

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
February 27, 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, LeRoy Ose, and Allan Page; Manager, Terry Sorenson, attended and viewed the proceedings via Zoom, but was not a voting Manager. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Nate Koland, Corey Hanson, Lindsey Deselich, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

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

The Board reviewed the February 13, 2025, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Nelson, to approve February 13, 2025, Board meeting minutes, with correction as noted. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated February 26, 2025. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Ose, to approve the Financial Report dated February 26, 2025. Motion carried.

Staff members Audette and Rychlock reviewed the 2024 General Fund as of December 31, 2024. After taking questions from the Board, motion by Dwight, seconded by Page, to approve the 2024 General Fund Budget, as presented. Motion carried.

Staff members Audette and Rychlock reviewed the Capital Project Fund Transfers as of December 31, 2024. After taking questions from the Board, motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to approve the Capital Project Fund Transfers as of December 31, 2024. Motion carried.

Engineer Tony Nordby, HEI, discussed RLWD Project No. 48, JD #2 Clearwater County, potential maintenance and repairs. Nordby reviewed the project cost and shared his recommendations.

Engineer Tony Nordby, HEI, discussed the Huot Project, RLWD Project No. 149. Nordby shared the DNR's request with the Board.

Staff members Audette and Hanson discussed the Clearwater River Head-cut Stabilization Sites, RLWD Project No. 149B. Hanson will be submitting a Stream Restoration grant application to the MnDNR.

Administrator Audette stated that Engineer, Rich Sanderson, Polk County Highway Department, reached out regarding a joint effort between the District and Polk County for the potential of Re-Determination of Benefits on legal drainage ditches located in Polk County. Audette will gather additional information on the District's legal drainage ditches and report back to the Board.

Manager Dwight and Administrator Audette discussed the Upper/Lower Red Lake Draft Bylaws and Work Plan.

Staff member Olson reviewed the survey equipment quotes received from Frontier Precision. After much discussion, a motion was made by Page, seconded by Ose, to approve the purchase of model R980/R12i survey equipment for the purpose of RLWD staff survey work. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed the quote for purchase of MS4Front and Implementation of Permit received from Houston Engineering. After much discussion, a motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Page, to approve the purchase of MS4Front Permitting Database. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits up for approval. Motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 25001, MnDOT, Eckvold Township, Marshall County; No. 25004, Brandsvold Township, Polk County; No. 25007, Red Lake County Highway Department, Red Lakes Falls Township, Red Lake County; and No. 25008, Angus Acres Inc., Euclid Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

Staff member Deselich discussed the 2025 River Watch Forum that was held on February 26th at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, ND.

Administrator Audette reviewed the financial donation request from the Pennington SWCD for the Area I Envirothon on April 23, 2025, at Lake Bronson State Park. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Nelson, to approve the requested maximum donation of \$300 to the Pennington SWCD for the Area 1 Envirothon. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reminded the Board that there will be a special meeting of the Minnesota Watersheds' membership held on Friday, March 21 at the Park Event Center in Waite Park, MN.

Administrator Audette reviewed the details for the upcoming RRWMB/FDRWG Conference in Moorhead, MN, March 18-19th. Please let staff member Bushy know if you are planning to attend.

#### **Administrator's Update:**

- **Wild Rice Allocation:** Wild rice growers have contacted Staff member Nate Koland asking about the availability of pumping water from the Clearwater Rice.
- **Petition for Improvement to Ditch 1:** We received a draft Petition for Improvement to Ditch 1 from landowner Greg Hilgeman for review prior to obtaining signatures. The document was sent to Legal Counsel Sparby for review.
- **RRWMB:** Please check your emails for the most recent legislative update from Rob Sip.
- **Thief River 1W1P:** Some of you should have received an email from Don Bajumpaa, BWSR, regarding the PRAP survey for the Thief River 1W1P. The survey was sent out on February 20<sup>th</sup>, with the deadline for submitting the survey being by March 6, 2025.

- **Mud River:** Nate Dalager and Administrator Audette met with Jim Graham, Agassiz NWR, regarding the development of an LSOHC grant application for the Mud River Project. We plan to meet every few weeks to work on the application until it is submitted.
- **RLWD Advisory Committee Meeting:** Administrator Audette provided a reminder that the RLWD Advisory Committee meeting will be held on March 17<sup>th</sup> at the District office.
- **Website:** District staff have been in discussion with various website companies regarding updating the District's website.
- **2024 Audit:** Brady Martz and Associates will begin the 2024 Audit on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Interagency Meeting:** Administrator Audette provided a reminder that the Interagency Meeting with Agassiz NWR and Thief Lake will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.
- **JD 60/CD 126 Annual Meeting:** The JD 60/CD 126 Annual meeting will be held on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.
- **Moose River/JD 21 Channel Stability:** Administrator Audette scheduled the Moose River/JD 21 Channel Stability meeting for Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. at the District office.
- **Turtle Cross:** District Staff met with Legal Counsel Sparby and Engineer Dalager to prepare for the upcoming Informational Meeting and preparation for completing flowage easements with the landowners.
- **1W1P Policy Committee meeting dates:**
  - Thief River – March 10<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.
  - Red Lake River – March 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m.
  - Clearwater River- March 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.
  - Upper Lower Red Lake – March/April – Doodle poll will be sent out

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



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LeRoy Ose, Secretary