

Red River Watershed Management Board

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Board of Managers

John Finnev-Humboldt Farrell Erickson-Badger Hariev Younggren, Secretary-Hallock Ron Osowski, Chairnian-Oslo Vernon Johnson-Clearbrook Daniel Wilkens. Treasurer-Fertile Sanford Moen-Garv Curtis Nelson-Bamesville Jerome Deal-Wheaton Don Ogaard. Executive Director-Ada

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

February 17,1998

Sand Hill River Watershed District Office, Fertile, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, February 17, 1998, at the Sand Hill River Watershed District Office, Fertile, Minnesota.

Chairman Ron Osowski called the meeting to order.

Members present were: Daniel Wilkens Curt Nelson
Farrell Erickson Jerome Deal
Harley Younggren Sanford Moen
Vernon Johnson

Others present were: Don Ogaard, Executive Director
Naomi Jagol, Administrative Assistant, Sand Hill River WD
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Middle River-Snake River WD
Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering
Brent Johnson, Engineer, Houston Engineering
Rick St. Germain, Houston Engineering
Nolan Baratono, MPCA-Basin Coordinator
Paul Suomala, TIC
Jerry Bennett, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
Bob Wright, Wild Rice WD

Minutes of the January 14, 1998, meeting were read and approved with minor corrections. **Motion** to approve the minutes by Manager Deal, **Seconded** by Manager Moen, **Carried**.

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. **Motion** by Manager Johnson, **Seconded** by Manager Younggren, **Carried**.

A **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Erickson, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

MAWD Summer Tour

Farrell Erickson stated that the MAWD Summer Tour for 1998 is scheduled to be conducted jointly in the Joe River, Two Rivers, and Roseau River watershed districts. Erickson stated that Ray Bohn had been in contact with the RRWD and asked them to prepare a map of the district with areas or projects of interest highlighted. Due to the fact that numerous individuals throughout Minnesota will be traveling through the various watershed districts en route to the MAWD Tour destination, the planning committee suggested having a map prepared that would incorporate highlights within each district that individuals could visit. Don Ogaard stated that he would prepare a letter and forward to each district within the RRWMB requesting that such a map be developed of their district to be forwarded to the RRWD upon completion.

"News & Views" Newsletter - Editing/Publication Proposals

A letter of resignation from Susan Gilbert, Loyd Gilbert & Associates, was distributed by Don. Susan, the current publisher of the newsletter, informed the board that she will be relocating to Washington, DC. with her family. Therefore, she will be unable to continue in her current capacity. At the previous monthly meeting, the board agreed to solicit proposals from other firms in the Red River Valley, as well as Loyd Gilbert, to prepare the newsletter for a twelve-month period.

Don stated that proposals were solicited from twelve firms/persons for editing the publication. An evaluation and comparison of proposals for five firms/persons was distributed by Don. In addition to the proposals previously received and evaluated by Don, Curt Nelson-BRRWD delivered to the board another proposal for consideration. The firms/persons considered included the following:

1. Knight Printing, Fargo, ND
2. Flint Communications, Fargo, ND
3. Diversified Printers, Inc., Halstad, MN
4. Sandra Paulson, NDSU Publicity/Publications Coordinator
5. Naomi Jagol, Desktop Documents, Fertile, MN
6. Kathy Borge, Public Relations

After Board discussion, **Motion** to contract with Naomi Jagol, Desktop Documents, for a 12 month period for \$1,937.50/month for a newsletter with envelopes, or \$1,812.50/month for a newsletter without envelopes by Manager Younggren, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**. Don Ogaard suggested a method of folding the newsletter using the address label as a seal rather than utilizing an envelope. In order for this accommodation, the newsletter would need to be changed from the current 11 x 14 size to an 11 x 17. Since the original request for proposals called for the publication to be an 11 x 14 newsletter, discussion was held on who would absorb the additional printing cost. **Motion** that the RRWMB absorb the extra printing costs to publish an 11 x 17 newsletter by Manager Johnson, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Information GIS/Computer Committee - Daniel Wilkens

A copy of the minutes from their meeting held prior to the regular RRWMB meeting was distributed by Wilkens. Manager Wilkens stated that the Information GIS/Computer Committee had met earlier with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to discuss the educational and informational needs of the RRWMB. The committee made the following recommendations:

1. Development of a home page for the RRWMB along with each individual district within the RRWMB.
2. Evaluation of current GIS systems in place by the TAC with a recommendation to be forthcoming to the RRWMB.
3. Utilize the existing RRWMB computer and related equipment currently located at the International Coalition.

Don Ogaard stated that if an Internet web page were developed, it would provide excellent access to various manuals of the RRWMB including the Policy Manual, the Project Evaluation Manual, and the Treasurer's Manual. Manager Johnson added that MAWD has developed a home page on the Internet with sites available to individual watershed districts and suggested that the RRWMB contact Ray Bohn at MAWD to discuss this idea in an attempt to avoid any duplication of efforts. Rick St. Germain, a member of the Information GIS/Computer Committee, noted that it would be beneficial to invite Ray Bohn to visit with this committee to discuss various alternatives. Manager Wilkens requested information from individual watershed district managers as to their Internet access status. Each district responded that Internet access is available either through the district office or a manager.

In response to the suggestion directing the TAC to explore current GIS systems, Dan Thul stated that the committee is very busy right now and would not be able to address this topic for a while. Thul further added that once a system is in place, information could be prepared by the TAC relative to GIS information for Internet presentation. **Motion** for the TAC to add this item to their agenda by Manager Wilkens, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**.

Paul Suomala distributed handouts related to the establishment of a web site for the Red River Basin developed by TIC. The proposal included an estimate of \$44,000 to create the system and provide for its operation in 1998.

The RRWMB computer and related equipment was discussed. Charlie Anderson stated that the computer is an IBM 486 with Windows 95. The related equipment includes a scanner and laser printer. Don Ogaard suggested relocating the computer to the Sand Hill River Watershed District office to be utilized for RRWMB activities. **Motion** to relocate the computer to the SHRWD office by Manager Wilkens, **Seconded** by Manager Nelson, **Carried**.

District Reports:

- The Sand Hill River WD reported the West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District (WPSWCD) has applied for a grant with the Environmental Protection Agency to restore the stream banks along the Sand Hill River lower reaches. The grant requires cost share funding of 60/40. Nolan Baratono, MPCA-Basin Coordinator, is helping with the grant application.

The district has applied for a grant in the amount of \$50,000 through the Minnesota Recovers Program to study alternatives for the high water problems on Union Lake and Lake Sarah. No word has been received as of yet on the status of the grant.

The Managers have agreed to meet with landowners this spring and watch the runoff event to determine any modifications that should be made to the current proposed boundary. The district engineer has prepared a map with anticipated preliminary changes.

- The Buffalo-Red River WD reported that the district has received a DNR Protected Waters permit to do the work on the Deerhorn Creek Levees. The next major hurdle to be accomplished is to finish getting the necessary easements from the landowners.

The district and the City of Georgetown are working together to determine the feasibility of building a ring dike to protect the city. Numerous funding sources will be explored.

- The Roseau River WD reported that Brian Dwight, BWSR, informed the board that the Flood Control Committee's planning grant application was approved. The grant was approved for \$20,000.00, with an original request of \$45,000.00. Dwight suggested resubmitting the committee's budget to Emergency Services. Additional funds, could be available through this agency with a possible 50-50 match requirement anticipated.
- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that the district has been actively lobbying for legislation supported by the RRWMB, namely the nine issues presented to the legislature on February 6th. The main emphasis has been placed on the expansion of the RRWMB into the remaining four counties of the BdSWD. On February 9th, the bill passed the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee on a vote of 15 to 1. The bill will now go to the taxes committee in both houses. The next deadline the district will have to meet is February 27th according to Senator Langseth.
- The Two Rivers WD reported that a petition for a ditch was received from a group of area landowners in Springbrook and Davis Townships of Kittson County, Minnesota. The petition is to declare a reach of a natural unnamed coulee a legal ditch system. This coulee currently is designated a DNR protected watercourse. Kittson County Ditch #10 lies upstream of this coulee and outlets into the coulee. The coulee, in turn, outlets downstream into Judicial Ditch #10. The district has appointed an engineer and will begin the proceedings to make this a legal ditch system.
- The Wild Rice WD reported that the district is continuing its efforts to assist communities and individuals in the district in seeking assistance through the Minnesota Disaster Recovers Task Force for flood mitigation projects. The district has recently updated its Minnesota Disaster Recovers Task Force Application to include a request for funding assistance of a flood protection project in the City of Borup, as well as ice control structures on the Wild Rice River. The district has also asked the task force to consider additional funding for the rural residential voluntary acquisition program and the farmstead ring dike program.
- The Red Lake WD reported that the district has now approved three requests for bank stabilization on the Clearwater Nonpoint Project. The low quotes were all awarded to Wright Construction. The first contract was completed with the landowner on the Clearwater buffer strip program where 73 acres were approved. Also, bids were opened at the regular monthly meeting for the repair of Elm Lake Impoundment.

- The Middle River-Snake River WD reported that the district is working with the City of Warren and the NRCS under Public Law 566 to develop works to control floods on the Snake River. The district and the City have requested that the proposed off-channel impoundment be enlarged and that an additional impoundment site be investigated. Concerns have been raised by the district that the volume of storage and the detention time is not sufficient. The NRCS has indicated that they are willing to deviate from the design standard that 80% of the storage be drained within 10 days or less. If it can be worked out, the portion of flood control on the Snake River provided by the impoundment(s) will be maximized and the detention time will be extended to increase the downstream flood control benefits.
- The Joe River WD had no report this month.

Executive Director Report - Don Ogaard

\ handout was distributed regarding a state investigation of the management practices of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District by Don.

Don updated the board on the status of the delineation study that the RRWMB funded in October of 1996. Rob Sip, graduate student at NDSU, has prepared a thesis based upon 10 currently mitigated wetlands in the Red River Basin, and compared public values of before and after wetland mitigation. Upon review of the thesis, Don stated that the content of the report was excellent and the format was very readable. Don requested twenty-five copies of the report be prepared for the RRWMB in accordance with the original funding agreement. Don noted that this report will be published with Jay Leitch's endorsement. After board discussion, it was agreed that additional copies should be requested in addition to the first twenty-five. **Motion** to direct Don Ogaard to pursue publishing an additional one hundred copies of the study by Manager Erickson, **Seconded** by Manager Younggren, **Carried**.

The recommendation from CDR Associates regarding the mediation process was discussed. The RRWMB mediation panel consisting of Don Ogaard, Daniel Wilkens, and Jerome Deal attended the meeting on January 19, 1998 along with several managers to hear the recommendation. At the completion of the first phase of assessment, CDR Associates determined it was appropriate for the parties to proceed with the second phase consisting of mediation and negotiation. Ron Adrian inquired as to what the issues are that are being mediated. Ogaard responded that the mediation firm will not reveal these issues until the process has been completed which is anticipated to be May or June of 1998. Ogaard explained that of the original \$100,000 appropriated by the legislature for the mediation process, a balance of \$54,000 remains. It is estimated that \$60,000 - \$100,000 will be needed to complete the second phase of mediation. The mediators requested that the RRWMB select four individuals for representation. The following individuals were selected for the mediation panel: Vernon Johnson, Don Ogaard, Daniel Wilkens, and Jerome Deal. Charlie Anderson and Harley Younggren were named as alternates. **Motion** to approve the mediation panel members and alternates as stated by Manager Nelson, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**

V handout was distributed pertaining to an ag erosion flood damage survey that was conducted on May 19, 1997. The survey attempted to quantify erosion damages.

Don presented a Beaver Control Grant Application for discussion. Don explained that the application provided for state funds of \$50,000 available only to qualified joint power agreement entities. Due to lack of information,

the board requested Don obtain more details and discuss this matter with the members of the Joint Powers Board for their consideration.

The upcoming March conference was discussed. A handout of the agenda was distributed by Don. The conference will begin on Thursday, March 19, 1998, at 1:00 PM at the Best Western in Thief River Falls following the regular monthly meeting. The agenda includes a diversified group of individuals that will address a wide range of water related issues.

A status report was given on the progress achieved thus far on the Bois de Sioux legislation. The legislation involves expanding the territory of the Red River Watershed Management Board to include the Bois de Sioux Watershed District in its entirety. Manager Deal noted that several individuals including Ron Osowski of the RRWMB and Daniel Wilkens representing the Red River Basin Board were in attendance to evidence their support of the legislation. The Senate passed the bill out of committee on a vote of 15 for and 1 against. The bill will now progress to the property tax committee for deliberation.

A draft letter in response to the informational meetings held by the International Joint Commission (DC) was prepared by Don and presented to the board for review. The letter addressed the platform posed by the Western Governors Conference that encouraged the development of watershed based planning and management in North Dakota. The letter also encouraged the IJC to work with appropriate local governmental units to meet short and long term goals for flood damage reduction in the Red River Basin. **Motion** to direct Don to finalize the letter and sign on behalf of the RRWMB by Manager Wilkens, **Seconded** by Manager Moen, **Carried**. Don recommended that each district prepare a letter also to the IJC to address individual concerns.

Don updated the Board on several meetings he attended the past month. Don gave a presentation at the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Water and Soil Resources. On February 4-5, 1998, a Red River Basin Board (RRBB) retreat was held in Moorhead. Don gave an hour long slide presentation on the RRWMB, the Watershed Districts, and their role in water management in the basin to open the retreat portion of the meeting. Don, treasurer of the RRBB, stated that projections have been prepared for upcoming year which included anticipated income of \$630,000 with expenses of \$600,000. Don also stated this month he will be attending the North Dakota Legislative Committee public hearing on February 19, 1998 to present arguments in favor of the development of watershed based planning to a North Dakota legislative committee.

Don discussed finalizing the Flood Damage Assessment Draft Report. **Motion** to accept the report in present form as the final draft and prepare for distribution by Manager Nelson, **Seconded** by Manager Younggren, **Carried**.

District's Funding Requests;

1. **Wild Rice WD** - Farmstead Ring Dike Program.

Total cost of the project to date is	\$208,856
Percentage of total cost approved	25%
Total requested funds	\$ 52,214

Motion to approve the project funding request in the amount of \$52,214 by Manager Moen, **Seconded** by Manager Nelson, **Carried**.

2. **Wild Rice WD** - Wild Rice/Marsh River Basin Water Quality Assessment.

Total cost of project to date is	\$ 44,685.73
Cost share of RRWMB	\$ 25,000.00
Total requested funds	\$ 25,000.00

Motion to approve the project funding request in the amount of \$25,000.00 by Manager Moen, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**.

3. **Wild Rice WD** - Project No. 11, Marsh Creek Site No. 6.

Total cost of project development to date:	\$179,977.08
Percentage of total cost approved:	66.667%(2/3)
Total requested funds:	\$119,985.32

Motion to approve the project funding request in the amount of \$119,985.32 by Manager Moen, **Seconded** by Manager Younggren, **Carried**.

4. **Bois de Sioux WD** - North Ottawa Project land purchase, request #2.

Contract for Deed Payment 1996		
Principle	\$297,816.75	
Interest	\$ 83,388.69	\$381,205.44
Less Balance on hand		\$ 2,907.19
Net RRWMB Funding Request		<u>\$378,298.25</u>

Motion to approve the project funding request in the amount of \$378,298.25 by Manager Deal, **Seconded** by Manager Moen, **Carried**.

Marshall County Meeting - Ron Osowski

*.on informed the board that the Artic Engineering Co. John Belcourt, has prepared a work proposal for E607,000 to allow for the completion of the UNET computer analysis of the lower valley from the greater Grand Forks area to the Kittson County line. Manager Johnson added that before the Red Lake WD endorses the project, they would like to see participation from North Dakota as well. Ron noted that Pembina does not appear to be interested as they do not believe that dikes provide adequate protection. The board agreed that perhaps this would be a good project for review by the Red River Basin Board.

Red River Coordinator Report - Dan Thul

A draft of the minutes from the January 13, 1998 TAC was distributed by Dan.

Dan stated that the TAC met with the Information GIS/Computer Committee earlier in the morning and discussed the future computer needs of the RRWMB. The conclusions reached were presented in the report by Daniel Wilkens.

Dan reported that an update on the modeling effort for the 1997 flood was given by Brent Johnson. Johnson stated that he has obtained information for three additional gages to be included in the HEC 1 model. Thul added that a major area of concern for the TAC was how to get involvement from the COE in preparation of the model.

The March Conference was discussed. Dan noted that topics to be discussed would include basic concepts of hydrographs and routing, the requirements to reduce the hydrograph at Grand Forks, the 1997 flood event and modeling, and the presentation of different scenarios for possible solutions. Concluding the presentations of these topics, Dan added that group discussions are scheduled and a solutions exercise will be performed.

River Watch Program - Wayne Goeken

Goeken updated the board on the Red River Valley River Watch Program. The lead agency for funding the program is the RRWMB, which has pledged \$60,000, available in three annual installments of \$20,000. The pilot program was initiated in the Sand Hill River WD with four participating schools including Climax, Fertile-Beltrami, Win-E-Mac, and Fosston.

Goeken gave a description of accomplishments, which related to achieving the goals of the project. These included establishing baseline water quality data, providing students with real world hands-on science experiences, and an increased awareness of land and water stewardship practices affecting water quality.

Activities for 1998 were discussed. Goeken plans on providing training and technical assistance to four schools within the Red Lake WD, which will begin the spring of 1998. A program advisory committee comprised of representatives from watershed district managers, agri-business reps, farmers, engineers, city water/waste managers, SWCD reps, and other agency personnel is being developed. Peer group teaching opportunities are also being developed which would involve senior high students teaching younger students about methods for collection, analysis, and understanding of water samples.

Manager Wilkens added that the River Watch Program is an excellent educational tool for students. The program is also beneficial to the watershed district in terms of improving public relations and increasing public awareness. Wilkens stated it is hoped that through the exposure achieved made possible by funding provided by the RRWMB, the program could be expanded to encompass all the watershed districts within the organization.

Motion to pay the second year funding of River Watch in the amount of \$20,000 by Manager Wilkens, Seconded by Manager Moen, Carried.

The next meeting will be in conjunction with the March conference March 19, 1998, at 9:00 a.m. at the Best Western in Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Harley Younggren
Secretary

Naomi L. Jagol
Administrative Assistant