

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
January 9, 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, Terry Sorenson, Tom Anderson, Brian Dwight, LeRoy Ose, Grant Nelson, and Allan Page. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Elaine Rychlock, Erick Huseuth, Nate Koland, Tony Olson, Lindsey Deselich, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

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

The Board reviewed the December 30, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Ose, seconded by Anderson, to approve the December 30, 2024, Board meeting minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated January 8, 2025. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Nelson, to approve the Financial Report dated January 8, 2025. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed the Auto Pay Vendors List. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Page, to approve the Auto Pay Vendors List. Motion carried.

Pennington County confirmed the re-appointment of Grant Nelson, for a 3-year term on the Board. Polk County confirmed the reappointment of Manager Sorenson, for a 3-year term on the Board. Red Lake County confirmed the reappointment of Manager Page, for a 3-year term on the Board.

Election of officers was conducted with President Tiedemann turning the meeting over to Vice-President, Terry Sorenson.

Manager Sorenson called for nominations for President. Manager Dwight nominated Gene Tiedemann for President. Upon calling for further nominations three times, no further nominations were made. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Anderson, for nominations to cease and that the Board cast a unanimous ballot for Gene Tiedemann for President of the Board. Motion carried.

Vice-President Sorenson turned the meeting over to President Tiedemann to conduct elections for the remaining Board positions.

Nominations were opened for the Vice-President. Manager Dwight nominated Terry Sorenson, seconded by Anderson. Manager Page nominated Sorenson, for the position of Vice-President. There was not a second to this motion. Upon calling for further nominations three times, no

further nominations were made. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Anderson, that the Board cast a unanimous ballot for Terry Sorenson for Vice-President of the Board. Motion carried.

Nominations were opened for the Secretary. Manager Page nominated LeRoy Ose. Upon calling for further nominations three times, no further nominations were made. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Sorenson, that the Board cast a unanimous ballot for LeRoy Ose for Secretary of the Board. Motion carried.

Nominations were opened for the Treasurer. Manager Sorenson nominated Tom Anderson. Upon calling for further nominations three times, no further nominations were made. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Ose, that the Board cast a unanimous ballot for Tom Anderson for Treasurer of the Board. Motion carried.

President Tiedemann reviewed the Advisory Committee members. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to approve the Advisory Committee members as proposed and presented. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the committees for 2025. Motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to approve the committees for 2025 as proposed and presented. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, and passed by unanimous vote that the regularly scheduled Board meetings be held at 9:00 A.M. at the Red Lake Watershed District Office on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month for the year 2025.

A motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Page, that the following institutions be designated as depositories for the RLWD: Northern State Bank of Thief River Falls, Dakota Heritage Bank of Red Lake Falls, American Federal Bank, and Edward Jones with the following signatures on the signature cards at the financial institutions: Gene Tiedemann, Terry Sorenson, LeRoy Ose, Tom Anderson, Tammy Audette, and Elaine Rychlock. Motion carried.

The Conflict-of-Interest policy was reviewed by the Board. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Conflict-of-Interest Policy and have each Board member sign the Conflict-of-Interest policy and return it to staff member, Elaine Rychlock. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the invoice for the 2025 Minnesota Association of Watershed District's dues in the amount of \$7,500.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 1 for the Chief's Coulee Project, RLWD Project No. 46S, in the amount of \$66,025, to Quality Spray Foam LLC dba Anderson Excavating. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Sorenson, to approve Pay Estimate No. 1 for the Chief's Coulee Project, RLWD Project No. 46S, to Quality Spray Foam LLC dba Anderson Excavating. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette stated that the District was informed that we received a MnDNR Conservation Partners Legal (CPL) Grant in the amount of \$372,213 for the Huot Streambank

Habitat Improvement Project, Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149. The District is required to have a 10% match to the MnDNR CPL Grant. Audette will proceed with documentation to execute the grant.

Administrator Audette discussed applying for a MnDNR CPL Grant application for the Clearwater River Headcut Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 149B. Applications are due by February 19, 2025. Audette noted that a 10% match would be required by the District, if we were awarded the grant. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve applying for a MnDNR CPL Grant application for the Clearwater River Headcut Stabilization Project. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the District's five year ditch plan which is required per MN State Statute, which includes surveying ditch systems to determine if the ditches are functioning adequately. District staff have set up a rotational system, where each system under the jurisdiction of the District will have a survey review completed. Audette noted that Project No. 48, JD 2 Branch A and Branch A-1; Project No. 113, Winsor-Hangaard; and Project No. 119, Polk County Ditch Improvements 104, 61, 47 and 94; have been surveyed and are in need of review by an engineer. Project 43B, Burnham Creek Channel will also require review by an engineer once the final survey is completed. Audette requested authorization from the Board to have a review of said ditch system surveys completed by an engineer. It was the consensus of the Board to have an engineer review the surveys and present an estimate to the Board for necessary repairs.

Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve the purchase of a FlowTracker 2 to be used for precisely defined sampling of water velocity across a wider range of environments. Motion carried.

The board reviewed the following permits for approval. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit. No. 24234, Casey Wangen, Crookston Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed hiring a summer intern for the summer of 2025. The District has received one very qualified applicant to date. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Anderson to approve the hiring of a summer intern for 2025. Motion carried.

The 2025 MN Watershed's Legislative Event is coming up February 19 & 20 in St. Paul. Please let Melissa know if a Board member is planning on attending.

The 30th River Watch Forum will be held on February 26, 2025, at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, ND. The event will take place from 9 am – 1 pm.

Administrator's Update:

- **Upper/Lower Red Lake 1W1P:** The BWSR Northern Committee Meeting approved the Upper/Lower Red Lake 1W1P on January 6th. Manager Ose will present the report to the full BWSR Board on January 22nd.
- **RRWMB:** Audette and Manager Ose attended the RRWMB meeting on January 7, 2025, in Ada.
- Rob Sip and Andrew Graham met with Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management staff to develop a state grant agreement for the Rural Flood Inundation Mapping update. Sip hopes to have the grant agreement available for their February 2025 meeting.
- **Pine Lake:** The lake elevation is currently at 1282.8; winter target is 1282.5. There is currently one stoplog out.
- **MS4 Front Demo:** Currently, it does not appear there is any interest in the 1W1P partnering for the MS4 Front program. Melissa has reached out to Houston Engineering for an estimate of costs, if the District decides to proceed on its own.
- **Survey Equipment:** District staff are in discussion with Frontier to receive a cost estimate for additional survey equipment that was budgeted for 2025.
- **Inter-Agency Meeting:** The interagency meeting between the District, USFWS, and MnDNR will take place on March 5, 2025, at Agassiz NWR. Time to be determined.
- **Red River Basin Commission:** Audette plans to participate in a portion of the Red River Basin Commission Conference next week in Grand Forks, ND.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary