

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Managers Minutes
August 27, 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, Brian Dwight, Terry Sorenson, Grant Nelson, and Al Page. Managers Absent: LeRoy Ose. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Elaine Rychlock, Lindsey Deselich, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

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

The Board reviewed the August 13, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Page, to approve the August 13, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated August 26, 2026. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Financial Report dated August 26, 2026. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette presented the 2027 Proposed Special Revenue Project levies, followed by discussion by the Board. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Page, to approve the following Special Revenue Project Assessments for 2027 in the amount of \$598,700.00. Motion carried.

At 9:30 a.m., President Tiedemann recessed the general meeting and called the 2027 General Fund Budget Hearing to order. President Tiedemann noted that the hearing was properly advertised and will be on videotape and available for viewing at the RLWD office. The Board reviewed the proposed General Fund Budget and opened the hearing for public comment. No public comment was received. Hearing no public comment, the hearing closed at 9:35 a.m. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Dwight, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the following 2027 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$317,700.00. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette and Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering discussed RLWD Project No. 149, Brule Bank Stabilization. Nordby discussed a meeting held with MnDNR staff regarding permitting of the project. Anticipated construction is for early Spring 2027.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 1 for the Chuck Flage Project, RLWD Project No. 174, in the amount of \$65,013.00, to Quality Spray Foam LLC dba Anderson Excavating. Motion by Page, seconded by Nelson, to approve Pay Estimate No. 1 for the Chuck Flage Project, RLWD Project No. 174, to Quality Spray Foam LLC dba Anderson Excavating. Motion carried. Audette noted that repairs to the project will be paid through the Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 1 for the Thief River Streambank Stabilization Project - 2026 Sites, RLWD Project No. 149A, in the amount of \$45,885.00, to Northern Harbor LLC. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve Pay Estimate No. 1 for the Thief River

Streambank Stabilization Project - 2026 Sites, RLWD Project No. 149A, to Northern Harbor LLC. Motion carried.

Legal Counsel Sparby discussed the Release of Declaration of Restrictive Covenants for the TRF Westside FDR Project No. 178. Sparby stated that when the District sold the excess property in 2022, approval should have been received from the State of MN, Minnesota Management and Budget, since the District received capital bonding funds for the project. As per MN State Statutes 16A.695, sub 3 requires that the net proceeds of the sale be returned to the commissioner to pay back the grant. The parcels sold covered 2.3% of the total 7.5-mile diversion ditch and the sale of both parcels totaled \$111,850.67; therefore, the state is requesting payment of \$2,572.57. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Page, to authorize President Tiedemann to sign the Release of Declaration of Restrictive Covenants and issue a check in the amount of \$2,572.57 for the Thief River Westside FDR Project, RLWD Project No. 178. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the recent email from Bethany Bethke, MnDNR, requesting FDRWG Conference Input. The Conference Planning Committee is seeking input from Watershed District Board Managers on what topics would be most interesting and worthwhile.

Administrator Audette discussed the recent memo from the Red River Basin/FDRWG outlining the FY27 Project Team Funding Allocations.

HEI Engineer, Tony Nordby, and Administrator Audette gave a recap from the recent State Ditch 83 Area Project Work Team meeting held on August 19, 2026. Discussion was held on the presentation at the project team meeting by Bethany Bethke, explaining the various purposes of MnDNR public lands within the project concept area. Nordby stated that sites have been identified as potential storage sites, that include public lands. Discussion was held on contacting landowners to determine if there would be interest in having a storage site on their property. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Nelson, to authorize Administrator Audette to contact landowners to gather interest in a potential storage site. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the following permits for approval. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Ose, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 26081, Mike Hanson, Fairfax Township, Polk County; No. 26084, Lucas Thom, King Township, Polk County; No. 26085, John McDonald, Nesbit Township, Polk County; No. 26089, Gabriel Boushee, Bygland Township, Polk County; No. 26092, Gary Salentiny, Belgium Township, Polk County; No. 26093, Gary Salentiny, Belgium Township, Polk County; No. 26094, Todd Mack, Sullivan Township, Polk County; No. 26095, Greg Sparby, Veldt Township, Marshall County; No. 26096, Patrick Wichterman, Emardville Township, Red Lake County; No. 26097, Derek Mogen, Rocksbury Township, Pennington County; No. 26098, Lucas Thom, King Township, Polk County; and No. 26099, Tom Scholin, Bray Township, Pennington County.

Administrator's Report:

- **Polk County Ditch 39**-Bids will be opened on October 8, 2027.
- **Mud River**-Administrator Audette, Engineer Dalager and Jim Graham testified before the LSOHC committee for Phase II funding. The next project team meeting will be held on September 16th at 9:00 a.m.
- **Summer Tour**-Audette will participate in Tuesday evening's activities.
- **Hilgeman petition**-Dalager will be working on a informational meeting to gather input from local landowners.
- **West Polk SWCD**-Manager Nicole Bernd has resigned from the West Polk SWCD to take a position with BWSR. RLWD staff will meet with West Polk SWCD staff to update them on 1W1P procedures.
- **Vacation**-Audette will be on vacation the week of September 7th.

Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby, said he has talked to Polk County Attorney, Greg Widseth, regarding the Turtle Connection Cross Lakes easements.

Manager Nelson shared that he will be absent from the September 10, 2026, Board meeting.

Manager Dwight asked for the digital image of the new RLWD logo. Dwight and his wife would like to have that put on the Keep It Clean campaign trailer.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary