

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Managers Minutes
September 24, 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, LeRoy Ose, Al Page, and Grant Nelson. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Elaine Rychlock, Corey Hanson, 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 10, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Nelson, to approve the September 10, 2026, Board meeting minutes, with corrections as noted. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report as of September 23, 2026. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Nelson, to approve the Financial Report as of September 23, 2026. Motion carried.

Manager Ose discussed the November 2026 board meeting dates: November 12 and November 26. November 26 is Thanksgiving Day. After much discussion, a motion was made by Ose, seconded by Page, to change the November 26 board meeting date to November 24, 2026 at 9:00 am at the Red Lake Watershed District board room. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 2 for the Clearwater River Bank Stabilization, Project, RLWD Project No. 149B, in the amount of \$198,310.66, to Quality Spray Foam LLC dba Anderson Excavating. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve Pay Estimate No. 2 for the Clearwater River Bank Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 149B, to Quality Spray Foam LLC dba Anderson Excavating. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette presented a temporary construction easement for the 2026 Thief River Bank Stabilization Sites, RLWD Project No. 149A, Thief River 1W1P. This would be for the Rodahl/Lunke site. Discussion ensued as to how much to reimburse the renter for the .587 acres of crop damage. Motion by Ose, seconded by Anderson, to approve reimbursing the renter, Brad Lunke, \$1000 for the .587 acres of crop damage. Motion carried.

Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, discussed permitting on the Brule Bank Stabilization, RLWD Project No. 149. After discussion amongst the Board, the consensus was to move forward with obtaining the archeological quotes for the project.

Staff member, Corey Hanson, discussed the North Cormorant Streambank Project, RLWD Project No. 149C, Upper Red Lake 1W1P. The streambank erosion problem was identified using LIDAR analysis for the Upper/Lower Red Lakes Watershed. Lance and Natalie Nistler are the

landowners and are on board with a range of solutions including rock, sloping, and/or toe-wood sod mat. The location of the bank is about 5.4 miles SW of Kelliher and 11.6 miles north of Blackduck. Hanson said that watershed-based implementation funding can be used to develop the project. The ULRL 1W1P Policy Committee will decide on the cost-share percentage that will be required for construction. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Anderson, to move forward with North Cormorant Streambank Project, RLWD Project No. 149C, Upper Red Lake 1W1P. Motion carried. District staff will report back to the Board with the cost share amount.

Administrator Audette discussed the TRF Westside FDR Project No. 178. Audette received a letter from the Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) Office approving the sale of this bond-financed property to Tango, TNE, LLC and the Carlson Trust. Once MMB has procured the MnDNR Commissioners signature, the documents will be forwarded to the District for recording.

Administrator Audette discussed the Improvement to JD1, RLWD Project No. 184. There is a landowner's meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 5:00 pm. Nate Dalager, HDR Engineer, will be present at the meeting to discuss the project. Discussion was held on the re-establishment of records and a Joint Ditch meeting.

Administrator Audette discussed Turtle Connection Cross Lakes, RLWD Project No. 114 as it relates to landowner easements. Audette noted that Polk County and the MnDNR are working on their easements, with two additional easements needed from private landowners. Discussion was held on the possibility of using Eminent Domain for the project to be able to proceed.

Administrator Audette and Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, , discussed Mud River, RLWD Project No. 180C. Discussion was held on the Project Team meeting held on September 16, 2026. Dalager noted that a Joint Powers Agreement will be needed between the USFWS, MnDNR and the District, as the District is not the landowner. Dalager further stated that the USFWS and/or MnDNR will need to be the permit applicant. Funding recommendations from the Lessard Sam Outdoor Heritage Counsel will be released on September 30th.

Administrator Audette reviewed the quotes received for the Burnham Creek Channel, RLWD Project No. 43B. Lyle Wilkens submitted the lowest quote in the amount of \$11,337 for the project repairs. Motion by Page, seconded by Nelson to approve the quote from Lyle Wilkens in the amount of \$11,337 for repairs to the Burnham Creek Project, RLWD Project No. 43B. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed RLWD Project No. 179, Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39. The bid opening is scheduled for October 8, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the District office. Audette is waiting for an Addendum from Pribula Engineering. Discussion was held on the development of a standard easement for permanent and temporary easements. Legal Counsel Sparby will develop the easement, with the legal description being provided by Pribula Engineering.

Staff member Corey Hanson, and Administrator Audette discussed with the Board One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) streambank stabilization projects that are located within legal ditch

system under the jurisdiction of the District. As an example, Audette referenced the 2026 Thief River Bank Stabilization Projects (149A), Clearwater River Bank Stabilization (149B), and the potential Lost River Bank Stabilization (149B). Hanson stated that 1W1P projects typically require a cost share agreement. Audette and Hanson questioned the Board on how the District would like to handle the cost share portion of bank stabilization projects while utilizing ditch and/or District funds. After much discussion, a motion was made by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to split the 10% cost share (50/50) between the legal ditch fund and the District, with the District's share coming out of 1W1P Match, RLWD Project No. 182, 182A, 182B, or 182C. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the comments of the USACOE Draft Minnesota Mitigation Guidelines included in the Board packet.

RLWD permit no. 26118 was discussed. The proposed work is in Section 6, Terrebonne Township, in Red Lake County. Motion by Page, seconded by Anderson, to deny RLWD permit no. 26118. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the following permits for approval. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 26111, Red Lake County Highway Dept., Gervais Township, Red Lake County; No. 26112, MnDOT, Rocksbury Township, Pennington County; No. 26113, MnDOT, Emardville Township, Red Lake County; No. 26114, Richard Salentiny, Mayfield Township, Pennington County; No. 26115, Clarence Smith, Benville Township, Beltrami County; No. 26116, Clarence Smith, Spruce Grove Township, Beltrami County; No. 26117, Brady Lee, Badger Township, Polk County; No. 26119, Luke Forness, Louisville Township, Red Lake County; No. 26120, Kevin Landsverk, Brandsvold Township, Polk County; No. 26121, Marshall County Highway Dept., Moylan Township, Marshall County; No. 26122, Daniel Paulson, Eden Township, Polk County; and No. 26123, Kyle Mehrkens, Sanders Township, Pennington County.

Administrator's Report:

- **FDRWG meeting:** Audette attended the FDRWG on 9/22/26 in Ada.
- **RRWMB:** Audette attended the RRWMB meeting on 9/15/26 in Ada. Discussion was held on legislative events.
- **River Watch kickoff event:** The District office hosted the 2026 River Watch event on September 23; with close to 100 students in the building.
- **Judicial Ditch 1:** Engineer Mike Flaagan will arrange a Joint Ditch meeting as it relates to the Improvement to JD 1, RLWD Project No. 184.
- **Out of the Office:** Audette will be on vacation October 1 & 2, 2026

Legal Counsel Sparby stated he is working on the blanket easement for RLWD Project No. 179 and working with Red Lake County attorney, Greg Widseth regarding the easements for the RLWD Project No. 114.

Manager Sorenson discussed Turtle Connection Cross, RLWD Project No. 114.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary