RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
May 23, 2024

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, Terry Sorenson, Tom Anderson, LeRoy Ose, Grant Nelson, and Allan Page. Managers Absent: Brian Dwight. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Elaine Rychlock, Erick Huseth, Nate Koland, Tony Olson, Corey Hanson, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the May 9, 2024, board meeting minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the May 9, 2024, board meeting minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated May 22, 2024. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Financial Report dated May 22, 2024. Motion carried.

The following quotes were received for the Sluice Gate Structure Replacement on the Elm Lake/Farmes Pool, RLWD Project No. 52: Anderson Excavating, $45,250; CC Steel LLC, $61,500; and Spruce Valley Corporation, $123,228. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to accept the low quote from Anderson Excavating in the amount of $45,250, for the Sluice Gate Structure Replacement on the Elm Lake/Farmes Pool, RLWD Project No. 52. Motion carried. Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, stated that the contractor will need to order the gate immediately, so a partial payment for materials on hand will be completed. District staff will coordinate with the MnDNR on drawdown of the pool.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc. reviewed the final cost estimates for the Drees/Stock Bank Stabilization Projects, Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A. All three sites will be combined; therefore, the project will be bid out. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve the plans and specifications for the Drees/Stock Bank Stabilization projects, RLWD Project No. 149A, with bids being to be opened on July 28, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed the project work team membership for the State Ditch 83 area flooding concerns, noting the addition of Trent Stanley and Pat Erickson. Motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to approve the additional names added to the State Ditch 83 area project work team. Motion carried. The project work team kick-off meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at the District office.

Administrator Audette reviewed the maintenance expenses incurred to date on the Good Lake Impoundment Project, RLWD Project No. 67. Discussion was held on the age of the structure and condition of the dike. District staff noted that the top of the dike needs repair as water is standing

in the ruts. Local landowner and tribal member, Kelly Dahlen, is the designated gate tender and handles maintenance of the impoundment. Audette asked for direction from the Board as to what type of maintenance should be completed. After considerable discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Ose, seconded by Nelson to authorize staff to continue working with Mr. Dahlen on his requests for general maintenance of the impoundment, with any major repair requests needing Board approval prior to completion. Motion carried. Managers Sorenson and Tiedemann voted in opposition. Manager Dwight was absent.

Staff member, Tony Olson, reviewed the data from the Pine Lake Buoy, RLWD Project No. 26B. The link to the buoy data will be posted to the District website.

Administrator Audette reviewed a cost share request from the East Polk Soil and Water Conservation District for lake monitoring. The RLWD's contribution would be $3,240. A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve the cost share amount of $3,240. Motion carried.

Staff member, Tony Olson, discussed RLWD Permit No. 24044 in Garnes Township, Section 17, Red Lake County. The recommendation was to deny the permit. A motion was made by Page, seconded by Anderson, to deny RLWD Permit No. 24044. Motion carried.

Staff member, Tony Olson, discussed RLWD Permit No. 23026 in Poplar River Township, Section 14, Red Lake County. The recommendation was to grant the permit extension request. A motion was made by Page, seconded by Nelson, to approve the permit extension for RLWD Permit No. 23026. Motion carried.

Staff member, Tony Olson, discussed RLWD Permit No. 23033 Fairfax Township, Section 9, Polk County. The recommendation was to grant the permit extension request. A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve the permit extension for RLWD Permit No. 23033. Motion carried.

Staff member, Tony Olson, discussed RLWD Permit No. 23036 in Fairfax Township, Section 9, Red Lake County. The recommendation was to grant the permit extension request. A motion was made by Page, seconded by Nelson, to approve the permit extension for RLWD Permit No. 23036. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 24025, Thorson Farming, Bygland Township, Polk County; No. 24027, Scott Tersteeg, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; No. 24029, MnDOT, Eckvoll Township, Marshall County; No. 24030, Roy Gross, Langor Township, Beltrami County; No. 24032, Stephanie Wilde, Eden Township, Polk County; No. 24043, Pennington County, Hickory Township, Pennington County; No. 24045, Mayfield Township Chairman, Mayfield Township, Pennington County; No. 24046, Mayfield Township Chairman, Mayfield Township, Pennington County; No. 24047, Pennington County, Rocksbury Township, Pennington County; No. 24051, Kevin Krueger, Belgium Township, Polk County; No. 24053, Polk County Highway Dept, Hill River Township, Polk County; No. 24054,

Red Lake County Highway Dept, Poplar River Township, Red Lake County; and No. 24055, Scott Morinville, Poplar River Township, Red Lake County. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed a training request from staff member Kallis to attend the MN Department of Resources River Ecology Unit 2024 Workshop in Fergus Falls, MN, August 12-14, 2024. A motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Ose, to approve staff member Kallis to attend the DNR training in August. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette stated that after reviewing the funding breakdown of the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176, it was determined that the project received funds from FEMA for the 2022 flood damage, and from the 2020 Grant awarded to the Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149, in the amount of $73,455. Audette recommended crediting that amount back to the Red Lake River 1W1P, which would require sending the funds back to the State of Minnesota as the 2020 grant was closed out. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Ose, to return $73,455 back to the State of Minnesota for funds received through the Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149 for repairs to the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176 for the 2022 flood damage. Motion carried.

Administrators Update:

- **Pine Lake levels**: Due to a predicted rain event, District staff removed one stoplog from the outlet structure. Both easements have been signed with the landowners for Phase II of the Pine Lake Project. Easements have been submitted to Clearwater County for recording. The pre-construction meeting is scheduled for May 29th at 10:00 a.m. on-site.
- **River Watch Retreat:** The International Water Institute has scheduled a River Watch Overnight Leadership Retreat on June 11-12th to be held at UMC. This event has not taken place since prior to COVID. Each school involved in River Watch can send their team captains to the event. The event schedule is included in the packet.
- **River Watch and River of Dreams:** Included in the packet is an update on recent activities with the River Watch Program and River of Dreams.
- **Huot Bank Stabilization Project**: Audette and staff member, Corey Hanson, participated in a virtual meeting with Tony Nordby along with MnDNR staff. MnDNR staff informed us that we will not need to complete a survey for mussels. MnDNR staff also stated that they have been going away from the rock stream barb design, focusing instead on bank stabilization. Audette will contact landowners to make them aware of the proposed project. District staff completed the survey with assistance from the Pennington SWCD North Pod with the use of their sonar boat.
- **Moose River/JD 21 meeting:** District staff will participate in a Judicial Ditch 21 meeting in Grygla on May 28th. Staff from Beltrami County will also be in attendance for discussion on the survey and report completed on JD 21 by the District.
- **Upper Lower Red Lake 1W1P:** The Upper Lower Red Lake 1W1P meeting will be held on May 28th at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Casino.
- **Thief River 1W1P:** The Thief River 1W1P Advisory and Policy Committee meeting will be held on June 10, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the District office.

- **Red Lake River 1W1P:** The Red Lake River 1W1P Policy Committee meeting will be held June 12, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at the District office.
- **Summer Hours:** Just a reminder that Summer hours begin next week on Tuesday, May 28th. The District office will be open from 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Fridays. Notice will be posted on the District office door, website and phone system.

Legal Counsel Sparby said no news or opinions were issued for the Appeal on the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179.

A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Sorenson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

LeRoy Ose, Secretary