepted after the 10:00 a.m. bid submittal deadline. Bids were opened and bid amounts were publicly announced and are on file at the District office. The following bids were received:

Anderson Excavating, Thief River Falls, MN, \$2,056,638.51;
Gladen Construction Inc, Laporte, MN, \$2,159,196.35;
Davidson Construction Inc, Newfolden, MN, \$2,112,605.00;
Taggart Construction, Thief River Falls, MN, \$2,828,404.00; and
Spruce Valley Outfitters, Middle River, MN, \$2,332,141.00.

Motion by Page, seconded by Anderson, and passed by unanimous vote to accept the apparent low bid from Anderson Excavating in the amount of \$2,056,638.51 for construction of the Chiefs Coulee Project, RLWD Project No. 46S, contingent upon the audit by staff and review of the bids and approval by Legal Counsel Sparby, District staff, and Project Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc.

The Board reviewed Change Order No. 2 for the Thibert Dam Replacement Project, RLWD Project No. 50G in the amount of \$2,500. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Anderson to approve Change Order No. 2 for the Thibert Dam Replacement Project, RLWD Project No. 50G. Motion carried. The Board reviewed the Final Pay Estimate for the Thibert Dam Replacement Project, RLWD Project No. 50G in the amount of \$2,500.00, to Olson Construction. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Page, to approve the Final Pay Estimate for the Thibert Dam, RLWD Project No. 50G, to Olson Construction. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Final Pay Estimate for the Elm Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 52 in the amount of \$2,262.50. A motion was made by Page, seconded by Nelson, to approve the Final Pay Estimate for the Elm Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 52. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Final Pay Estimate for the Cardinal Ring Dike Project, RLWD Project No. 129BB in the amount of \$14,521.58. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Page, to approve the Final Pay Estimate for the Cardinal Ring Dike Project, RLWD Project No. 129BB. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette stated that the crossing for the Payment Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129BC, had been installed but are waiting for final numbers from the contractor prior to completing the Change Order and Final Payment.

Administrator Audette discussed RLWD Permit No. 23209 in Section 5, Red Lake Falls Township, Red Lake County. The recommendation was to grant the permit extension request. A motion was made by Page, seconded by Nelson, to approve the permit extension request for RLWD permit no. 23209. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Nelson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 24145, Jerome Berg, Whiteford Township, Marshall County; No. 24169, Eldon Vigstol, Emardville Township, Red Lake County; No. 24181, Gordy Moe, Eckvoll Township, Marshall County; No. 24182, Dennis Piche, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; No. 24183, Dennis Piche, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; No. 24187, Hanson Land LLP, Silverton Township, Pennington County; No. 24191, Danny Payment, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; No. 24192, Tom Kolstoe, Garnes Township, Red Lake County; No. 24194, Terence Funk, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; No. 24197, David Bitzer, Goodridge Township, Pennington County; No. 24201, Jared Kovar, Tabor Township, Polk County; No. 24203, Oak Knolls Golf Club, Red Lake Falls Township, Red Lake County; No. 24208, Earl Pederson, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; No. 24209, Delphen Determan, Bray Township, Pennington County; No. 24211, DeeAnn Sirek, Belgium Township, Red Lake County; No. 24212, Brandon Cymbaluk, Euclid Township, Polk County; No. 24215, Jeff Olson, Rocksbury Township, Pennington County; No. 24216, Tom Staff Jr., Lake Pleasant Township, Red Lake County; No. 24217, Pennington County Highway Dept., Smiley Township, Pennington County; No. 24219, City of Plummer, Emardville Township, Red Lake Township; and No. 24220, Robert Tiedemann, Fanny Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette shared the upcoming dates for the 2024 MN Watersheds Annual Conference and Trade Show. The conference will be held December 3-6, 2024, in Nisswa, MN, at Grand View Lodge. Board members who are interested in attending, please let staff member Bushy know.

Staff member Deselich requested approval for the purchase of 25 River Watch jackets at a cost of \$1,062.00 for the students who participate in the River Watch program. A motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Nelson, to approve the purchase of the jackets for the participating students. The motion carried. Manager Page abstained from discussion and voting.

Staff member Deselich shared that she has investigated possible grants for the proposed RLWD pollinator garden. Deselich shared that the District does not qualify. More information to come on the proposed pollinator garden.

Administrator Audette reviewed the close out letter from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety from the 2022 flood event. The District received the final state share in the amount of \$4,235.54. Audette stated that excess funds for mitigation will remain in the ditch funds for each system for future best management practices.

Administrator Audette shared that effective 2025, Rinke Noonan rates for legal services will be increasing as per the provided fee schedule.

Administrator's Report:

- **RRWMB:** Audette plans to attend the RRWMB meeting in Ada on Tuesday, November 19th.
- **Red Lake SWCD:** Included in the packet is an announcement from the Red Lake County SWCD inviting the public to their 75th Anniversary celebration held on November 20th.
- **Euclid East Impoundment:** One beaver was removed from the impoundment; the dam will be removed in the near future.
- **Pine Lake Dam:** Two beaver dams were removed from the area. A small dam was built near the box culvert and an additional dam in the fish passage area. Staff will be able to remove what was built when they go to open the gates.

Manager Nelson discussed the MN Ag Weather Networks sites.

Manager Page shared positive comments regarding the Oak Knolls Golf Course project.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary