

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
October 10, 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.

Managers Present: Gene Tiedemann, Brian Dwight, LeRoy Ose, Grant Nelson, Allan Page, Terry Sorenson and Tom Anderson. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Erick Huseth, Tony Olson, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

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

The Board reviewed the September 26, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the September 26, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated October 9, 2024. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the Financial Report dated October 9, 2024. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the Bid Opening date for the Chief's Coulee Project, RLWD Project No. 46S. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Nelson, to set the Bid Opening date for the Chief's Coulee Project, RLWD Project No. 46S for November 14, 2024, at 10:00 am. Motion carried. District staff will proceed with the Advertisement for Bids.

The final payment hearing for Houle Excavating LLC for the Pine Lake Phase II Project, RLWD Project No. 26B, was called to order at 9:15 a.m. Engineer, Tony Nordby, HDR Engineering, Inc., stated that Houle Excavating LLC has completed all construction in the final amount of \$22,124.25. After opening the hearing for public comment and no public comment being received, President Gene Tiedemann closed the hearing. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to approve the Final Pay Estimate to Houle Excavating LLC in the amount of \$22,124.25 for the Pine Lake Phase II Project, RLWD Project No. 26B. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed the project cost breakdown for the Payment Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129BC. Audette stated that she had contacted Andrew Graham, MnDNR, regarding cost share for the installation of a field crossing, that would alleviate additional agricultural traffic on the east side of the ring dike. Graham indicated that it was an allowable expense, and to prepare an estimated cost. Discussion was held regarding the District's 12.5% cost share of the ring dike as it relates to the installation of the crossing near the project site. Motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to approve the installation of the crossing, to help avoid additional traffic and to ensure less maintenance on the Payment Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129BC. Motion carried.

Repairs to the Knutson Dam, RLWD Project No. 50F, have been completed. Taggart Contracting Inc. has been on site repairing the project. Staff member, Nate Koland, has been on site monitoring the progress of the repairs.

Administrator Audette stated that construction has begun on the Drees/Stock Bank Stabilization Projects, Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A.

The Board reviewed a estimate in the amount of \$51,427.97 for the installation of six side water inlet culverts for landowner Reed Engelstad, located in Judicial Ditch 21/Moose River, Northwood Township, Beltrami County, as part of the Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A. Administrator Audette stated that she had learned that Site 4 is located on land owned by the MnDNR, therefore contact will need to be made with the MnDNR regarding that site. Audette noted that as this is one of the outlets for the Moose River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 13, District staff is recommending the installation of flap gates to help alleviate water from backing up into the property owner's field. Flap gates are not an allowable expense through the 1W1P process, therefore, the District and/or landowner would need to pay for them. Currently, the cost share through the 1W1P process is 75%/25% split, with Audette requesting the District to cost share 15%, plus the cost of the flap gates, with the landowner paying the remaining 10%. Beltrami County would be responsible for developing a contract with the landowner. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Ose, to table the item until further information on Site 4 can be acquired. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette stated that the Pennington SWCD currently contracts with Pheasants Forever, along with Marshall SWCD and West Polk SWCD, to work with landowners on conservation programs to enhance water quality, soil health, and increase fish and wildlife habitat. Audette stated that in working on the Mud River Project, RLWD Project No. 180C, the District needs to identify areas of concern to reduce the amount of sediment entering Agassiz NWR, noting that the Pheasants Forever would look at conservation practices, and the District could focus on bank stabilization projects. Motion by Page, seconded by Nelson, to approve working with the Pennington SWCD and Pheasants Forever, on conservation practices in the Mud River area. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the request from the Clearwater SWCD for up to \$12,699.48 for a series of water & sediment control basins to be installed in Section 15 of Eddy Township located in Clearwater County. Clearwater SWCD has partnered with NRCS EQUIP and Nordlund Land Holdings LLC to bring the proposed project up to 75% cost share on top of the NRCS payment rate. A total project cost estimate of \$38,063.85 has been generated via NRCS engineers. NRCS has a project payment rate of \$13,252.98 covering 38.3% of the total estimated project cost. Nordlund Land Holdings LLC would be responsible for 25% of the project costs. Motion by Ose, seconded by Anderson, to approve the payment of \$12,669.48 for this project to the Clearwater SWCD. Motion carried. Audette noted that the District can use this cost share as a match through the Clearwater River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149B.

The Board reviewed a request from the Red Lake SWCD for cost share for the construction of a Streambank & Shoreline Protection project on the Mike Baker property, located in Section 9, Emardville Township, Red Lake County. The total project bid was \$34,950.00. The Red Lake County SWCD will be using BWSR Clean Water funding to fund 90% of this project. The local match requirement is \$3,495.00. The landowner will oversee paying \$1,495.00; if the Red Lake Watershed District approves the \$2,000.00 request. Motion by Page, seconded by Nelson, to approve the cost share request in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the construction of a Streambank & Shoreline Protection project with the Red Lake SWCD, for the Mike Baker Project. Motion carried. Audette noted that the District can use this cost share as a match through the Clearwater River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149B.

