

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
May 14, 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.

Present: Managers: Gene Tiedemann, Tom Anderson, Brian Dwight, Grant Nelson, Terry Sorenson, LeRoy Ose, and Allan Page. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Elaine Rychlock, Erick Huseh and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

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

The Board reviewed the April 23, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the April 23, 2026, Board meeting minutes, with corrections as noted. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report as of May 13, 2026. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Dwight, to approve the Financial Report as of May 13, 2026. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the RRWMB-UMC Drainage Research Funding Request from Lindsey Pease. Pease is a researcher at UMC and is working on drainage study in the Red River Basin of MN. If the RRWMB and RLWD came up with \$20,000 for Pease, the breakdown of the cost-share would be as follows: 66.66% RRWMD = \$13,332 and 33.33% RLWD = \$6,666. After much discussion, a motion was made by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve cost sharing with the RRWMB in the amount of \$6,666. Motion carried, with Manager Dwight voting in opposition.

Jacob Huwe, HDR Engineering, was present to discuss Burnham Creek, RLWD Project No. 43B/Polk County Ditch Improvement, RLWD Project No. 119. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Dwight, to authorize staff to hire a contractor to remove the debris from the culvert at Highway 9, along with continuous maintenance on the outlet end of the side water inlets and discuss sediment and delivery options with landowners. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council funding application that was submitted for the Mud River Phase 2, RLWD Project No. 180 in the amount of \$3,200,000

Randy Knott, HDR Engineering, was present to discuss the Chuck Flage Erosion Control, RLWD Project No. 174. Knott presented two alternatives to the Board relating to the repair of the Flage site. Alternative no. 1 would be to repair the existing structure at a cost of \$32,078.40. Alternative no. 2 would be to remove the existing structure and replace it with rock ramp at 4:1 slope at a cost of \$100,387.57. After much discussion, a motion was made by Page, seconded by Dwight, to proceed with Alternative no. 2 and for the RLWD to pursue 1W1P funding for this project. Motion carried.

The Board discussed a final payment hearing date for Northern Harbor, LLC for construction of the Thief River Streambank, RLWD Project No. 149A, Muzzy/Thief River LLC sites. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Sorenson, to set the final payment hearing for June 11, 2026, at 9:15 am. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette presented a proposal from HDR Engineering for a Preliminary Survey Report for the Improvement to JD 1, RLWD Project No. 184. The estimated cost for the proposed work on this project is \$59,765, which will be performed on a time and materials not-to-exceed basis. After much discussion, a motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Nelson, granting Administrator permission to sign the task order/proposal from HDR Engineering. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette gave a construction update on Chiefs Coulee, RLWD Project No. 46S.

Administrator Audette provided an update on Turtle Connection Cross Lakes, RLWD Project No. 114.

Administrator Audette discussed RLWD Permit No. 26024 located in Numedal Township, Pennington County. This permit is not within the RLWD boundary lines. The recommendation was to withdraw RLWD permit no. 26024. A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to withdraw RLWD permit no. 26024. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the following permits for approval. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 26015, Garnes Township, Garnes Township, Pennington County; No. 26019, Ron Weiss, Lake Park Township, Red Lake County; No. 26022, Barwin Farms, Lowell Township, Polk County; No. 26029, Jessica Hanson, Red Lake Falls Township, Red Lake County; and No. 26031, Russell Emerson, Gully Township, Polk County.

Administrator Audette discussed the tour with the City of TRF/Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge that occurred on May 7. Pictures and highlights were shared with the Board.

Administrator Audette presented the new proposed RLWD Logo. After much discussion, a motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve the new RLWD logo. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette shared the upcoming dates for the 2026 MN Watersheds Summer Tour. The conference will be held August 25-26, 2026, in Detroit Lakes, MN, at The Holiday Inn. Board members who are interested in attending, please let staff member Bushy know.

**Administrator's Update:**

- **Impoundment Update:**
  - 4/21/26 Little Pine WMA elevation 1325.3; staff noted cattail chunks close to the structure and downstream beaver dams.
  - The data level logger was deployed at Pine Lake. District staff were back on-site last week removing debris from around the logger.
  - Jarshaw Excavating started clearing and snagging at the inlet to the Brandt Impoundment.
  - Anderson Excavating repaired the culvert at the entrance to the hog farm on the diversion ditch of the Black River Impoundment.
- **RRWMB:** Included in the packet was the latest legislative update from Rob Sip: Audette plans to attend the RRWMB meeting in Ada on May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **Houston Avenue:** Audette and Nordby participated in a meeting with the City of Crookston on the Houston Avenue Project.
- **Tree planting:** District staff have been extremely busy planting trees on bank stabilization sites. It is our hope that next year we can apply for a Conservation Corps along with the local SWCD's to complete this work.
- **Wild Rice Allocation:** Clearwater River at Plummer is currently below 72 cfs, which triggers allocation.
- **BWSR District Assessment:** We have received the District Assessment from Moriya at Houston Engineering. Moriya will be at the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to review the information. Audette will send out the assessment to the Board for review.
- **Marshall County, Whiteford Section 8:** There will be a meeting on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. with landowners from Section 8, Whiteford Township to discuss the potential of alternative practices/installation of SWI's along State Ditch 83.
- **Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39:** District staff are working on preparing property owners' reports to the landowners for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39. Audette will submit a Multipurpose Drainage Management (MDM) grant application to BWSR for the installation of SWI's on the project.
- **Red Lake River 1W1P:** District staff met staff from HDR Engineering at the Polk/Red Lake County line bank stabilization site where they worked on the survey, reviewed potential wetland impacts and well borings.

Manager Ose shared he had heard from a landowner about a beaver dam located west of the Lost River Impoundment.

Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Nelson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.



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LeRoy Ose, Secretary