

# 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, Administrator-Detroit Lakes

## RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

January 18, 2005

Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, January 18, 2005, at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota.

Chairman John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were: Farrell Erickson Ron Osowski  
Vernon Johnson Daniel Wilkens  
Robert Wright Jerome Deal

Others present were: Naomi Erickson, Administrator  
Dick Nelson, Financial Coordinator  
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator  
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD  
Jerry Bennett, Administrator, Wild Rice WD  
Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD  
Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering  
Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering  
Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering  
Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator  
Kelly Nelson, Assistant Engineer, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD  
Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD  
Jim Ziegler, Unit Supervisor-MPCA  
Molly MacGregor, Red River Basin Planning-MPCA

An additional item was added to the agenda. Manager Erickson requested to add discussion regarding the Hay Creek Project.

**Motion** by Manager Erickson 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 Johnson to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **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.

### **Financial Coordinator Report**

D. Nelson reported that a bill was introduced for \$6.2 million which includes \$2 million for southeast Minnesota. He added that the bill will be identical to the one that was proposed last year with the exception of using a multiplier to account for an inflation index for construction. The proposed Governor's budget includes approximately \$20 million for flood damage reduction projects.

### **Annual Board Organization**

The Annual Board Organization was conducted. President Finney turned the meeting over to Vice President Erickson who asked for nominations for President of the Board. Manager Deal nominated Manager Finney for President. Nominations were called for three times by Manager Erickson. 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 Wright, **Carried**.

President Finney asked for nominations for Vice President of the Board. Manager Deal 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 Deal, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **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 Manager Johnson, **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 Erickson, **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 Ada, MN, on Tuesday, January 18, 2005.

On a **motion** by Manager Johnson, **seconded** by Manager Wright, and on a vote of 6 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 Ada, MN, on Tuesday, January 18, 2005.

On a **motion** by Manager Wilkens, **seconded** by Manager Erickson, and on a vote of 6 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 .405 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 Ada, MN, on Tuesday, January 18, 2005.

On a **motion** by Manager Deal, **seconded** by Manager Osowski, and on a vote of 6 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 Ada, MN, on Tuesday, January 18, 2005.

On a **motion** by Manager Deal, **seconded** by Manager Erickson, and on a vote of 6 for and 0 against, the motion passed to obtain legal counsel on a case-by-case basis for the Red River Watershed Management Board.

### **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**

Jim Ziegler, Unit Supervisor-MPCA, discussed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Red River Basin. A newly invigorated approach to help solve the old problem of water pollution is developing TMDLs. The federal Clean Water Act requires states to adopt water quality standards to protect the nation's waters. These standards define how much of a pollutant can be in a surface and/or ground water while still allowing it to meet its designated uses, such as for drinking water, fishing, swimming, irrigation or industrial purposes.

The turbidity standard for the State of Minnesota is 25 ntus, which is a state standard rather than a federal standard. It is believed that this standard can be met with only addressing a portion of the problem which would include reducing wind and water erosion. The TMDL process is very lengthy and could include 25 to 50 years of implementation to meet acceptable standards.

Molly MacGregor discussed the Professional and Technical Services Contract between the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the RRWMB. The contract is to assist with the salaries for the Water Quality Project Monitoring initiative. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize the contract with MPCA for the Water Quality Project Monitoring initiative, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**.

### **Red River Coordinator/TAC Report**

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting. The Farm to Stream Project of the Red Lake WD was discussed. A 50/50 cost share grant in the amount of \$35,000 from the Northwest Minnesota Foundation was awarded to the district for a proposal that will consist of a two-year study

to comprehensively investigate how water quality affected by agricultural drainage and best management practices relates to drainage in several different locations in the district.

The TAC is interested in the study in order to gain additional information regarding the impact on downstream flows. Thul stated that Corey Hanson, Water Quality Coordinator-Red Lake WD, was contacted and agreed to work with the TAC regarding the study. The TAC determined that monitoring outflows and rainfalls of acres with a tile drain compared to those that are not tiled could be valuable in terms of adjusting pumping schedules in order to reduce downstream flows during flood events.

### **Red River Basin Commission**

Manager Wilkens stated that during the 22nd Annual Red River Basin Land and Water International Summit Conference, an election of the Board of Directors occurred along with an introduction of the 2005-2006 Red River Basin Commission Board. The officers of the Executive Committee include: Daniel Wilkens, Chairman; Tom Fischer, Vice Chairman; and Herm Martens, Treasurer. Warren Seykora of the Wild Rice WD was elected to the Minnesota At-Large position which was vacated by Don Ogaard.

### **Administrator Report**

#### **A) Member District Meetings**

N. Erickson reported that on January 4, 2005 she attended four member district board meetings including the Sand Hill River WD, Joe River WD, Two Rivers WD, and Roseau River WD. Items addressed included the foundation of the board, along with the board's mission, objectives and policies. The evolution of the board from prior to signing the mediation agreement to the present was also discussed.

Dan Thul also attended the meetings with the exclusion of the Sand Hill River WD. Thul discussed the history, objectives, and funding criteria of the board.

#### **B) Vacation Accrual**

The unused vacation days for Naomi Erickson, Wayne Goeken and Danni Halvorson have been calculated for calendar year 2004. Wayne Goeken had no unused vacation days for 2004. The unused vacation paid out for N. Erickson and D. Halvorson was \$2,469.38 and \$1,408.10 respectively.

#### **C) Year-end Tax Information**

The 2004 year-end tax information has been prepared. The W-2's and 1099's for the board have been distributed. N. Erickson requested board members to review the tax information for accuracy and report any discrepancies that should be corrected.

#### **D) 22nd Annual Red River Basin Land and Water International Summit Conference**

N. Erickson attended the above-mentioned Red River Basin Commission conference which was conducted on January 12-14, 2005 at the Ramada Plaza, Fargo, ND. The conference was titled "Shared Resources, Shared Responsibilities," and will be featured in an upcoming issue of *News & Views*.

#### **E) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences**

1. Leadership Program for Local Water Management Partners:  
Northern Location: Best Western Inn, Thief River Falls, MN  
Session 1 – January 25-26 (1-8 pm & 8 am -1 pm)

Session 2 – February 22-23 (1-8 pm & 8 am -1 pm)

Southern Location: Holiday Inn, Lakeside, Detroit Lakes, MN

Session 1 – January 27-28 (1-8 pm & 8 am -1 pm)

Session 2 – February 24-25 (1-8 pm & 8 am -1 pm)

2. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, Wednesday, February 9, and Wednesday evening, March 30, just prior to the March Conference, Northland Inn, Crookston, MN.
3. March Conference, Thursday, March 31, 2005, Northland Inn, Crookston, MN.
4. Red River Basin Institute, Second International Water Conference “Research and Education in an International Watershed: Implications for Decision-Making” at the Ft. Garry Hotel in Winnipeg, Manitoba, April 6 –7, 2005.

### **Water Quality Project Monitoring**

Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator, distributed a handout regarding the flood damage reduction (FDR) and condition monitoring activities. The USGS had indicated that flow data for the Red River Basin condition monitoring sites for 2004 will be made available by the end of January 2005 which will allow loading estimates using FLUX modeling to be incorporated into the 2004 State of the Red Report. Flow estimates from DNR stream gaging at condition sites without USGS gages is also being obtained for integration into the analysis.

A draft summary of all FDR project data collected to date is being done and will be made available for FDR project reporting. Narrative reports and maps are being developed to accompany available data.

### **Wild Rice Watershed District**

Jerry Bennett, Administrator-Wild Rice WD, updated the board on a revised watershed management plan which included targeted areas for flood damage reduction. He explained that the revised plan has been discussed with the local project team, including methods for improving project implementation.

Jerry Bents, Engineer-Houston Engineering, discussed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers feasibility study currently being conducted in the district. The study includes surveying and mapping, and modeling existing and potential conditions. The district has also updated the LIDAR study which will be particularly useful with ring dike applications.

Bents also discussed proposed repairs to the Green Meadow Dam project. The project is located just west of Gary, MN and was constructed in 1973 by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Option 1 includes repairing existing erosion and sloughing for ~ \$96,000. Option 2 assumes the repairs in option 1 have been completed and, in addition, reconstruction of the embankment for ~ \$162,000. Option 2b is also being considered which would be a variation of option 2.

### **District Reports**

- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported on the Public Law 566 (Snake River Watershed) Project. Actual construction was halted for the 2004 construction season early in December. The work remaining on the federal portion of the project includes: phase 2 – finishing up the seeding and stabilization; phase 3 – the diversion structure and the upper portion of the floodway; and phase 4 – the planning and implementation of the mitigation measures.

The work remaining on the non-federal portion of the project includes: finishing the placement of rip rap and seeding on the Burlington Northern Sante Fe (BNSF) Bridge and other work; and planning and installation of the box culverts on Trunk Highway No. 1 and the Canadian Pacific (Soo Line) Railroad.

The planning for this project will continue this winter. The project should be essentially completed during the 2005 construction season.

- The Bois de Sioux WD reported on the status of the North Ottawa Project. The second control structure has been poured. The crew is proceeding to work on the third structure but needs to get the ice out of the worksite. Progress has been slow due to the bitterly cold temperatures.

#### **District's Funding Requests**

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

#### **Roseau River Watershed District**

Manager Erickson noted that the Roseau River WD board of managers is considering changes to the Hay Creek Project and inquired whether a revised Step I submittal should be prepared and resubmitted to the RRWMB. Following discussion, the board agreed that since changes to the project could be significant, preparing a revised Step I submittal would be appropriate.

The next meeting will be on February 15, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert Wright  
Secretary

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Naomi L. Erickson  
Administrator