

Red River Watershed Management Board

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Board of Managers

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RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

June 18, 2002

Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, June 18, 2002, at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

Chairman Ron Osowski called the meeting to order.

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

Others present were: Don Ogaard, Executive Director
Dick Nelson, Financial Coordinator
Naomi Erickson, Associate Director
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Jerry Bennett, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Middle River-Snake River WD
Wayne Goeken, Water Quality Project Monitoring
Harry Farris, Administrator, Red Lake WD
Dennis Nikolayson, Red Lake WD
Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering

No additional items were added to the agenda.

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

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. **Motion** by Manager Nelson to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**. A one-page handout of monthly bills to be approved was distributed. **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Johnson, **Seconded** by Manager Solberg, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Discussion on June 9, 2002 Rainfall and Flooding Event

Ogaard referred to the rainfall event that occurred on June 9th and requested the managers to discuss the damages incurred in each respective watershed district.

Manager Finney stated that 5.5 to 8 inches of rain occurred in the Joe River WD with significant overland flooding and some bridge damage. He added that the mainstem of the river is seeping out on some cropland.

Manager Solberg reported that minor damage incurred in Kittson County, however, he estimated that Roseau County would lose over 2 million acres of cropland. He added that the flood water isn't anticipated to go down for another two weeks.

D. Nelson noted that officials in the City of Roseau commented that should the peak flow have been reduced by one-foot, significantly less damage would have occurred. He stated that should the Hay Creek project have been completed prior to the flood, back-up flooding would have been prevented.

Manager Wilkens inquired about the damage incurred in the upper end of the Roseau River WD located in Canada. D. Nelson responded that severe damage occurred in this area, but noted that Canadian officials have been very supportive of working jointly with the watershed district to reduce flooding.

Manager Johnson stated that the Parnell Impoundment project held back a significant amount of water. Harry Farris, Administrator of the RLWD, stated that rainfall ranged from 4 to 14 inches throughout the watershed district. A higher concentration of rain occurred north of Grygla, with 9 to 10 inches incurred at the Parnell Impoundment project.

Ron Adrian, Administrator of the Middle River-Snake River WD, stated that an average of 2.5 inches of rain fell throughout the watershed district. He added that the gates on the Angus Oslo project closed and worked very well.

Manager Wilkens stated that the Sand Hill River WD received only 1.75 inches of rainfall in the Nielsville area, with the rest of the watershed district receiving an average of 5 to 6 inches. He noted that no damage was incurred to roads or bridges.

Ogaard reported that on the south branch of the Wild Rice River, all bridges were washed out between Highway No. 9 and the City of Ulen. He estimated that over 1,000 trees were plugging the river channel. He stated that the Wild Rice River between Ada and Twin Valley was approximately 300 feet wide in some locations. He noted that surveys taken reported that 50% of the planted crops in Norman County were lost, with an actual crop loss of \$38 million, not including the cost of production. He stated that the City of Ada was spared due to vigorous sandbagging. He added that ring dikes constructed in the area were a huge success.

Manager Nelson noted that the Buffalo-Red River WD received over 8 inches of rain east of the City of Hitterdal. He added that the concrete liners in the cities of Moorhead and Dilworth operated effectively and the Hawley Diversion project worked well.

Manager Deal reported that the Bois de Sioux WD received no precipitation during this rainfall event.

Report on Red River Basin Commission

Ogaard requested that Manager Wilkens and Dick Nelson report on the June 6th meeting of the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC).

Manager Wilkens reported that the merging of the three original entities will be finalized by July 1st. He noted that significant discussion has occurred with regard to the type of voting for the new organization. Specifically whether or not consensus will be utilized.

D. Nelson added that the voting process will be included in the operating procedures that are developed for the new organization. He noted that the process of consensus does not mean that one person has veto power for a particular issue.

Financial Coordinator Report

D. Nelson reported that the Governor set a precedent by signing the \$30 million bonding bill, but ordering a hold on \$15 million. He stated that the hold will remain in effect until the legislature balances the 2004-2005 budget. He noted that projects included in the first \$15 million are East Grand Forks, Warren, and part of the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project.

D. Nelson discussed the recent rainfall event and corresponding flooding that occurred in the Red River Basin, and noted that there has been renewed focus on what the watershed districts can do to alleviate this problem. This provides an excellent opportunity to provide leadership to the constituents, as well as the rest of the state.

D. Nelson stated that with the guidance of Ron Adrian the City of Warren was able to contain the event by using short-term solutions that, in the past, would have inundated the City. He added that Charlie Anderson was assisting in the City of Roseau by taking elevations with a GPS team to determine which farmsteads needed to be sandbagged. He explained that Manager Erickson insisted that his neighbors' farmsteads be sandbagged before his own, however, his house is now sandbagged.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting and reviewed the Project Funding Evaluation Form. He explained that Ogaard developed the proposed form that contained five sections.

