

Red River Watershed Management Board

1298 South Shore Drive Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 Phone: (218)844-6166, Fax: (218)844-6167

Board of Managers

John Finney, President-Humboldt Farrell Erickson, Vice Pres.-Badger Dan Money-Hallock Ron Osowski-Oslo
Vernon Johnson-Clearbrook Daniel Wilkens, Treasurer-Fertile Robert Wright, Secretary-Felton Jerome Deal-Wheaton
Naomi Erickson, Associate Director-Detroit Lakes

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

January 21, 2003

Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, January 21, 2003, at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

Chairman Ron Osowski called the meeting to order.

Members present were: John Finney Farrell Erickson
Dan Money Vernon Johnson
Daniel Wilkens Nathan Redland
Jerome Deal

Others present were: Naomi Erickson, Associate Director
Dick Nelson, Financial Coordinator
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD
Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
Dennis Nikolayson, Red Lake WD
Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering
Roger Ellefson, Buffalo-Red River WD
Bruce Albright, Administrator, Buffalo-Red River WD

An additional item was requested to be added to the agenda prior to lunch regarding a Step I Submittal for the Whisky Creek Project of the Buffalo-Red River WD. Manager Osowski noted that this request would be discussed in the *Funding Requests* section. Also, a report on the Red River Basin Commission Annual Conference was added to the agenda.

Motion by Manager Erickson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the December 17, 2002 meeting, **Seconded** by Nathan Redland, **Carried**. **Motion** by Manager Deal to approve the minutes as written with minor corrections, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. **Motion** by Manager Finney to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **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.

Annual Board Organization

The Annual Board Organization was conducted. President Osowski turned the meeting over to Vice President Finney who asked for nominations for President of the Board. Manager Osowski nominated Manager Finney for President. Nominations were called for three times by Manager Finney. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for John Finney for President by Manager Wilkens, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

President Finney asked for nominations for Vice President of the Board. Manager Wilkens nominated Manager Erickson for Vice President. Nominations were called for three times by President Finney. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Farrell Erickson for Vice President by Manager Money, **Seconded** by Nathan Redland, **Carried**.

President Finney asked for nominations for Secretary of the Board. Manager Erickson nominated Manager Wright for Secretary. Nominations were called for three times by President Finney. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Robert Wright for Secretary by Nathan Redland, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

President Finney asked for nominations for Treasurer of the Board. Manager Deal nominated Manager Wilkens for Treasurer. Nominations were called for three times by President Finney. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Daniel Wilkens for Treasurer by Manager Deal, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

Resolution Authorizing the Regular Monthly Meeting Date and Time

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the designation of the regular monthly meeting date and time at the regular board meeting held in Thief River Falls, MN, on Tuesday, January 21, 2003.

On a **motion** by Manager Erickson, **seconded** by Manager Deal, and on a vote of 7 for and 0 against, the motion passed to designate the third Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. as the regular monthly meeting date and time for the Red River Watershed Management Board.

Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Per Diem/Mileage to Managers

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the authorization of payment of per diem/mileage to Managers at the regular board meeting held in Thief River Falls, MN, on Tuesday, January 21, 2003.

On a **motion** by Manager Erickson, **seconded** by Manager Deal, and on a vote of 7 for and 0 against, the motion passed to allow the maximum per diem by state law which is currently \$55.00 per day and the maximum IRS limit for mileage which is currently .36 per mile unless a change occurs.

Resolution Authorizing Deposit/Investment of Funds

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the authorization of deposit/investment of funds at the regular board meeting held in Thief River Falls, MN, on Tuesday, January 21, 2003.

On a **motion** by Manager Osowski, **seconded** by Manager Erickson, and on a vote of 7 for and 0 against, the motion passed to authorize the Red River Watershed Management Board to reaffirm the adoption of the Treasurer's Manual originally adopted on 4/19/91 and amended on 8/08/95 and 1/18/00.

Resolution Authorizing Legal Counsel

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the authorization of legal counsel at the regular board meeting held in Thief River Falls, MN, on Tuesday, January 21, 2003.

On a **motion** by Manager Deal, **seconded** by Manager Wilkens, and on a vote of 7 for and 0 against, the motion passed to obtain legal counsel on a case-by-case basis for the Red River Watershed Management Board.

Financial Coordinator Report

D. Nelson reported that the funding committee of the RRBFDWRWG met on January 14, 2003 at the DNR Building in St. Paul. The future role of the work group was discussed with several options considered. The first option discussed was that the current work group representatives become an advisory committee to the RRWMB. The advisory group would provide recommendations to the RRWMB regarding projects and other programs and would be phased in over a two-year period. The second option was that the current work group become a sub-committee of the RRBC. The disadvantages of this option are that North Dakota and Manitoba would be discussing Minnesota FDR and NRE projects, therefore, this option was not recommended. The final option was to continue with the status quo with reduced funding. It is anticipated that funds would remain for watershed planning and project team support, however, no project engineering grants or TSAC funding would be available.

The funding committee also discussed establishing full-time employee positions. Two full-time coordinator positions were discussed to work with the project teams and to manage the transition period of the work group. Funding for these positions would be provided by states agencies (DNR, BWSR, and MPCA) with assistance from the RRWMB. One full-time position was discussed to develop/revise the FDR-NRE project evaluation process and would be only a temporary position for one year.

Manager Deal noted that the future role of the work group should be addressed at the March Conference. Manager Finney suggested that a committee be formed consisting of the four RRWMB members represented on the work group (Deal, Wilkens, Erickson, and Johnson) to discuss the transition period.

D. Nelson added that ring dike funding is in jeopardy and inquired whether the RRWMB would consider continuing to provide funding without the assistance of state funding. Following discussion, the board determined that developing a prioritization process for allocating ring dikes would be very difficult.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting and discussed the Step I submittal of the Parnell Project of the Red Lake WD. Flood storage easement sites are being considered for project construction relative to a grant received from BWSR.

Associate Director Report – Naomi Erickson

A) Projection of Funding Commitments

N. Erickson reported that an updated projection of funding commitments for FY03 was prepared. The commitments include individual watershed district projects as well as various programs. The information for the 2003 projected income was obtained from the 2003 Form B worksheets forwarded from the individual watershed districts.

B) RRBFDRWG Meeting

A meeting was conducted on January 9, 2003 at the Northland Inn, Crookston, MN. Final engineering grants of \$20,000 each were submitted by the Bois de Sioux WD for the North Ottawa project and the Buffalo-Red River WD for the Whisky Creek project. The funding request submitted by the Bois de Sioux WD was approved. Members of the work group from the RRWMB requested that a presentation be conducted by the Buffalo-Red River WD at the next work group meeting prior to approving the final engineering funding request. Several recommendations by the Project Team Issues Committee were approved. Those in need of endorsement by the RRWMB for member watershed districts include the following:

1. Project Team Membership
 - a) The membership of Board Managers on project teams should be one manager less than that needed for a quorum.
 - b) The project team membership should be adjusted to the type and location of the potential project under consideration. (Appointed by watershed district managers on a per project basis.)
 - c) Regulatory agencies that participate on project teams should encourage individual agency members to promote agency programs to prevent inconsistencies from various disciplines within agencies.
 - d) Agencies and individual project teams should promote the goals of the mediated agreement rather than personal agendas.
2. Direction from Watershed District Board of Managers
The watershed district Board of Managers should provide the potential project area for consideration by the project teams, to be consistent with the comprehensive watershed management plans.
3. Information/Education
 - a) An information and/or education component should be initiated for project team members and watershed district managers.
 - b) An information packet should be prepared and discussed with legislators by members of the RRBFDRWG.
4. Financial Support Team
A support team should be developed to facilitate a coordinated effort of securing funding assistance for the RRBFDRWG. Richard Nelson should be named chairman of this group.

Motion for the RRWMB to endorse the above-mentioned recommendations of the work group by Manager Wilkens, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

C) Funding Committee Meeting

A Funding Committee meeting was conducted on January 14, 2003 at the DNR Building in St. Paul. The items discussed included a proposed spending plan for the 2004-2005 biennium and also strategies for presenting funding needs to the legislature for both bonding and general funds. A summary of the options discussed regarding the future role of the RRBFDROWG is listed in Dick Nelson's report.

D) Annual Report

The RRWMB Annual Report is prepared each year in cooperation with Dan Thul. The accounting firm of Dahl, Hatton, Muir & Reese of Hallock has provided the professional services relative to the financial information included in the Annual Report. The previous annual report was printed in Crookston. N. Erickson recommended that the 2002 Annual Report be prepared as was done the previous year.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to continue with the accounting firm of Dahl, Hatton, Muir & Reese to conduct the annual audit, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

The project monitoring monthly report prepared by Wayne Goeken was distributed. As a wrap-up to the 2002 monitoring season, staff continues to visit with schools throughout the basin to review the 2002 monitoring results, discern highlights, and help students and schools prepare for a series of forums which will be held in late winter. Schools will present summaries and highlights of their 2002 monitoring season as well as ideas for the 2003 monitoring season. As sampling sites are being reviewed for the upcoming sampling season, local watershed districts and SWCDs are being encouraged to utilize the participating students to perform monitoring to specific or known problem areas or other district projects.

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported that the District is cooperating with the City of Roseau, the Minnesota Workforce Center, Polaris and Roseau County on the clean up of trees that have fallen into the river as a result of the flooding that occurred in June of 2002. The crew is currently working through the City of Roseau and has already cleaned up 2 miles south of Roseau.
- The Two Rivers WD reported that at the annual meeting conducted on January 7th, the Board of Managers appointed Dan Money to replace Harlan Solberg on the Red River Watershed Management Board. Roger Anderson will remain as the alternate. Money has been the District Administrator since 1998, and served in a part-time staff position from 1991 to 1998.
- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported that two new Managers (Alvin Nybladh of Stephen and Carl Green of Strandquist) took the Oath of Office. The Board of Managers now consists of seven Managers with six appointed (2 each year) by the Marshall County Commission and one appointed by the Polk County Commission.
- The Red Lake WD reported that Corey Hanson, Water Quality Coordinator, is working on completing the semi-annual progress report for 319 projects and the Board of Water and Soil Resources Challenge Grant Projects. A Global Positioning System (GPS) was obtained by the District to assist with this effort.

- The Sand Hill River WD reported that the Norman County Commission authorized the establishment of a committee to investigate the permitting of field tile operations within Norman County. The first meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 19, 2003, at the Norman County Highway Department. The topics of discussion will include whether there is a need for permitting field tile drainage and what controls need to be established to govern the construction of the field tiles.
- The Wild Rice WD reported that in December a request was submitted to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for a USDA PL 83-566 investigation to address the water management problems on the South Branch of the Wild Rice River. The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL 83-566) provides technical and financial assistance to local organizations in carrying out watershed projects. The PL 83-99 authority provides a unique opportunity to address flood protection that distinguishes itself from other Federal programs.
- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that the Draft Overall Plan of the District has been approved by the Board of Managers for public review. The plan may be accessed on the Internet at www.mnwatershed.org/bois.htm. (Click on "60 Day Review Draft Overall Plan.")

Hay Creek Project

Manager Erickson explained that confirmation of the Board's funding commitment of \$500,000 for the Hay Creek Project is needed by the USACE. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to direct N. Erickson to prepare a letter and forward to the USACE authorizing the RRWMB's commitment to funding the Hay Creek Project, **Seconded** by Nathan Redland, **Carried**.

District's Funding Requests

1. Red Lake WD / Parnell Project / Step I Submittal

A tour of the Parnell Project was conducted following lunch. The information required for a Step I submittal was distributed at the previous monthly meeting. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize the Step I submittal of the Parnell Project, **Seconded** by Manager Johnson, **Carried**.

2. Buffalo-Red River WD / Whisky Creek Project / Step I Submittal

Manager Osowski stated that a funding request was received from the Buffalo-Red River WD postmarked January 11, 2003 for consideration at the January 21st meeting. He explained that funding requests must be received by N. Erickson two weeks prior to the board meeting to be added to the agenda, therefore, the funding request could not be considered at this time.

3. Two Rivers WD / Nereson Project

Manager Money stated that additional project costs of 37.5% are needed to complete the project and requested the RRWMB to consider increasing their original commitment by this amount. **Motion** by Manager Deal to continue the RRWMB's commitment of 37.5% to the Nereson Project to include the cost overruns, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**.

Report on Red River Basin Commission

Manager Wilkens reported on the Twentieth Annual Red River Basin Land and Water Summit Conference conducted on January 15-17, 2003 at The Fort Garry, Winnipeg, MB. A handout was distributed regarding the RRBC members elected for 2003-2004.

The next meeting of the RRWMB will be on February 18, 2003, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sand Hill River Watershed District office, Fertile, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Associate Director