

Red River Watershed Management Board

705 Fifth Street West Ada, MN 56510 Phone: (218)784-4156, Fax: (218)784-2015

Board of Managers

John Finney, Vice Pres.-Humboldt Farrell Erickson, Secretary-Badger Harlan Solberg-Greenbush Ron Osowski, President-Oslo Vernon Johnson-Clearbrook Daniel Wilkens, Treasurer-Fertile Robert Wright-Felton Curtis Nelson-Barnesville Jerome Deal-Wheaton Don Ogaard, Executive Director-Ada

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

August 21, 2001

City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, August 21, 2001, at the City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota.

Chairman Ron Osowski called the meeting to order.

Members present were: John Finney Farrell Erickson
Harlan Solberg Vernon Johnson
Daniel Wilkens Robert Wright
Curtis Nelson Jerome Deal

Others present were: Don Ogaard, Executive Director
Dick Nelson, Financial Coordinator
Naomi Jagol, Associate Director
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Ron Adrian, Administrator, Middle River-Snake River WD
Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office
Jerry Bennett, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
Dennis Nikolayson, Red Lake WD
Arlene Novak, Red Lake WD

An additional item was added to the agenda to be included in the Executive Director's Report in 9. (D).

Motion by Manager Deal to approve the minutes as written with minor corrections, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**.

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. Manager Finney inquired about the reapportionment of HACA funds. Manager Wilkens responded that the entire levy will now come from real estate taxes rather than ~60% as was done previously. D. Nelson added that this change would be shifting the state responsibility for raising taxes to the local taxpayer. **Motion** by Manager Finney to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**. A one-page handout of monthly bills to be approved was distributed. **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Deal, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Human Resources Committee Report

Manager Wilkens explained that following the previous monthly meeting, the committee met and discussed the proposed changes forwarded from Rinke-Noonan. He stated that the committee recommends approving the changes that were proposed and also adopting the amended personnel manual.

Motion by Manager Deal to adopt the amended personnel manual, **Seconded** by Manager Solberg, **Carried**.

Financial Coordinator Report

D. Nelson reported that he had traveled to Washington, D.C. to secure the remainder of funds needed to complete the PL566 Project for the City of Warren. He stated that while in Washington, he met with Senators Wellstone and Dayton, staff committee heads of the appropriate committees in both Houses, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Directors, and the leader of the National Watershed Coalition. He noted that during discussions with NRCS, the possibility of obtaining funding for watershed planning was addressed and that this issue is currently being pursued with the State Director in St. Paul.

D. Nelson reported on the project team meeting of the Middle River-Snake River WD conducted the previous evening in Warren, MN. He encouraged the individual WD's to communicate with each other on various aspects of their proposed projects so others could benefit should similar situations arise.

D. Nelson stated that a two-day Mississippi Mayor's conference is scheduled for later this month in Davenport, Iowa. He noted that his interest in attending the conference would be to garner additional information for use in the Red River Basin.

Motion by Manager Finney for Dick Nelson to attend the meeting in Davenport, Iowa, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Legislative Commission on Minnesota's Resources (LCMR) Tour of the Red River Basin

Ogaard distributed a handout he received from Molly MacGregor of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) regarding the LCMR tour of Red River Basin. He stated that he would be willing to offer his assistance to MacGregor with planning the tour scheduled for October 3rd.

Manager Erickson added that the Roseau River International Watershed (RRIW) is sponsoring a bus tour scheduled for October 3-4, 2001. Ogaard suggested that board managers should divide up so that each event would have representation from the RRWMB.

Motion by Manager Johnson to authorize Ogaard to assist in planning the LCMR tour and the RRIW tour, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Report on Red River Basin Board (RRBB) August 2nd Meeting

Manager Wilkens circulated a handout that was distributed at the previous monthly meeting of the RRBB. Maynard Pick added that the RRBB has made significant progress in developing a comprehensive plan for the basin.

Manager Osowski inquired about the location of the next annual joint conference of the RRBB and the International Coalition. Manager Wilkens responded that the 2002 conference would be conducted in Fargo, ND. Ogaard added that he is on the planning committee for the next conference.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) did not meet prior to the board meeting. He discussed the three planning initiatives that the members of the TAC are involved with.

1. Red River Basin Board (RRBB). A work group has been developed that operates in conjunction with the hydrology and hydraulics task force of the RRBB. The work group has been assigned to develop a flood damage reduction strategy for the basin. An initial goal has been identified which provides the RRB with a descriptive basin wide target including peak flow with estimated flow reduction to accomplish the intended target. Concepts including timing analysis and upstream retention would also be included in the strategy.
2. Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC). Members of the TAC who also participate with the TSAC include Charlie Anderson and Rick St. Germain. The TSAC continues to develop flood damage reduction strategies for the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (RRBFDRWG). The TSAC is also assisting in the development of a monitoring plan for projects in the RRB.
3. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) feasibility study. The TAC has no direct involvement with the development of the feasibility study. However, Tom Raster, USACE, participates on project teams in the RRB and is also on the Flood Damage Reduction task force of the RRBB. The purpose of the study is to evaluate the potential for future federal involvement regarding water resource related problems in the basin.

Thul reported on an inter-agency team composed of members from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The purpose of the team is to coordinate the various activities among the respective agencies.

Thul explained that a new planning effort is underway with the Minnesota Department of Health. The effort involves source water planning which is similar to county water planning except that it is focused on drinking water. He noted that another planning effort is underway with MPCA which involves Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL's). He added that a proposal is being developed to incorporate this effort into local water planning or WD comprehensive watershed management plan updates. He stated that the 319 funding program would be partially tied to the TMDL planning process.

D. Nelson inquired about MPCA's involvement in developing the local water plans. Thul responded that MPCA's involvement would include participating in the process of plan development rather than directing specific outcomes of the plan.

Manager Deal noted that MPCA's participation in the development of local water plans is a mandatory directive from the state. Thul added that future Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funding would be linked to MPCA's participation in the planning effort.

Manager Osowski inquired about the study proposed by Bud Johnson. Thul explained that Johnson has proposed to take the existing UNET model initially developed by the USACE and work with a consultant to define an ag levy project. Thul added that he is currently reviewing the proposal along with Jim Solstad of the DNR. Thul stated that he had informed Johnson that in order to obtain state funding for the proposal, a grant application would have to be approved through the Flood Damage Reduction program.

Manager Finney inquired about the TAC coordination with the RRBB to develop a timing analysis. Thul responded that the RRBB has assigned a committee to develop a basin strategy for flood damage reduction and part of this directive would include the development of a timing analysis. Manager Finney inquired whether the analysis would be prepared on a basin-wide perspective rather than just on the Minnesota side. Thul stated that a strategy would need to be developed for the entire basin including Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Manitoba.

Executive Director Report – Don Ogaard

A) Red River Basin Board (RRBB)/Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) Task Force Report

Ogaard stated that the Red River Institute received a \$750,000 grant from Bremer to review flood damage reduction (FDR) in the RRB. He noted that the task force has discussed the issue of utilizing this funding to prepare educational information on FDR issues.

B) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Reconnaissance Study Progress

Ogaard explained that a request was received from the USACE for a feasibility letter of intent. He stated that a letter is needed from a viable government unit in the RRB in order for a feasibility study to be prepared. A draft letter was distributed to the board for review. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize the letter of intent, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**.

C) Report on Member WD's Survey on Potential Project Development

Ogaard reported that a meeting is scheduled for August 28th in St. Paul to develop a funding projection for the next 6 years. He noted that surveys were forwarded to the individual WD's requested them to project funding for the next two years. The results of the surveys were distributed to the board.

D) Ring Dike Funding Capability

Ogaard distributed a handout outlining four different options to allocate the funds obtained for ring dike construction for the year 2001 and reviewed each option. Following discussion, the board determined that Option (C) would provide for each WD receiving \$15,625 to use towards ring dike construction. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize Option C which would provide for 16 ring dikes to be constructed as follows: Red Lake WD (4), Joe River WD (1), Roseau River WD (0), Sand Hill River WD (0), Middle River-Snake River WD (4), Wild Rice WD (4), Two Rivers WD (1), Buffalo-Red River WD (1), and Bois de Sioux WD (1), **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

E) Policy Issue

Ogaard discussed whether a WD should be eligible to receive advanced funds to purchase land to trade with a landowner within the taking area of a project. Manager Osowski noted that he did not agree with the proposed policy. Manager Nelson concurred with Osowski. **Motion** by Manager Nelson that the RRWMB not advance money to a WD to purchase land outside of the project area as speculation for trade in future projects, **Seconded** by Manager Finney, **Carried**.

Associate Director Report

Jagol reported that she began her duties as Associate Director (AD) on Wednesday, August 1, 2001. She has been working with Jon Schauer, Cornerstone Development, who assisted her in setting up payroll accounts as well as hooking up the necessary office equipment. She has established a Minnesota Identification Number, a Public Employees Retirement Account (PERA), and a Deferred Compensation account for the RRWMB as well as contacted the auditor regarding establishing a cafeteria plan for benefits.

Jagol stated that she contacted her insurance agent regarding obtaining additional coverage to insure that the items associated with the home office are adequately covered. Her agent suggested that she add an expanded business endorsement to her homeowner's policy. John Hoffman at ICS Agency, Inc. has also been contacted and requested to add the office equipment and furniture to the current insurance policy of the RRWMB since these items are owned by the organization.

Jagol noted that the new address and phone numbers associated with the AD position are as follows: Red River Watershed Management Board, Naomi Jagol, Associate Director, PO Box 561, Fertile, MN 56540. Phone:(218) 945-3703, Cell:(218) 280-0736, Fax:(218) 945-3704, Email:rrwmb@gvtel.com

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is continuing the preliminary study (Section 206) on the Hay Creek Project. The District recently purchased two tracts of land in the project area.
- The Middle River-Snake River WD reported that the hearing on the appraiser's report was held on June 28th for the Public Law 566 Project. In order to review the information presented, the meeting was continued twice. The Board of Managers adopted an order on July 30th which modifies the appraiser's report and sets the benefits and damages for the project. The appeal period for the order expires on August 30th. It is expected that the damages (~\$1.1 million) will be paid as soon as possible after that date.
- The Red Lake WD reported that the riverbank portion of the Greenwood 27 Project in Clearwater County has been completed. The contractor will be paid for the live willow stakes and facines. This fall the wetland-banking portion of rock riffles will be completed.
- The Sand Hill River WD reported that the District is waiting for a response from FEMA regarding an erosion problem on the Sand Hill Ditch. The problem would involve repairing a culvert, an erosion area west of Highway No. 32, and a slough by the Highway No. 9 bridge.
- The Wild Rice WD reported that grant agreements have been received from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Ducks Unlimited regarding the Dalen Coulee Project. The grant agreements are currently being reviewed prior to being executed by the District. Landowner payments have been issued for the land set-aside portion of the project. The District is awaiting final permits prior to proceeding with the first phase of construction on the project.
- The Buffalo-Red River WD reported that a bus tour was conducted with the Advisory Committee and the project team on July 26, 2001. The tour included the Deerhorn Creek Flood Control Levee Project, Whiskey Creek Tributaries, the Spring Prairie Township erosion site, and the Cromwell Township Highwater Project.

District's Funding Requests:

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on September 18, 2001, at 9:30 a.m. at the Board Room of Houston Engineering, Fargo, North Dakota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Farrell Erickson
Secretary

Naomi L. Jagol
Associate Director