RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Managers Minutes
October 8, 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.

Managers Present: Gene Tiedemann, Tom Anderson, Terry Sorenson, LeRoy Ose, Al Page, and Grant Nelson. Board Members Absent: Brian Dwight. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Elaine Rychlock, Tony Olson, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, and passed by a unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda, with additions as noted. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the September 24, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the September 24, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report as of October 7, 2026. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the Financial Report as of October 7, 2026. Motion carried.

A quote from Frontier Precision was reviewed for renewal of the annual software maintenance contract for the Trimble survey equipment. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve the payment of $3,976.20 to Frontier Precision for the annual software maintenance contract. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed correspondence from the League of Minnesota Cities, announcing that the District received a $1,377.00 dividend on our Workers Compensation.

The Board reviewed the Final Pay Estimate for the Flage Erosion Control, RLWD Project No. 174, Red Lake River 1W1P, in the amount of $26,466.05, to Quality Spray Foam LLC dba Anderson Excavating. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve the Final Pay Estimate for the Flage Erosion Control, RLWD Project No. 174, Red Lake River 1W1P, to Quality Spray Foam LLC dba Anderson Excavating. Motion carried. Administrator Audette noted that repairs need to be performed around the second structure that was not part of the quote from Quality Spray Foam LLC, as minor erosion has taken place.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 3 for the 2026 Thief River Bank Stabilization Sites, Project, RLWD Project No. 149A, Thief River 1W1P, in the amount of $166,996.70, to Northern Harbor, LLC. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Ose, to approve Pay Estimate No. 3 for the 2026 Thief River Bank Stabilization Sites, RLWD Project No. 149A, Thief River 1W1P, to Northern Harbor, LLC. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette and Tony Nordby, HEI Engineer, discussed the Clearwater River Bank Stabilization, RLWD Project No. 149B.

At 9:30 a.m., President Tiedemann stated that the bid opening for the construction of the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179, would be conducted. Legal Counsel Sparby noted the time and that no further bid proposals would be accepted after the 9:30 a.m. bid submittal deadline. Bids were opened and bid amounts were publicly announced and are on file at the District office. The following bids were received:

Breidenbach Excavating, Reynolds, ND, $2,506,700.29;
Burski Excavating, Inc., Rice, MN, $3,117,084.80;
APEX Drainage, LLC, Glyndon, MN, $3,227,157.00;
R.J. Zavoral & Sons Inc., East Grand Forks, MN, $2,123,546.70;
The Spruce Valley Corporation, Middle River, MN, $3,918,530.00;
Baranko Brothers, Inc., Dickinson, ND, $4,296,608.90;
Gladen Construction, Laporte, MN, $2,825,832.08; and
Davidson Construction, Inc., Newfolden, MN, $3,330,540.00

Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Nelson, and passed by unanimous vote to accept the apparent low bid from R.J. Zavoral & Sons Inc. in the amount of $2,123,546.70 for construction of the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179, contingent upon the audit by staff and review of the bids and approval by Legal Counsel Sparby, District staff, and Project Engineer, Pribula Engineering, PLLC. Motion carried.

Dylan Nelson, HDR Engineering, presented information on JD 4, RLWD Project No. 101, Peatland Restoration. A meeting will be scheduled with the new Clearwater County Engineer, to discuss the proposed project.

Dylan Nelson, HDR Engineering, updated the Board on the JD 60 Outlet and Red Lake/Polk County Line Outlet Stabilization Project, Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149.

Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, discussed the Brule Bank Stabilization, RLWD Project No. 149. Nordby presented the three quotes received for the Cultural Review proposal. The lowest quote came from Duluth Archaeology Center LLC in the amount of $9,737.72. Motion by Page, seconded by Ose, to proceed and approve the low quote from Duluth Archaeology Center LLC in the amount of $9,737.72, for the Brule Bank Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 149. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the Improvement to JD1, RLWD Project No. 184. There was a landowner meeting held on October 7, 2026, at 5:00 pm. There will be a Joint Ditch meeting relating to the project on November 12, 2026, at 1:00 pm.

Administrator Audette updated the Board on Mud River, RLWD Project No. 180C. Audette received word that we have been recommended for Phase 2 funding of the project through the Lessard Sam Outdoor Heritage Council in the amount of $3.2 million. Final approval of the funds will take place in late 2026.

Administrator Audette discussed the upcoming Houston Avenue Crookston meeting on October 26, 2026, at 9 am.

RLWD permit no. 26125 was discussed. The proposed work is in Section 6, Terrebonne Township, in Red Lake County. Motion by Page, seconded by Nelson, to withdraw RLWD permit no. 26125. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the following permits for approval. Motion by Ose, seconded by Anderson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 26126, MnDOT, Shooks Township, Beltrami County; No. 26127, Mike Hanson, Fairfax Township, Polk County; and No. 26128, Belgium Township, Belgium Township, Polk County.

**Administrator's Report:**

- **State Ditch 83**: Gates on right-of-way for SD 83 were installed on the Mickelson property last week. Gates will also be installed on the Rodahl property once the construction is complete.
- **Drainage Work Group**: Included in the packet is a draft Drainage Work Group Assessment Report.
- **MN Watersheds Abstracts**: Our Clearwater River Project was selected to be presented at the 2026 MN Watersheds Annual Conference and Trade Show.

Legal Counsel Sparby has completed an draft General Statement of Temporary and Permanent Easement for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179. Pribula Engineering will prepare Exhibit A and Exhibit B to be included with the easement, which will identify the temporary and permanent right-of-way. Sparby will continue to work with Greg Widseth relating to the easements with Polk County for RLWD Project No. 114.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary