

# Red River Watershed Management Board

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## 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

May 17, 2005

Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, May 17, 2005, at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota.

In the absence of the President, Farrell Erickson-Vice President called the meeting to order.

Members present were: Ron Osowski Dan Money  
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  
Mike Bakken, Engineer, JOR Engineering  
Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD  
Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering  
Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC  
Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office  
Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD  
Alvin Nybladh, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD  
Don Buckhout, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Kelly Johnson, Assistant Engineer, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD  
Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering  
Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering  
Jerry Bennett, JB Associates Limited  
Wes Peck, Research Scientist, UND Energy & Environmental Research Center  
Charles Fritz, Director, International Water Institute

No additional items were added to the agenda.

**Motion** by Manager Wilkens to approve the minutes as written with minor corrections, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **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 Osowski, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

### **Financial Coordinator Report**

D. Nelson reported that the bonding bill has been completed and includes funding for the Grand Marais, Palmville, and Roseau River WMA projects. The funds for these projects should be forwarded from the state by July 1<sup>st</sup>. He added that planning for next year's bonding bill has already begun.

### **Red River Basin Commission**

Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC distributed board meeting highlights of the May 5, 2005 meeting. Presentations on the Flood Damage Reduction activities currently taking place in the basin were given by Steve Topping, Manitoba Water Stewardship; Paul Swenson, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Lee Klapprodt, North Dakota State Water Commission.

Goehring stated that the next board meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2005 at the Dakota Magic Casino, Hankinson, ND. A map of the South Valley Initiative Tour planned in conjunction with the board meeting was distributed.

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

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting and discussed the *Development of Agricultural Tile Drainage Design Guidance for the Red River Basin* study. The study involves utilizing a model for developing tile drainage systems and also retaining the services of a graduate student from the University of Minnesota to develop various design criteria for tile drainage systems for basin.

A draft of the proposed study was distributed for review. The purpose of the study is to help develop a better understanding of tile drainage and its potential effects on downstream flows in the basin. The phase 1 study will focus at the field scale. It will explore the effect of varying the primary design parameters associated with pattern tiling which are tile size, depth, and spacing.

A field scale "DRAINMOD" computer simulation model will be developed based on typical conditions in the basin related to lands likely to be tiled. The model will consider both surface and subsurface drainage.

The need for additional phases of study will depend on the outcome of the initial phase. The most logical following step would be a determination of watershed scale flood effects associated with different design alternatives. There may also need to be additional study to evaluate effects specific to random tiling. These, along with the results of the phase 1 study, would lead to recommended design criteria for the basin.

Thul explained that a cost estimate of \$9,567 was received from Dr. Gary Sands of the University of Minnesota for the proposed budget for the study. **Motion** by Manager Johnson to authorize \$9,567 for the tile drainage design guideline study, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, discussion followed. The board agreed that since a previous motion was authorized at the March 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting approving up to \$20,000 to hire a graduate student to participate with the TAC to develop a model for tile drainage, no additional motion was needed. As there was no further discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

### **Administrator Report**

**A) Deferred Compensation**

N. Erickson reported that at the regular monthly meeting conducted on April 19, 2005 the board authorized Lyle (Louie) Lauritsen of Lauritsen and Associates, 315 5<sup>th</sup> St. North, Fargo, ND 58102, as the agent of record for the board relative to the deferred compensation accounts of the employees. She noted that Mr. Lauritsen will discuss the opportunities available to the board with regard to these accounts later today.

**B) Insurance Quotes**

N. Erickson stated that she has scheduled John Hoffman with ICS Agency, Inc. for the June 21<sup>st</sup> board meeting to discuss the current insurance coverage of the board. Insurance quotes were also obtained from the Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT) and Mr. Hoffman will compare the current insurance coverage of the board with the proposed coverage from MCIT.

**C) Annual Report**

N. Erickson reported that the information needed for the 2004 annual review to be prepared by Mark Hatton of the accounting firm of Dahl, Hatton, Muir & Reese of Hallock has been gathered and is available for review at the Sand Hill River Watershed District office. She noted that Mr. Hatton indicated that he would schedule a meeting with her and Dan Wilkens-Treasurer to complete the audit. As agreed at the December 21, 2004 board meeting, an audit will be conducted once every five years beginning in 2004, with annual reviews to be conducted the other years.

**D) Leadership Program for Local Water Management Partners**

N. Erickson stated that at the March board meeting, Brian Dwight-BWSR, discussed the above-mentioned program that was developed for local water management partners to strengthen the coordination efforts needed to deliver watershed-based water management programs in the Red River Basin. Unfortunately, due to lack of registrations the program was cancelled. As a funding partner of the program, the board discussed two possible options for pursuing the program. Two one-day regional work shops, or two site-specific watershed districts could be targeted for the program.

She noted that she was contacted by Dwight who indicated that he had met with the Red Lake WD Board of Managers about potential interest for participating in the program. The RLWD board appointed three managers to further discuss this option with Brian Dwight and Jody Horntvedt. Items to be further addressed in the discussion will include developing an agenda, the number of sessions needed, and a cost estimate.

**E) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences**

1. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, Funding Committee, June 3, 2005, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the Alexandria Airport Terminal, Alexandria, MN.
2. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, June 15, 2005, Holiday Inn-Lakeside, Detroit Lakes, MN.
3. Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD), Summer Tour, June 23-25, 2005, (Hosted by Thirty Lakes Watershed District) Ramada Inn, Brainerd, MN.

**Water Quality Project Monitoring**

In the absence of Wayne Goeken, the project monitoring monthly report was distributed. Monitoring staff are monitoring flood damage reduction project sites as conditions allow. Additional sites have been added in the Roseau River WD associated with advancing projects in that area. Staff are attending Project Team meetings as schedules allow to address project monitoring needs. Weekly monitoring of condition sites associated with each watershed is continuing on schedule. Monitoring of TMDLs has also begun on reaches of rivers in the basin that were identified as having turbidity impairments.

### **District Reports**

- The Roseau River WD reported that the Board of Managers have been working with JOR Engineering, Inc., on the revised plan for the West Intercept project. The board has been in contact with the law firm of Rinke-Noonan to assist them in the proper legal procedures. A wetlands report was sent to state agencies and bid plans were forwarded to the Economic Development Authority (EDA) in Chicago. Following the agency review, an advertisement for bids will be conducted.
- The Two Rivers WD reported that construction is slated to start next week on the final 1.5 miles of the 4-mile Springbrook – County Road No. 61 project. A set back levee is being constructed approximately 240 feet north of an existing township road and a meandering channel is being constructed between the road and the levee. This project includes both flood and erosion control benefits. Funding is provided by FEMA, the District, Townships, Kittson County, the CRP program, and landowners. The construction is scheduled to conclude in June, with native grasses to be seeded before July 1, 2005.
- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported that the District is currently advertising for bids for the construction of the crossing on the Trunk Highway No. 1/Canadian Pacific Railway for the Public Law 566 (Snake River Watershed) project. Bids are scheduled to be opened on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Construction on the project will resume as soon as conditions permit. In addition to the mitigation features (phase 4) the work remaining on the Federal portion of the project includes: phase 2 – finishing up the seeding and stabilization; and, phase 3 – the diversion structure and the upper portion of the floodway. The work remaining on the non-federal portion of the project includes: finishing the placement of rip rap and seeding on the BNSF bridge and other work; and the installation of the box culverts on Trunk Highway No. 1 and the Canadian Pacific (Soo Line) Railroad.

- The Bois de Sioux WD reported that weather continues to play a part in restarting the construction for the North Ottawa Impoundment project. The contractor completing the outlet structure work intends to start again this week weather permitting. The contract for the dirt work is also at the mercy of the weather and will hopefully be starting soon. The Red River Basin Commission has scheduled a tour of this area for June 2, 2005, with North Ottawa being one of the featured sites.

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

#### **1. Red Lake WD / Project No. 60 – Grand Marais Project / Step II Submittal**

The information required for a Step II submittal was distributed. Numerous alternatives were identified by the Project Team that could provide the desired 10-year protection for the project area. A combination of ditch improvements and flood storage impoundments is the preferred alternative. The estimated cost of the Brandt Impoundment is \$2,631,448 and the Euclid East Impoundment is \$2,514,402. The estimated total

project cost is currently \$5,145,850. Approximately \$2.6 million (50%) will be sought through state bonding. The proposed cost share for funding is 50% State, 50% Local. The proposed local portion of funding is as follows: RRWMB 75%, and RLWD 25%.

### **Red River Basin Mapping Initiative**

Wes Peck, Research Scientist-UND EERC, and Charles Fritz, Director-International Water Institute, conducted a presentation regarding a Red River Basin Mapping Initiative: Basinwide Lidar. The two organizations are proposing an initiative to develop and deliver a broad-based high resolution digital elevation data set for the U.S. portion of the basin. The known benefits which can be derived from the data include: more accurate floodplain maps, flood damage mitigation, detailed surface hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, and water quality improvements.

Estimated costs for large-scale Lidar collection are about \$300 per square mile. Various collection scenarios range from collecting Lidar across the entire Red River Basin (nearly 40,000 square miles, including the Devils Lake Basin), to collecting only the area along the main stem below an elevation of 1,000 ft (nearly 9,300 square miles).

Charles Fritz distributed a draft resolution of support for the Basin Digital Elevation Model (DEM) project for the board to consider. Following discussion, the board agreed to authorize the resolution of support. **Motion** by Manger Osowski to authorize a resolution of support to consider contributing resources with other local, state and federal partners to a basin-wide digital elevation modeling project that encompasses watershed boundaries in the Minnesota portion of the basin, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

### **FTJ FundChoice / Deferred Compensation**

Louie Lauritsen of Lauritsen Financial distributed handouts regarding 457 Deferred Compensation plans. He explained that a deferred compensation plan is a payroll deduction supplemental retirement savings program that allows you to set aside a portion of your salary before income tax withholdings. This program offers the means to postpone taxes now, build savings and create a portfolio of investments that are well-balanced. For 2005, the limit is 100% of includible compensation up to a deferral limit of \$14,000. Mr. Lauritsen offered to meet with any board managers who may be interested in establishing a deferred compensation account following the conclusion of the meeting.

The next meeting will be on June 21, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. at the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Bemidji, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert Wright  
Secretary

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Naomi L. Erickson  
Administrator