

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
July 9, 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, Grant Nelson, Terry Sorenson, LeRoy Ose, Allan Page, and Brian Dwight. Managers Absent: Tom Anderson. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Elaine Rychlock, 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, as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the June 25, 2026, minutes. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Nelson, to approve the June 25, 2026, Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report as of June 24, 2026. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Nelson, to approve the Financial Report as of June 24, 2026. Motion carried.

Staff member Elaine Rychlock discussed the agreement for custody of pledged securities paperwork at Northern State Bank of Thief River Falls. This agreement is to increase our pledged securities amount from \$2,000,000 to \$2,500,000. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Sorenson, to approve increasing the pledged amount to \$2,500,000 and authorizing Rychlock to sign the agreement on behalf of the RLWD. Motion carried.

Staff member Corey Hanson reviewed the draft list of the 2026 MPCA Impaired Waters.

Staff member Corey Hanson discussed the RRBC Water Quality Offset Plan Project/City of TRF.

Staff member Corey Hanson presented a quote in the amount of \$2,725.00 for HOB0 logger battery replacements and repairs. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to approve purchase of the HOB0 logger battery replacements and repairs in the amount of \$2,725.00. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette and staff member, Corey Hanson, reviewed the Red Lake River 1W1P Plan Amendment Submittal Support Resolutions.

Kerrie Berg, HDR Engineering, was present virtually to discuss and review the Red Lake/Polk County Line Outlet Stabilization Project.

Legal Counsel Delray Sparby presented the Formal Order for RLWD Project No. 179, Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39. Motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to approve the Formal Order for RLWD Project No. 179, Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette presented a proposed legal fee adjustment for RLWD Project No. 179. Audette noted that at the January 14, 2021, Board meeting, the Board approved paying all legal invoices related to the Appeal for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179, until the matter was resolved. Legal fees have amounted to \$68,398.83. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to approve the adjustment in legal fees for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179. Motion carried.

Quotes for the Chuck Flage Erosion Control, RLWD Project No. 174 were opened at 7:00 a.m., on July 9, 2026, at the District office. Administrator Audette stated that we received 6 quotes for the Chuck Flage Erosion Control Project. The Engineers Estimate of probable cost was \$104,908.31. Quotes submitted for consideration were from: Northern Harbor LLC in the amount of \$94,717.50; Triple D Construction in the amount of \$116,194.10; Quality Spray Foam LLC (dba Anderson Excavating) in the amount of \$84,964.40; Higher Ground Construction in the amount of \$120,154.71; Olson Construction TRF in the amount of \$149,617.50, and from Brault Construction LLC in the amount of \$96,969.48. Motion made by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to accept the apparent low quote to Quality Spray Foam LLC (dba as Anderson Excavating) in the amount of \$84,964.40, pending any necessary legal, staff or engineer's approval. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed upstream brushing at the Brandt Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60D.

Administrator Audette reviewed Task Order No. 4 from HDR Engineering in the amount of \$225,290 for the Mud River Enhancement Project, RLWD Project No. 180C. Motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to approve Task Order No. 4 in the amount of \$225,290 for the Mud River Enhancement Project, RLWD Project No. 180C. Motion carried.

The Red Lake SWCD is requesting \$10,000 from the RLWD that will go for well water testing kits and laboratory expenses. Audette noted that Red Lake, Marshall and Pennington SWCD's are applying for a grant application in the amount of \$11,340. Outreach efforts will be prioritized in homes with infants and children and low-income households. Ten percent of the grant will go towards education. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve the request for \$10,000 to the Red Lake SWCD for the well water testing kit project. Motion carried.

Staff member Tony Olson discussed RLWD permit no. 18-124 located in Lessor Township, Section 6, Polk County. After much discussion, the Board recommended that Olson work with the landowners to try and resolve the situation. If there is no resolution, Olson was directed to bring it back to the Board to determine next steps.

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. 26049, Larry Love, Lowell Township, Polk County; No. 26050, Ricky Neuschwander, Valley Township, Marshall County; No. 26053, Nathaniel Muzzy, Excel Township, Marshall County; No. 26054, Jake Duden, River Township, Red Lake County; No. 26057, Greg Hilgeman, Mayfield Township, Pennington County; No. 26059, Robert Miller, Star Township, Pennington County; and No. 26062, Dave Geatz, Veldt Township, Marshall County. Motion carried.

Tony Nordby, HEI, and Jim Graham, USFWS, were present to discuss SD83/Thief River Area and Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge for a potential project located on the west side of Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge. The project would include natural floodplain access, fish passage accessibility and restoration of oxbows. Nordby stated that HEI would need to run the model to determine any local impacts. It was the consensus of the Board, to authorize Nordby the authority run the model for impacts and report back to the Board.

Administrator Audette presented a letter from LP Contracting relating to the Clearwater River Streambank Stabilization, RLWD Project No. 149B. After discussion with Nordby and review of the construction and material specification requirements for multiple bid items, LP Contracting has requested to withdraw their bid based upon material mistake. Motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson to approve the request to withdraw the bid from LP Contracting for the Clearwater River Streambank Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 149B. Motion carried.

Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to accept the apparent next lowest bid from Quality Spray Foam (dba Anderson Excavating) in the amount of \$897,705.13 for construction of the Clearwater River Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 149B, contingent upon the audit by staff and review of the bids and approval by Legal Counsel Sparby, District staff, and Project Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc. Motion carried.

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will be hosting listening sessions in July and August to have a forward-looking conversation about the One Watershed One Plan Program. These sessions will be designed to identify opportunities to make your plan work better for you. There is a session scheduled in Thief River Falls on August 5th.

Administrator Audette and Manager Page discussed a used UTV, with extremely low mileage up for bids at the Red Lake Falls Fire Department. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Nelson, to encourage staff to look at the vehicle, and put in a bid if the UTV would meet our needs. Motion carried.

Administrator's Report:

- **BWSR:** Included in the packet is the BWSR Snapshots article regarding riparian restoration and a notice that the Red Lake and Pennington SWCD's both received Clean Water Fund grants.
- **FDRWG:** Included in the packet is the FDRWG June 23, 2026, meeting highlights.
- **Polk/Red Lake County Legal Ditches:** Audette plans to attend this afternoon's meeting regarding Ditch Redetermination for Polk and Red Lake County Joint Ditches. The meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. at the Red Lake Falls Community Hall.
- **City of Grygla:** Included in the packet are the Grygla NRCS PIFR Kickoff meeting notes from June 24, 2026.
- **Drainage Work Group:** Included in the packet is a DWG agenda for July 9, 2026, and VERY DRAFT Mocked up Contract Decision Matrix.
- **Brule Bank Stabilization Project:** The MnDNR MPARS permit application was submitted on July 6, 2026, for the Brule Bank Stabilization Project.
- **River Watch Retreat:** Included in the packet is an update and thank you from the River Watch Retreat held at UMC

- **Pine Lake:** Dyrdal Construction removed a beaver dam from the fish passage on the Pine Lake Outlet. Staff were present during the removal to assure that no rocks were disturbed.
- **RLWD Bus Tour:** Discussion was held on a potential date for a Board Manager Tour.
- **Project No. 119:** District staff observed areas where 30" of spoil was being removed from the bottom of Project No. 119.
- **Nicole Bernd leaving West Polk SWCD:** Bernd will be joining Don Bajumpaa BWSR working with PRAP.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary