

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Managers Minutes
March 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, participated via Zoom, but did not take part in any vote of the board. Staff Present: Melissa Bushy, Elaine Rychlock, Erick Huseh, Tony Olson, 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 March 13, 2025, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Page, seconded by Nelson, to approve the March 13, 2025, Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the March 17, 2025, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to approve the March 17, 2025, Board meeting minutes, with correction. Motion carried with Manager Dwight abstaining.

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

Staff member Corey Hanson, and HEI Engineer, Tony Nordby, discussed the Clearwater River Head Cut River Restoration Grant, Clearwater 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149B.

Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, presented information on the Turtle Connection Cross Project. There is a Project Work Team Meeting scheduled for April 3 in Erskine.

Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, presented information on Mud River, RLWD Project No. 180C.

Staff member Nate Koland reviewed the following DNR Dam Safety Inspection Reports: Latendresse, Seeger, and Thibert Dams, along with the Brandt & Moose River Impoundments. The Board authorized staff to make any needed corrections as noted.

The Judicial Ditch #1 Petition for Improvement was discussed. Greg Hilgeman has been in the office to meet with Administrator Audette to review the petition. Mr. Hilgeman will take the revisions to Attorney Jeff Hane for further review. Mr. Hilgeman is working on getting the bond to support the project.

Staff member Corey Hanson discussed the recent meeting with the City of Grygla and their flooding concerns. The City of Grygla is working with Moore Engineering on the proposed project.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 25005, Cole Nymann, Emardville Township, Red Lake County; No. 25012, Garden Valley Technologies, Northland Township, Polk County; No. 25013, Pennington County Highway Department, Sanders Township, Pennington County; and No. 25014, Solheim Farms, Fairfax Township, Red Lake County. Motion carried.

Administrator's Update:

- **Wild Rice Allocation:** All three wild rice growers are actively pumping. District staff and Houston Engineering will be working with the growers on pump calibration this summer. We plan to have a meeting with all the growers prior to calibration.
- **Pine Lake:** Stoplogs are set at summer target elevation at 1283.5. The current lake elevation is 1283.2.
- **Huot Bank Stabilization Project:** Audette reached out to the landowners on the Huot Bank Stabilization Project regarding the Temporary Construction Easement, informing them that due to revisions requested by the MnDNR, the acreage changed from 3.3 acres to 4.63 acres. The landowners informed us to proceed with the project at 4.63 acres. The District received the MnDNR Permit on March 25th. Bid opening will be held April 10th.
- **RRWMB: The Board was reminded to** please check their emails for the most recent legislative update from Rob Sip.
- **Highway 59 Corridor:** District staff met with staff from HDR Engineering regarding the proposed Hwy 59 Corridor Project. District staff will look at the outlet of County Ditch 1 (RLWD Ditch 14) Project No. 171. Ditch 14 enters the city of TRF from the south, crosses over County Road 62 and Greenwood Street, flows behind Border Bank and crosses Hwy 59 at Circle K (formerly Holiday Gas Station) and then outlets into the Red Lake River. This would be a good time to review our outlet for water quality needs.
- **Peatland Restoration:** HDR Engineering, Inc. presented information on a Peatland Restorations Project that is taking place within the Roseau River WD. There are areas within the Beltrami Forest that have potential for peatland restoration by abandoning ditches. Torin with HDR is going to present this information to the Upper/Lower Red Lake 1WIP in the near future.
- **Polk County Re-Determination of Benefits:** Engineer Rich Sanders, Polk County Highway Department requested a meeting with Administrator Audette and staff from Middle Snake Tamarac WD for discussion on re-determination of benefits on ditches within Polk County. Administrator Audette will report back to the Board after that meeting.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary