

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
April 9, 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, Tony Olson, Erick Huseh, Corey Hanson, 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 March 26, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the March 26, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report as of April 8, 2026. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Page, to approve the Financial Report as of April 8, 2026. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the petition for Improvement to that portion of Judicial Ditch No. 1 discharging into Outlet #3, RLWD Project No. 184. Landowner, Greg Hilgeman, was present for the discussion. The petitioners seek the improvement to portions of Judicial Ditch No. 1 discharging into Outlet #3 as located in Deer Park Township, Pennington County, and Equality Township, Red Lake County. The ditch is currently under the authority of the Pennington/Red Lake County Joint Ditch Authority. The proposed improvements include the re-sloping of the ditch banks, enlargement of the ditch bottom, and improved grading to said portions of the ditch to the point where said portions would meet construction standards for a modern ditch with adequate hydraulic capacity to withstand a 10-year 24-hour rain event without overflowing. Hilgeman requested HDR Engineering to be appointed as Engineer to the project. After much discussion, a motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the petition for Improvement to a portion of Judicial Ditch 1, Outlet #3, RLWD Project No. 184, and appoint HDR Engineering as the engineer for the Improvement proceeding. Motion carried.

Tony Nordby, HEI, and Administrator Audette discussed the Brule Bank Stabilization, Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149, with an estimated cost of \$1,329,021.03. Nordby discussed the various meetings with MnDNR staff regarding design of the project and recent meetings with the landowner and renter. Audette noted that the landowner wishes to proceed with the project as proposed. Staff member, Corey Hanson, reviewed the proposed funding costs/breakdown indicating that the District has MnDNR CPL funds remaining from the Huot Bank Stabilization Project, along with funding from the Red Lake WBIF and 319 Funding. The CPL and 319 funding both require match funding. Audette stated that match funding is approximately \$214,834.23 A motion was made by Page, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the match funding for construction of the Brule Bank Stabilization project, RLWD Project No. 149 . Motion carried.

Tony Nordby, HEI, and staff member Tony Olson, discussed a potential project located in Section 8, Whiteford Township, Marshall County. Olson stated that as part of a RLWD permit application, he had been working with the landowners for the potential installation of side water inlet (SWI) culverts. After discussion with various local governmental unit staff members it was recommended to have discussion with the landowners on the potential of restoring the oxbows in this area, which would allow the landowners to outlet their water through a SWI into the oxbow. Nordby stated that it would be similar to the Swift Coulee project for MSTRWD. Motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to hold a meeting with landowners in Section 8, Whiteford Township, to gauge their interest in a project. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette updated the Board on Turtle Connection Cross Lakes, RLWD Project No. 114. Audette did hear back from Nathan Kestner, DNR, that we would need to have 100% of the easements signed to move forward with the project.

Administrator Audette reviewed costs and current updates with the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179. We need to review the costs vs. benefits ratio before we move ahead with the project. The Viewers and Engineer for the project will present the updated reports at the April 23rd RLWD Board meeting.

The Hearing for the Red Lake River 1W1P Draft Amendment will take place at the RLWD on April 30, 2026, at 9:30 am.

Administrator Audette shared that things are progressing with the proposed 1W1P Coordinator position. Next steps are coming up with a job description.

We have hired Paige Burns to be our summer intern for 2026. She will start on May 11, 2026.

RLWD staff are requesting summer hours from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend, which would entail working Monday – Thursday, 7:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. (9-hour days) and Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (4-hour day), therefore closing the office at noon on Friday's.

Consideration would be given for construction activities and the water sampling schedule as per approval by the Administrator. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Page, to approve the request of District Staff for summer hours as referenced between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette and staff member, Lindsey Deselich, discussed the 2026 River Watch Retreat. After discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Page, seconded by Anderson, to approve the RLWD covering the cost of the 2026 River Watch Retreat for current River Watch students that would be interested in attending. Motion carried.

Staff member, Tony Olson, discussed RLWD Permit No. 26008, from James Oberg located in Section 28 of Brandt Township, Polk County. After much discussion, a motion was made by

Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the permit noting the landowner will also need Brandt Township approval. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the following permits for approval. Motion by Page, seconded by Ose, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 26003, Greg LeBlanc, Kertsonville Township, Polk County; No. 26006, Dominic LeBlanc, Gentilly Township, Polk County; No. 26007, Polk County Highway Dept., Gentilly Township, Polk County; No. 26010, Jeff Stenberg, Garnes Township, Red Lake County; and No. 26012, Enbridge, Norden Township, Pennington County.

Administrator's Update:

- **City of TRF/Agassiz Tour:** Staff members Hanson and Audette will be attending the day tour on May 7.
- **JD11/JD21 Joint Meeting:** Staff members Audette, Koland and Hanson attended the joint meeting held in Grygla on March 30th.

Legal Counsel Sparby indicated that he needs to draft a letter to CPL Railroad in regard to RLWD Project No. 171A and the culvert plugged with cement. HDR Engineering is obtaining information as to the site and availability of room for positioning of another culvert without removing the plugged culvert.

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Sorenson, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.



LeRoy Ose, Secretary