Thul reviewed the proposed changes to Section I. The first change was under item B, relative to project design storage volume. The TAC determined that the proposed minimum score of 12 was too high, and could rule out many on-channel projects. The TAC recommended that a minimum score of 8 be used instead which would be equivalent to storing an entire 5-year run-off event. The second change was under item C, regarding the location of the proposed project and the ability to control flow. The proposed recommendation was for a minimum of 16, with off-channel gated drawdown, and the TAC wanted to qualify this recommendation by stating that projects that have small ungated outlets with a long detention time should be considered. The final change was under item D, regarding the retention time capability. The TAC determined that the proposed minimum score of 10 should be qualified to include a 5-year spring event which would result in a longer detention time. With the proposed changes to Section I, the minimum score total would drop from 74 to 70. The first asterisk in the narrative should be changed from 10 to 8, and the second asterisk should be changed from 74 to 70.

Thul discussed the proposed changes to Section II. This section identifies nine different environmental enhancement conditions. The TAC determined that with a value of 15, 6 of the 9 would be needed to qualify, and felt that 10 would be more appropriate.

Thul reviewed the proposed changes to Section III. He explained that the minimum score of 16 is a RRWMB cost per Star Value of less than \$20 dollars. The TAC discussed whether a minimum score of 18 might be more appropriate, however, it was agreed to review previous projects to determine what value the RRWMB is paying.

Thul discussed the proposed changes to Section IV. He stated that the TAC tried to determine the goal of this section. He inquired whether this section was attempting to limit contributions by the RRWMB or trying to maximize outside funding sources. He added that the TAC discussed whether a minimum standard should be set. Manager Wilkens stated that he believed projects need to meet the minimum standards for each section before being approved for funding. Wilkens further noted that should a project not meet a minimum standard, an explanation could be presented to the board for consideration.

Ogaard suggested that qualifying language could be included in each section such as changing “shall be required” to “shall be recommended.” Manager Wilkens suggested that each section should include minimum scores.

Motion by Manager Deal to accept the Project Funding Evaluation Form with the recommended changes from the TAC, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, **Carried**.

Red River Coordinator Position

Ogaard discussed the contract with the State of Minnesota for a cost share with the RRWMB relative to the renewal of the Red River Coordinator position. The coordinator position is funded by the two agencies as follows: 70% DNR and 30% RRWMB. The RRWMB’s 30% cost share is \$24,000 per year. Ogaard noted that the position facilitates communication between the two organizations.

Motion to renew the Red River Coordinator position contract for another one-year term by Manager Deal, **Seconded** by Manager Nelson, **Carried**.

Executive Director Report – Don Ogaard

A) Review Section 9 / Project Prioritization Worksheet

Ogaard stated that Section 9 of the Governing Documents includes a Project Prioritization Worksheet which shall be used by the board to determine the priority for funding of each proposed project. He explained that he developed criteria to be utilized in conjunction with the worksheet. He noted that the TAC reviewed the form and referred to the TAC report that was presented earlier by Dan Thul.

B) On-stream Flood Damage Reduction Storage Issue

Ogaard stated that according to Paul Swenson, Regional Director-Division of Waters, the DNR staff plans to research the on-stream storage issue. Thul added that due to the severe flooding that has been experienced recently, discussions on this issue have not yet occurred. D. Nelson suggested that a pilot project should be constructed in conjunction with the research on this issue.

Jerry Bennett, Administrator of the Wild Rice WD, discussed the Marsh Creek Site No. 6 project and stated that their project team has conducted an alternatives analysis in hopes of validating the permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). He added that should the USACE issue a permit, it is anticipated the DNR would issue a permit as well.

Ogaard noted the importance of conducting monitoring for on-stream storage projects before, during, and after project construction.

C) Ring Dike Survey and Funding Requests

Ogaard distributed a handout outlining the 2002 ring dike survey results. The following watershed districts received no requests from landowners for ring dikes during the 2002 construction season: Roseau River WD, Two Rivers WD, and Joe River WD. The remaining watershed district suggested allocation is as follows: Sand Hill River WD, 1; Wild Rice WD, 3; Red Lake WD, 4; Middle River-Snake River WD, 6; and Bois de Sioux WD, 3 for a total of 17 ring dikes.

Motion by Manager Solberg to approve the allocation for 17 ring dikes, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

D) USGS Wetland Study Contract

Thul stated that a committee meeting will be scheduled in either July or August of this year to discuss the cooperative wetland study with USGS. This is the third year of a three-year project.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to authorize the RRWMB to participate in the USGS wetland study, **Seconded** by Manager Nelson, **Carried**.

Associate Director Report

N. Erickson reported that on May 22, 2002, she met with Paul Swenson and Dan Wilkens to review the FY00 and FY01 TSAC funds for the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (RRBFDRWG). She attended the RRBFDRWG meeting conducted on May 30, 2002 at the Holiday Inn, Detroit Lakes, MN. A budget has been approved regarding FY03 funds which will be incorporated into the accounting system. She added that she requested bills be submitted for work completed within the TSAC in order that FY00 and FY01 funds can be closed out with the remaining funds to be carried forward and reallocated.

Wild Rice WD / Request for Additional Systems Approach Planning Process (SAPP) Funding

Jerry Bennett, Administrator-Wild Rice WD, stated that the Wild Rice WD is submitting a request to increase the original budget for the SAPP and overall plan update from \$368,223 to \$450,223, a total increase of \$82,000. In accordance with the original funding agreement the RRWMB share would be \$20,500, which represents a 25% cost share. The current completion date for the overall plan update is planned for the early part of 2003.

Jerry Bents, Houston Engineering, conducted a presentation on the SAPP. He explained that the goal of the process was to find a comprehensive solution to flooding. He stated that flooding and natural resource problems were identified throughout the watershed district, and then prioritized to establish FDR and NR goals. He added that once a system of projects is established the damages of flooding events can be reduced.

Ogaard stated that an extensive amount of work was done to place values on NRE's and inquired whether these values have been accepted by project team members. Bents responded that the values placed on NRE's involved establishing criteria so that various groupings of flood control projects could be considered.

Bennett noted that the RRWMB has been cost sharing with the comprehensive watershed management plan update. He added that BWSR has committed 50% for overruns, with the WRWD proposing to split the remaining 50% equally with the RRWMB.

Motion by Manager Wright to authorize the additional funding request of \$20,500 for the cost overrun, **Seconded** by Manager Nelson, **Carried**.

District Reports

- The Joe River WD reported that the District received a devastating rainfall event on June 9-10, 2002. The entire region received a minimum of 5.5 inches, with reports of over 8 inches in some areas. Damaging overland flooding was widespread. Several county and township roads were overtopped resulting in washouts. Outlet ditches became heavily silted, leaving culverts partially plugged, and the ditches badly in need of repair. Bridges have noticeable damage ranging from inlet and outlet erosion, to physical damage to their structure. Growing crop damage ranges from 15 to 20% on higher ground to 100% in areas where the crop became covered with water for several days. The outlet ditch system, including county and watershed ditches, ran at over flood stage until Sunday, June 15th. The District is planning a tour as soon as possible to assess damages, and determine what repairs must be made.
- The Middle River-Snake River WD reported on the Tamarac Watershed area. The hearing on the petition of the Marshall County Board of Commissioners to enlarge the District by adding the Tamarac watershed area, to change the Board of Managers from 5 to 7, and to change the name to the Middle, Snake, and Tamarac Rivers Watershed District has been scheduled for July 22, 2002, in Stephen, MN. Should the petition be granted, the District will increase in area by approximately 44% (440 square miles) and the valuation in the District is thought to increase by approximately 30%.
- The Red Lake WD reported that the Glacial Ridge / The Nature Conservancy Water Quality Study has advanced to the next phase, with the signing of agreements with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The USGS started their initial work on Monday, June 27, 2002.
- The Sand Hill River WD reported that on June 9, 2002, rainfall ranging from 1.75" to upwards of 6" was received throughout the District. The Bear Park Project (which provides 4,000 acre-feet of storage located in the Rindal area) had approximately 2.5' to go before utilizing the emergency spillway. No major roads or bridges were washed out, however, significant topsoil loss occurred along with gully erosion.
- The Wild Rice WD reported that heavy rains on June 9, 2002 caused extensive damages to roads, bridges, and infrastructure within the District. Norman County was the hardest hit with an estimated 250,000 acres

of damage to crop land. Extensive damage to the Heiberg Dam and other flood control works occurred. Initial damage estimates to the watershed district projects could exceed 1 million dollars.

- The Buffalo-Red River WD reported that preliminary hearings were held on 3/14/02 and 5/23/02 for the Clay County Ditch No. 59 Improvement/Lateral. On 5/28/02, the District entered an Order and Findings of Fact to continue with the project development. Viewers are expected to begin their work in the next week.
- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that the District is working with landowners to acquire the necessary lands for the Moonshine Lakebed Restoration Project. Negotiating a purchase price has involved lengthy discussions. The act of balancing the various agency funds and their criteria for spending is somewhat overwhelming. For example, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) has offered to buy the land but are limited to paying market value.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

Wayne Goeken distributed a report regarding an update of the Water Quality Project Monitoring activities. He stated that regular baseline monitoring continues with schools throughout the Red River Basin. As nutrient analysis is now being processed by a certified lab, more time is spent in the field taking measurements but less time is required overall for the sampling team to complete a sample run. As lab results are returned, project staff are combining these results with the field parameters into a summary report and analysis which is being provided to local watershed districts and SWCD offices in a timely manner for use in their management activities. Options for displaying monitoring data on a central website are being explored.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on July 16, 2002, at 9:30 a.m. at the Wild Rice Watershed District office, Ada, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Farrell Erickson
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Associate Director