

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
May 28, 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, Lindsey Deselich, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Page, and passed by a unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda, with additions as noted. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the May 14, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Page, seconded by Sorenson, to approve May 14, 2026, Board meeting minutes, with corrections as noted. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report as of May 27, 2026. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Financial Report as of May 27, 2026. Motion carried.

Staff member, Elaine Rychlock, reviewed the current Certificate of Deposit rates for the following area banks: Dakota Heritage Bank, Northern State Bank of Thief River Falls, Ultima Bank MN of Fosston, Edward Jones, and American Federal Bank-Fosston. There is one CD maturing 5/29/26 at Edward Jones. After much discussion, a motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Nelson, to re-invest the maturing CD (\$237,000) with Ultima Bank MN of Fosston for six months at a rate of 4.00%. Motion carried.

Staff members Audette and Rychlock provided a General Fund update as of March 31, 2026.

Administrator Audette stated that she and staff member Corey Hanson prepared a BWSR Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant application in the amount of \$340,000, for the installation of side water inlets for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179. Audette noted that if the project is awarded the grant, a 10% match is required, which would be paid by the legal drainage system's benefited area.

Administrator Audette presented a map showing locations of the Clearwater River Streambank Project, RLWD Project No. 149B. The OPC from HEI and the construction plans were reviewed, with discussion on the Bid Opening date. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Anderson, to set the Bid Opening date for the Clearwater Streambank Project, RLWD Project No. 149B, for June 25, 2026, at 9:15 am. Motion carried. Audette stated that Hanson prepared an RRWMB Base Funding Application in the amount of \$100,000, which requires a cash match in the amount of \$33,333. The Project also received a CPL Grant in the amount of \$492,046, which requires a match in the amount of \$49,205, for a total match requirement for both grants in the amount of \$82,538. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Page, to approve the total match requirements for

the Clearwater River Streambank Project, RLWD Project No. 149B, in the amount of \$82,538. Motion carried.

At 9:30 a.m., President Tiedemann stated that the bid opening for the 2026 Thief River Streambank Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 149A, would be conducted. Legal Counsel Sparby noted the time and that no further bid proposals would be accepted after the 9:30 a.m. bid submittal deadline. Bids were opened and bid amounts were announced and are on file at the District office. The following bids were received:

Olson Construction TRF Inc., Thief River Falls, MN, \$533,571.70;  
Tunheim Construction, Fargo, ND, \$518,950.75;  
MNL, Otsego, MN, \$585,777.00;  
Northern Harbor, LLC, Walker, MN, \$385,792.00; and  
Anderson Excavating, Newfolden, MN, \$504,687.16;

Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote to accept the apparent low bid from Northern Harbor, LLC, \$385,792.00 for the 2026 Thief River Streambank Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 149A, contingent upon the audit by staff and review of the bids and approval by Legal Counsel Sparby, District staff, and Project Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc.

Administrator Audette discussed Chuck Flage Erosion Control, RLWD Project No. 174. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Sorenson, to accept quotes for the project until 4:30 pm on July 8, 2026, and to review the quotes received at the July 9, 2026, RLWD Board meeting. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the Red Lake/Polk County Line Outlet Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 149. Two estimates for soil boring were reviewed: AET \$19,348 and Braun \$36,041. Motion by Page, seconded by Nelson to approve hiring AET to complete the soil borings. Motion carried.

Staff member, Tony Olson, presented photos of the recent mulching at the Brandt Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60D.

Staff member, Tony Olson, discussed RLWD Permit No. 25020 located in Gervais Township, Red Lake County. The recommendation was to grant the permit extension request. A motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Page, to approve the permit extension request for RLWD Permit No. 25020. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the following permits for approval. Motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 26018, Al Bauer, Knute Township, Polk County; No. 26021, Jacob Sundberg, Spruce Grove Township, Beltrami County; No. 26027, Brandt Township, Bray Township, Pennington County; No. 26028, Rodney Larson, Brandt Township, Polk County; No. 26032, Bryan Boll, Kertsonville Township, Polk County;

No. 26034, Marshall County Highway Department, Excel Township, Marshall County; No. 26035, Wade Westlake, Emardville Township, Red Lake County; No. 26036, Logan Ellis, Gentilly Township, Polk County; and No. 26037, Marshall County Highway Department, Excel Township, Marshall County. Motion carried.

**Administrator's Update:**

- West Polk SWCD Envirothon: The Board reviewed a thank you from the West Polk SWCD for the District's support of the Envirothon.
- 2025 Tree Planting: Audette updated the Board on tree planting efforts on recent bank stabilization projects.
- JD 1/Greg Hilgeman Petition: District staff are currently surveying the petitioned project.
- Paul Stolen/TCC Project: Audette received a call from former MnDNR employee Paul Stolen who is also a landowner on the Turtle Connection Cross Project.
- RRWMB: Audette plans to attend the June 2026 RRWMB meeting.
- Little Black River: Audette stated that local landowners will be removing a beaver dam downstream of the Goose Lake structure as water is backing up.

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



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LeRoy Ose, Secretary