The Board reviewed a request from the Red Lake SWCD for cost share for the construction of a series of Grade Stabilization Structures on the Perry Duden property, located in Section 31, Emardville Township, Red Lake County. The total project bid was \$111,116.20. The Red Lake County SWCD will be using BWSR Clean Water funding to fund 90% of this project. The local match requirement is \$11,111.62. The landowner will oversee paying \$1,611.62; if the Red Lake Watershed District approves the \$9,500.00 request. Motion by Page, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the cost share request in the amount of \$9,500.00 for the construction of a series of Grade Stabilization Structures in Red Lake County for the Perry Duden project. Motion carried. Audette noted that the District can use this cost share as a match through the Clearwater River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149B.

Administrator Audette reviewed the request for a Polk County 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page to approve the request as presented. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed the handout on the West Regional Water District – Establishment of Public Water System.

Staff member, Tony Olson, presented pictures and discussed RLWD permit no. 24159 in East Valley Township, Marshall County. A motion was made by Ose to table for further information, seconded by Dwight. Motion carried.

Staff member, Tony Olson, presented pictures and discussed a ditch plug violation in Brandsvold Township, Polk County. A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, for Olson to send the landowner a letter notifying him of a written warning. Motion carried.

Staff member, Tony Olson, presented pictures and discussed a drainage violation in Lake Pleasant Township, Red Lake County. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Nelson, for Olson to send the landowner a letter notifying him of a written warning. Motion carried.

Staff member, Tony Olson, presented pictures and discussed unpermitted work that has occurred in Emardville Township, Red Lake County. A motion was made by Sorenson to table for further information, seconded by Page. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Page, seconded by Anderson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 24133, Lawrence Vettleson, Hangaard Township, Clearwater County; No. 24155, Tom Oscarson, Black River Township, Pennington County; No. 24156, Brian Beiswenger, Fisher Township, Polk County; No. 24157, Aaron Chervestad, Deer Park Township, Pennington County; No. 24158, Noah Bernier, Rockbury Township, Pennington County; No. 24160, Bryan Olson, East Valley Township, Marshall County; No. 24161, Travis Larson, Equality Township, Red Lake County; No. 24163, Richard Salentiny, North Garnes Township, Red Lake County; No. 24164, Joe Gaber, Wylie Township, Red Lake County; 24165, Pennington County Highway Dept, Cloverleaf Township, Pennington County; No. 24166, Pennington County Highway Dept, Reiner Township, Pennington County; No. 24167, Pennington County Highway Dept, Deer Park Township, Pennington County; No. 24168, Les O'Neill, Chester Township, Polk County; No. 24170, Dan Stroot, Belgium Township, Polk County; No. 24171, Steve Olson, Silverton Township, Pennington County; No. 24172, Tim Dufault, Louisville Township, Red Lake Township; No. 24173, Jeremiah Johnson, Emardville Township, Red Lake County; No. 24174, Tyler Nelson, Grand Plain Township, Marshall County; No. 24175, Tyler Nelson, Grand Plain Township, Marshall County; No. 24176, Keith Mack, Mayfield Township, Pennington County; No. 24178, Robert Coan, Highlanding Township, Pennington County; and No. 24179, Thomas Kolstoe, Garnes Township, Red Lake County. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the dates for the upcoming 2024 Minnesota Watersheds Annual Conference & Trade Show. The conference will be held December 3-6, 2024, in Nisswa, MN at Grand View Lodge. The RLWD staff are planning to attend. Any board members who wish to attend, please let staff member Bushy know.

Administrator Audette shared the upcoming dates for the 42nd Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference. The conference will be held January 14-16, 2025, in Grand Forks, ND. Board members who are interested in attending, please let staff member Bushy know.

Administrator's Update:

- **RRWMB:** Audette plans to attend the RRWMB meeting in Ada on Tuesday, October 15th.
- **Upper/Lower Red Lake Red Lake Comprehensive Watershed Plan:** Included in the packet is UL Red Lake Comprehensive Watershed Plan hearing notice scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2024.
- **Red Lake River 1W1P:** The Red Lake River 1W1P Policy and Advisory meeting was held in the District office on Wednesday, October 9th.
- **Lidar Training:** Several staff members participated in a virtual Lidar Training course led by the International Water Institute this week.
- **Clearwater River 1W1P:** The Policy Committee for the Clearwater River 1W1P will meet in the District office on October 23rd.

- **DNR Permits:** The District was made aware that the DNR has hired a Compliance Officer to ensure that all conditions on DNR permits have been met. Some of the conditions are as-built plans, site inspection information etc. The District is working on gathering any information we have, with the possibility of needing to obtain additional information we may not have on file.

Motion by Ose, 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