

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
January 22, 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, Terry Sorenson, Tom Anderson, Brian Dwight, LeRoy Ose, and Grant Nelson. Manager's Absent: Allan Page. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Elaine Rychlock, Lindsey Deselich, Tony Olson, Nate Koland, Erick Huseth, Corey Hanson, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

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

The Board reviewed the January 8, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the January 8, 2026, Board meeting minutes, with corrections as noted. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated January 21, 2026. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the Financial Report dated January 21, 2026. Motion carried.

Staff member Elaine Rychlock presented an invoice for Membership Dues for the period covering January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, from the League of Minnesota Cities in the amount of \$2,497.00. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Dwight to approve to pay the invoice in the amount of \$2,497.00. Motion carried.

Staff members Audette and Rychlock reviewed the 2025 General Fund as of December 31, 2025.

Staff member Elaine Rychlock reviewed the current Certificate of Deposit rates for Dakota Heritage Bank, Northern State Bank of Thief River Falls, Ultima Bank MN, and American Federal Bank-Fosston. Rychlock noted that we have three Edward Jones Certificate of Deposits maturing in February 2026 and two Certificate of Deposits with Northern State Bank of Thief River Falls also maturing in February 2026. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Anderson, to approve re-investing the Certificate of Deposit that matures on February 5, 2026, with Dakota Heritage Bank for twelve months at the current interest rate of 4.04%. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed Houston Avenue in Crookston. The Red Lake River has been eroding its banks in the backyards of Houston Avenue residents, with the flood of 2022 making the erosion worse. Landowners approached RLWD for an initial inspection of the area in 2023. Audette stated the RLWD is interested in dealing with the erosion problems, though currently, it is not feasible due to the homes being so close to the banks. Audette would like to continue to explore funding opportunities to help them, with potential assistance with the RRWMB lobbyist.

Administrator Audette discussed the proposed Landowner Agreement for installation of streambank stabilization projects through the One Watershed One Plan process. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Dwight to approve the adoption of the proposed 1W1P Landowner Agreement. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the 2024-2025 funding breakdown for SD 83, RLWD Project No. 14/Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A bank stabilization projects. The District received a 2025 RRWMB Base Water Quality Funding grant, which required a cash match in the amount of \$32,857. Audette asked if the SD 83 system could pay for 10% of the streambank stabilization construction costs in the amount of \$24,942.50, as part of the maintenance of the system. After discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Nelson, that the District do a 50/50 split of the \$24,942.50, with \$12,474.25 coming from the Thief River 1W1P-Match, RLWD Project 182A funds and the remaining amount of \$12,474.25 assessed as maintenance to the SD 83, RLWD Project No. 14 system. Motion carried. The remaining cost of the bank stabilization projects was paid for through the Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A.

Staff members Erick Huseth and Corey Hanson appeared before the Board for discussion on clearing and snagging along SD 83, RLWD Project No. 14 and a site at the outlet of Judicial Ditch 21 south to the Marshall County CSAH 6 bridge. Hanson stated that he was been working with a landowner on completing some clearing and snagging on trees leaning over the ditch system that are creating bank erosion along the channel. Hanson recommends leaving the root wad and removing the tree trunk/branches so not to divert water to the bank. Marshall County Commissioner, Gary Kiesow, stated that Judicial Ditch 21 had previously completed some clearing and snagging within this area, and would be willing to assist in partial funding for additional work. Hanson is also in discussion with the landowner on a potential bank stabilization project. Huseth stated that he spoke with Andy Anderson, Quality Spray Foam/Anderson Excavating regarding clearing and snagging within the SD 83 system, similar to what Anderson completed in the Warroad Watershed. Discussion was had on completing clearing and snagging, keeping the Board informed on project costs. Motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to approve clearing and snagging along State Ditch 83, RLWD Project No. 14 to be paid for with ditch maintenance funds, and authorize clearing and snagging between the outlet of Judicial Ditch 21 and Marshall CSAH 6 to be paid for through Water Quality funds, RLWD Project No. 46, with partial funding assistance from the Judicial Ditch 21 Joint Board. Motion carried. District staff will report back to the Board at the February 12, 2026 meeting.

Administrator Audette stated that District staff have identified three potential 2026 Bank Stabilization sites along SD 83, RLWD Project No. 14/Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A. Audette discussed applying for a MnDNR CPL grant to assist in paying for the toe wood sod mat portion of the projects. After much discussion, a motion was made by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to authorize District staff to proceed with the three sites for potential 2026 Bank Stabilization along SD 83, RLWD Project No. 14/Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the Client Services Agreement with Houston Engineering, Inc., for the three bank stabilization projects along SD 83, RLWD Project No. 14/Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Client Services Agreement with Houston Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$49,222.00. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the withdrawal of RLWD Permit No. 25147, North Township, Pennington County, as requested. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the withdrawal of RLWD Permit No. 25187, Excel Township, Marshall County, as requested. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the following permits for approval. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 25188, Marshall, Lowell Township, Polk County.

Staff member, Lindsey Deselich, reviewed the current RLWD Scholarship Application and eligibility criteria. Discussion was held around changing the scholarship eligibility and criteria. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Nelson, to approve changing the qualifications to: Applicants must be a Senior in high school that participates in River Watch and enrolled in college full-time, with a credit minimum of twelve per semester, beginning Fall of 2026. Motion carried.

The 31st River Watch Forum will be held on February 25, 2026, at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, ND. The event will take place from 9 am – 1 pm.

Staff member Deselich presented information on River of Dreams.

The 2026 MN Watershed's Legislative Event is coming up March 3 in St. Paul. Please let Melissa Bushy know if you are planning on attending.

Administrator's Report:

- **Drone:** Lindsey Deselich is working on receiving quotes for the purchase of a Drone, along with staff training and FAA licensure.
- **2026 County Drainage Conference:** As a reminder Audette, along with Erick Huseth, plan to attend the 2026 County Drainage conference next week in Alexandria.
- **Polk County Ditch #39:** District staff is currently working on obtaining landowner information to mail out hearing notices.
- **TCC:** District staff is currently working on obtaining signatures from three landowners on the Turtle Connection Cross Project.
- **Huot Project-CPL Funds:** District staff is working on submittal of invoices through the MnDNR CPL funds.

Legal Counsel Sparby shared he is working with Polk County on the Turtle Connection Cross easements and the hearing notice for Polk County Ditch #39.

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Manager Nelson discussed the upcoming Invasive Species Management Workshop on March 5, 2026, at the Heritage Center in Thief River Falls from 5-7 pm. Please RSVP by calling (218) 280-8989.

Manager Sorenson stated that he will be attending the February 2026 and March 2026 Board meetings remotely as he will be out of state.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "LeRoy Ose". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered on the page.

LeRoy Ose, Secretary