

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
January 8, 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, Grant Nelson, and Allan Page. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Elaine Rychlock, 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 December 30, 2025, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve the December 30, 2025, Board meeting minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated January 7, 2026. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Financial Report dated January 7, 2026. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed the Auto Pay Vendors List. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Page, to approve the Auto Pay Vendors List. Motion carried.

Beltrami County confirmed the re-appointment of Brian Dwight, for a 3-year term on the Board. Marshall County confirmed the re-appointment of LeRoy Ose, for a 3-year term on the Board.

Election of officers was conducted with President Tiedemann turning the meeting over to Vice-President Sorenson.

Manager Sorenson called for nominations for President. Manager Ose nominated Gene Tiedemann for President. Upon calling for further nominations three times, no further nominations were made. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Anderson, for nominations to cease and that the Board cast a unanimous ballot for Gene Tiedemann for President of the Board. Motion carried.

Vice-President Sorenson turned the meeting over to President Tiedemann to conduct elections for the remaining Board positions.

Nominations were opened for Vice-President. Manager Anderson nominated Terry Sorenson for Vice-President. Upon calling for further nominations three times, no further nominations were made. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Nelson, for nominations to cease and that the Board cast a unanimous ballot for Terry Sorenson for Vice-President of the Board. Motion carried.

Nominations were opened for Secretary. Manager Page nominated LeRoy Ose. Upon calling for further nominations three times, no further nominations were made. Motion by Sorenson,

seconded by Page, for nominations to cease and that the Board cast a unanimous ballot for LeRoy Ose for Secretary of the Board. Motion carried.

Nominations were opened for Treasurer. Manager Sorenson nominated Tom Anderson. Upon calling for further nominations three times, no further nominations were made. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Dwight, for nominations to cease and that the Board cast a unanimous ballot for Tom Anderson for Treasurer of the Board. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed the Advisory Committee members. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Dwight, to approve the Advisory Committee members as proposed and presented. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the committees for 2026. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Ose, to approve the committees for 2026, as proposed and presented. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Dwight, and passed by unanimous vote that the regularly scheduled Board meetings be held at 9:00 A.M. at the Red Lake Watershed District Office on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month for the year 2026.

A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Anderson, that the following institutions be designated as depositories for the RLWD: Northern State Bank of Thief River Falls, Dakota Heritage Bank of Red Lake Falls, American Federal Bank of Fosston, and Edward Jones with the following signatures on the signature cards at the financial institutions: Gene Tiedemann, Terry Sorenson, LeRoy Ose, Tom Anderson, Tammy Audette, and Elaine Rychlock. Motion carried.

The Conflict-of-Interest policy was reviewed by the Board. Motion by Page, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the Conflict-of-Interest Policy and have each Board member sign the Conflict-of-Interest Policy and return it to staff member, Elaine Rychlock. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the invoice for the 2026 Minnesota Association of Watershed District's dues in the amount of \$7,500. Motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson to approve payment of \$7,500 to the Minnesota Association of Watershed District for the 2026 dues. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette shared that the updated IRS mileage rate for 2026 is 72.5 cents per mile.

Administrator Audette reviewed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the West Polk SWCD relating to the Watershed Based Implementation Funding SWCD Conservation Practice Assistance Contract. After much discussion, a motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Ose, to approve the MOA and authorize President Tiedemann, the authority to sign the MOA with the addition of setting the end date to five years. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed the draft CRP easement for Scott Sorvig, Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176. Audette was contacted by the FSA office regarding the 3.75 acres of land owned by the District that is near the inlet channel of the Black River

Impoundment. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Ose, to approve the CRP easement as presented with Scott Sorvig for 3.75 acres. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed hiring an intern for the summer of 2026. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the hiring of a summer intern for summer 2026 at a rate of \$19.00 per hour. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette updated the Board on the easements for the Turtle Connection Cross Lake Project, RLWD Project No. 114. To date four landowners, need to sign their easements, along with the MnDNR and Polk County. Legal Counsel Sparby will work with the Polk County Attorney to answer their questions.

Legal Counsel Sparby discussed his conversation with Attorney John Kolb, as it relates to the Canadian Pacific Railroad plugging a culvert with concrete that is used for the Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 171A. Sparby will draft a letter to be submitted to the railroad.

Legal Counsel Sparby indicated that Border Bank is looking at an alternate route for their drive through outlet, rather than the installation of a crossing over RLWD Ditch 14, Project No. 171.

At 10:30 a.m. the following individuals joined the meeting for discussion on the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179: Mike Baumgartner, Paul Novacek, Ron Novacek, Brian Folson, Jerry Pribula and Doug Peterson. Via Zoom: John Kolb, Robert Wagner. Roger Beiswenger joined the meeting by phone. Legal Counsel Delray Sparby, and Attorney for the petitioners, John Kolb, updated the Board on the legal status of the project, with Kolb indicating that the petitioners wish to proceed with the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39. Kolb recommended holding a hearing, to formally instruct the viewers to update benefit/damages values and the engineer to update the engineer's estimates, both with today's values since the passage of a substantial amount of time since the original reports were completed. If ordered by the Board, once the viewers and engineers have updated their numbers, an additional hearing will be held for property owners to comment on the values.

After much discussion, a motion by Nelson, seconded by Ose, to schedule a Hearing in regard to a proposed action of the Board to formally instruct the viewers to update benefit/damages values and for the engineer to update the engineer's estimate for 9:30 am on February 26, 2026, at the District office. Notices for the hearing will be sent to landowners within the benefitted area, along with landowners in the Polk County Ditch 66 benefitted area. Motion carried.

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



LeRoy Ose, Secretary