

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Managers Minutes  
May 22, 2025

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, LeRoy Ose, Terry Sorenson, Grant Nelson, and Al Page. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Elaine Rychlock, Tony Olson, Lindsey Deselich, 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 May 8, 2025, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Page, to approve the May 8, 2025, Board meeting minutes, with corrections as noted. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated May 21, 2025. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Financial Report dated May 21, 2025, with corrections as noted. Motion carried.

Staff member Elaine Rychlock reviewed the current Certificate of Deposit rates for Dakota Heritage Bank, Northern State Bank, Unity Bank, and American Federal Bank, Fosston. Rychlock noted that we have an Edward Jones Certificate of Deposit that matured on May 15, 2025. A motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Page, to approve re-investing the CD with Edward Jones for twelve months at the current interest rate of 4.2%. Motion carried.

Brian Opsahl, Brady Martz & Associates, P.A., presented the 2024 Annual Audit Report. After various questions by the Board, a motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the 2024 Annual Audit Report, as presented.

Administrator Audette discussed maintenance on the Good Lake Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 67 and expenses incurred to date. Audette asked the Board to have a formal motion on record approving \$15,000 annually in expenses. A motion was made by Page, seconded by Nelson, to approve \$15,000 annually for maintenance related expenses to continue at Good Lake. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette and Tony Nordby, HEI, discussed RLWD Project No. 149, Huot Bank Stabilization. The work is scheduled to begin in June of 2025. Audette stated that due to the low bid amount received for the project, additional funds will be remaining from the MnDNR CPL Grant. Audette, Nordby, and staff member Corey Hanson have scheduled a meeting for this afternoon, to inquire about the possibility of using the remaining funds on an additional site upstream of the current site. Audette will report back to the Board.

Administrator Audette discussed Thief River 1W1P Bank Stabilization Sites, RLWD Project No. 149A, noting that additional sites along the Muzzy and TRF LLC properties in Excel Township, Marshall County, are potential sites.

Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, presented information on Turtle Cross Connection, RLWD Project No. 114. Administrator Audette discussed the concerns of the landowners north of the Cross Lake structure, that has a lake area with no name, (for reference “No Name Lake”). Landowners have seen a decline in lake levels on “No Name Lake” since cleaning of the county ditch system was completed. District staff have surveyed the area to determine lake elevations. Dalager stated that there are no ditch records showing the elevation of the ditch bottom. Dalager indicated that if the District decides to install a structure on the north portion of “No Name Lake” to allow for a set lake level that this could be included in the EAW and could be constructed after the structures are placed in Connection and Cross Lakes. A landowner meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2025, at the East Polk SWCD office with landowner, David Olson.

Administrator Audette stated that the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Grant Application for the Mud River Project, RLWD Project No. 180C, is due May 23, 2025. Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, and Jim Graham, USFWS, providing information for the application. As part of the application, we need to indicate other funding partners. Audette questioned if the Board would indicate a funding amount on behalf of the District for the application. Leverage was included for in-kind hours for staff from the USFWS, MnDNR, and RLWD. Motion was made by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to approve applying for the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Grant Application for the Mud River Project, indicating an amount of \$500,000 on behalf of the District. Motion carried.

Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby, provided an update regarding the Polk County Ditch #39 case: RLWD Project No. 179. The Minnesota Supreme Court finally issued its decision in the Polk County Ditch 39 case and affirmed the Court of Appeals decision – a great result for watershed districts. The next step will be a Notice for Dismissal of the case.

Administrator Audette discussed the Client Services Agreement with Houston Engineering, Inc., for RLWD Project No. 48, Branch A & Branch 1 of JD #2. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Client Services Agreement with Houston Engineering, Inc. for RLWD Project No. 48, Branch A & Branch 1 of JD #2. Motion carried.

The Board discussed a proposed cost-share with the RRWMB for Rural Flood Mapping. Administrator Audette stated that funding through FEMA had been pulled to complete the 10 Year Flood Mapping. Rob Sip, RRWMB, inquired if watersheds throughout the RRWMB, would consider a cost-share with the RRWMB, and if so, an application could be presented to the RRWMB. The estimated project cost is \$291,225. The RRWMB would cover 50% (\$145,612.50), the FDRWG would contribute \$26,000, with the District’s share being \$119,612.50. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to approve cost share with the RRWMB and FDRWG, with the remaining balance of \$119,612.50 paid by the District for completion of the 10 Year Flood Mapping. Motion carried.

Staff member Olson discussed a ditch plug located along Hwy 19 in Polk County. After much discussion, a motion was made by Ose, seconded by Page, to send the landowner a letter to fix the ditch within 10 days of when the letter was sent or the work would be completed by the District and billed to the landowner. Motion carried.

Staff member Olson discussed a ditch plug located in Ditch 106, Kertsonville Township, Polk County. Olson will refer this back to Polk County.

The board discussed RLWD Permit No. 25033 located in Emardville Township, Red Lake County. A motion to approve RLWD Permit No. 25033 was made by Manager Ose. Motion failed as a second to the motion was not received. A motion was made by Manager Ose to deny RLWD Permit No. 25033. Motion failed as a second to the motion was not received. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Sorenson to table RLWD Permit No. 25033, for further review with the Red Lake County SWCD. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the following permits for approval. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 25023, Gregory Whallen, Equality Township, Red Lake County; No. 25029, G & K Acres, Deer Park Township, Pennington County; No. 25040, Andy Zavoral, Bygland Township, Polk County; No. 25043, Erik Nymann, Red Lake Falls Township, Red Lake County; No. 25045, Michael LaCoursiere, Lambert Township, Red Lake County; No. 25048, Charlie and Marie Hotvedt, Sullivan Township, Polk County; No. 25049, Terence and Tammie Blacklance, Excel Township, Marshall County; No. 25056, Patrick Wichterman, Emardville Township, Red Lake County; No. 25057, Patrick Wichterman, Emardville Township, Red Lake County; No. 25058, Darin Glass, Grove Park-Tilden Township, Polk County; and No. 25059, Dustin and Jodie McDonald, Nesbit Township, Polk County.

Staff member, Lindsey Deselich, presented information on Riverwatch.

### **Administrator's Report:**

**RRWMB:** Included in the packet are the following items:

- Legislative Update as of May 21, 2025.
- RRWMB History Update
- RRWMB 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 2025 request for State Bonding

**RED RIVER BASIN:** Included in the packet is the updated Long-Term Flood Solutions Progress Report and Update version December 2024.

**DRAINAGE WORK GROUP:** A DWG meeting will be held on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The committee is working on a survey to be submitted.

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**MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS:** Included in the packet is the May 2025 Legislative Session Update

**WEST POLK SWCD ENVIROTHON:** Included in the packet are the team results from the Area 1 Envirothon hosted by the West Polk SWCD.

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

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LeRoy Ose, Secretary