

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
April 23, 2026

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, Terry Sorenson, LeRoy Ose, and Allan Page. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Elaine Rychlock, Tony Olson, Nate Koland, Erick Huseuth 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. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the April 9, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the April 9, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report as of April 22, 2026. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Nelson, to approve the Financial Report as of April 22, 2026. Motion carried.

Staff member, Elaine Rychlock, reviewed the current Certificate of Deposit rates for the following area banks: Dakota Heritage Bank, Northern State Bank of Thief River Falls, Ultima Bank MN of Fosston, Edward Jones, and American Federal Bank-Fosston. There are two CD's maturing 5/07/2026 at Dakota Heritage Bank. After much discussion, a motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Nelson, to re-invest the two maturing CD's (\$500,000 and \$500,000) with Dakota Heritage Bank. One CD for twelve months at 4.04% and the second CD for seven months at 3.89%. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette presented a map showing locations of the Thief River Streambank 2026 Sites. The OPC from HEI and the construction plans were reviewed. Discussion was held on the Bid Opening date for the Thief River Streambank Project, RLWD Project No. 149A. Motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to set the Bid Opening date for the Thief River Streambank Project, RLWD Project No. 149A, for May 28, 2026, at 9:30 am. Motion carried.

Jerry Pribula, Pribula Engineering, presented his updated Detailed Engineer's Report for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179. Viewers, Roger Beiswenger, Robert Wagner, and Mike Baumgartner presented the updated Viewer's Report. Attorney John Kolb was present virtually. Kolb stated that we have a cost-benefit compliant project to move forward. A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to accept for filing the updated reports from the Viewer's and the Engineer to move forward with setting the hearing date for June 25, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District office. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette presented pictures of recent damage at the RLWD Project No. 174, Chuck Flage Erosion Control Project. A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve District staff surveying the project area, and directed Engineer Nate Dalager to determine a cost estimate for discussed repairs. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149, Mid-Point Plan Amendment comments.

Administrator Audette shared the Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149 Adraft Thief River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Amendment for a 30-day comment period according to the Board of Soil and Water Resources procedure. After completion of this comment period, a summary of comments received will be provided to all who commented. A public hearing is scheduled for June 8, 2026, at 9:00 am at the Red Lake Watershed District office in Thief River Falls, MN.

Staff member, Tony Olson, stated that he had received a call regarding drainage issues along the Moose River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 13 inlet of the south pool. Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to authorize Olson to survey the area, and hire a contractor for necessary repairs. Motion carried.

Staff member, Tony Olson, presented to the Board RLWD permit application no. 26017 from Greg Sparby. The proposed work is in Section 35, Spruce Grove Township, Beltrami County. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Dwight to approve RLWD permit application no. 26017. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed a request by Beltrami County SWCD for funding for a culvert inventory in the Thief River watershed, located within Beltrami County. The culvert inventory would update culvert-related information collected previously. Beltrami County SWCD is hiring two summer staff to complete the project at an approximate cost of \$10,000 per staffer. With an estimate of 12% of their time spent in the Thief River Watershed, they are requesting approximately \$2,400. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Nelson, to approve the Beltrami County SWCD cost share request for culvert inventory for the Thief River Watershed located within Beltrami County at an approximate cost of \$2,400. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed Mud River, RLWD Project No. 180C, stating that they will be submitting a second funding application to the Lessard Sam Outdoor Heritage Council. Audette noted that her and Dalager have been meeting with upstream landowners. The Board reviewed the draft Environmental Assessment drafted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, presented a proposal to the Board for the Red Lake-Polk County Line Ditch Stabilization Feasibility Study services for the Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149. The proposal included a cost estimate on a time and materials basis with a not to exceed fee of \$31,462. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve the proposal from HDR Engineering for the Red Lake/Polk County-Line Outlet Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 149. Motion carried.

Engineer, Mike Flaagan, Pennington County Highway Department presented a funding request asking the RLWD to contribute \$200,000 towards drainage costs for the CSAH 11 project. The project includes a storm water pool that will treat a portion of the runoff. The outlet to the pond

goes to the City's storm water system. After much discussion, a motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Ose, to approve the \$200,000 to Pennington County Highway Department for the CSAH 11 project. Upon a roll-call vote, Managers Nelson and Ose voted aye, with Managers Sorenson, Page, Dwight, and Anderson voting in opposition. Motion failed.

Staff member, Tony Olson, discussed RLWD Permit No. 25029 located in Deer Park Township, Pennington County. The recommendation was to grant the permit extension request. A motion was made by Page, seconded by Nelson, to approve the permit extension request for RLWD permit no. 25029. Motion carried.

Staff member, Tony Olson, discussed RLWD Permit No. 26004, from the Pennington County Highway Department located in Section 2 of Rocksbury Township, Pennington County. After much discussion, a motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve RLWD permit no. 26004. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the following permits for approval. Motion by Page, seconded by Ose, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 26011, Pennington County Highway Dept., North Township, Pennington County; No. 26013, Gabriel Arveson, Grove-Park Tilden Township, Polk County; and No. 26014, Gabriel Arveson, Grove-Park Tilden Township, Polk County.

Administrator Audette updated the Board on the Turtle Connection Cross Lake Project and attendance at the RRWMB meeting with Senator Fischbach's office.

Discussion was held on the blocked culvert through the railroad tracks on the Thief River Falls FDR Project, RLWD Project No. 171A. District staff will survey the site and provide the information to Engineer Nate Dalager. Legal Counsel Sparby will draft a letter to CP Railway regarding the plugged culvert.

The Board reviewed a letter submitted to the State of Minnesota Capital Investment Committee regarding Flood Hazard Mitigation Program funding.

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



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LeRoy Ose, Secretary