

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
February 13, 2025

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, Tom Anderson, Brian Dwight, Grant Nelson, and Allan Page. Managers Absent: LeRoy Ose and Terry Sorenson. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Nate Koland, Corey Hanson, Lindsey Deselich, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

The Board reviewed the agenda. Administrator Audette requested the addition of the Thief River Streambank Project, Stock/Drees sites, RLWD Project No. 149A to the agenda. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Page, and passed by a unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda with the addition of the Thief River Streambank Project, Stock/Drees sites, RLWD Project No. 149A. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the January 23, 2025, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Page, seconded by Nelson, to approve the January 23, 2025, Board meeting minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the January 29, 2025, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Page, seconded by Nelson, to approve the January 29, 2025, Board meeting minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated January 22, 2025. Motion by Page, seconded by Dwight, to approve the Financial Report dated January 22, 2025, and to reinvest the two Certificates of Deposit at Dakota Heritage Bank that expire February 14, 2025, and February 24, 2025. Motion carried.

Staff member, Corey Hanson, discussed the Lidar Comparison and Client Services Agreement with Houston Engineering, Inc. Hanson stated that the Lidar Comparison will show the difference grid between the two defined years of Lidar data of the Red Lake River Planning area and the Thief River Planning area. The estimated budget is \$33,000 for the Red Lake River Planning area and \$15,900 for the Thief River Planning area. Funds will be paid from each respective One Watershed One Plan. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Agreement the Client Services Agreement with Houston Engineering, Inc. for the Lidar Comparison. Motion carried.

Manager Dwight and staff member Hanson reviewed the Upper/Lower Red Lake Draft Bylaws and Work Plan. The Policy Committee will meet on February 25, 2025, to review the documents. Managers Dwight and Anderson, along with Staff members Audette and Hanson will attend the meeting.

Administrator Audette stated that landowner, Nick Drees, is requesting tree planting for the area around his home where mature trees were removed as part of the Thief River Streambank Project Stock/Drees site, RLWD Project No. 149A. Motion by Page, seconded by Anderson, to approve spending up to \$500 for the purchase of trees for the Thief River Streambank Project Stock/Drees site, RLWD Project No. 149A. It was noted that the landowner will be responsible for watering, caring and maintenance of the trees after they are planted.

Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., discussed the Turtle Cross Connection project, RLWD Project No. 114, reiterating that we need 100% buy-in from all landowners to be able to raise the established lake levels.

Administrator Audette reviewed the cost breakdown of the Knutson Dam repairs. At the August 8, 2024, board meeting, the board approved to split the cost of the repairs 50/50 with Taggart Contracting, Inc. with the understanding that the District would pay the cost for any additional items not in the current contract. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Nelson, to approve the payment of \$12,139.48 to Taggart Contracting, Inc. for repairs to the Knutson Dam, RLWD Project No. 50F. Motion carried. District staff will monitor the seeding this Spring.

Administrator Audette provided a summary of the State Ditch 83 Project Work Team meeting that was held at the RLWD office on February 12.

Administrator Audette discussed the Lost River Impoundment and the Client Services Agreement with Houston Engineering, Inc. for the potential of additional Flood Damage Reduction benefits on the Lost River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 17. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Dwight, to approve the agreement. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the Huot Streambank Habitat Improvement Project, RLWD Project No. 149. Audette noted that due to additional efforts for HEC-RAS modeling that is required for a MnDNR permit, the engineering fees will be higher than originally estimated. Temporary Construction Easement has been sent to the landowners, Bruce and Christopher Huot for signatures. Finalization of the MnDNR CPL Funding Agreement was completed and submitted.

Administrator Audette discussed the Clearwater River Head Cut Stabilization Project, Clearwater River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149B. Audette noted that Staff member Corey Hanson submitted a MnDNR CPL Grant funding request. Staff were also notified that the project would be a good candidate for a MnDNR Stream Restoration Grant through the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Counsel. The application deadline is February 28, 2025, no match is required for this grant.

Administrator Audette discussed the cost share payment due for USGS stream gauges. The RRWMB is requesting each District to remit their respective amounts. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Page, to approve the cost share payment due to the RRWMB in the amount of \$12,125.00. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits up for approval. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Page, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 25002, Shirley Rutkowski, Gully Township, Polk County; and No. 25003, Shirley Rutkowski, Gully Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the MN Watersheds' Special Meeting Delegate Form that is to be submitted annually. Audette also shared there will be a special meeting of the Minnesota Watersheds membership held on Friday, March 21 at the Park Event Center in Waite Park. More details will be shared on this in the near future.

Administrator's Update:

- **River of Dreams: Staff member,** Lindsey Deselich, has been busy going to various 4th grade classes within the District, presenting the River of Dreams program. Students will launch their canoes this Spring.
- **Pine Lake** Pine Lake is currently at the winter target elevation of 1282.5. At this time, it does not appear that aeration of the lake will be required this year.
- **Summer Intern:** Will Johnson has accepted the Summer Intern position. Will graduated with his four-year degree and plans to earn his masters. He will start at the District in early May.
- **Thief River 1W1P:** District staff participated in a Thief River 1W1P Planning Work Group meeting on February 10th. Part of this meeting consisted of a BWSR PRAP Kick off meeting. As part of the PRAP process surveys will be sent out to individuals involved in the 1W1P process. More information to follow on this item.
- **1W1P Policy Committee meeting dates:**
 - Upper Lower Red Lake - February 25th, 10:00 a.m.
 - Thief River – March 10th, 9:00 a.m.
 - Red Lake River – March 12th, 9:30 a.m.
 - Clearwater River – March 19th, 10:00 a.m.
- **RRWMB/MN Watersheds:** Included in the packet is the final schedule for the RRWMB Legislative meetings and Minnesota Watersheds Legislative Conference to be held February 18-20 in St. Paul.
- **RRWMB:** Manager Tiedemann attended the RRWMB meeting in place of Manager Ose, while Audette attended virtually. Contract documents for the Rural Floodplain Mapping Project should be executed in March.
- **MS4 Front Demo:** District staff plans to submit a proposal for the purchase of MS4 Front at the next Board meeting. This program will be a huge asset to the District's permitting process. It does not appear there is any interest in the 1W1P partnering for the MS4 Front program.
- **Survey Equipment:** District staff are working on obtaining quotes for additional survey equipment to be presented at the next Board meeting.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "LeRoy Ose". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large "L" and "O".

LeRoy Ose, Secretary