

Red River Watershed Management Board

PO Box 763 Detroit Lakes, MN 56502-0763 Phone: (218)844-6166, Fax: (218)844-6167

Board of Managers

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Naomi Erickson, Administrator-Detroit Lakes

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

July 18, 2006

Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, July 18, 2006, 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: Dan Money Ron Osowski
Arnold Stanley Daniel Wilkens
James Skaurud Jerome Deal

Others present were: Naomi Erickson, Administrator
Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering
Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
Blake Carlson, Engineer, JOR Engineering
Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC
Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office
Roger Hanson, Sand Hill River WD
Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD
Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD
Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD

No additional items were added to the agenda.

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

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

Tax Levy Rate Determination

The Board discussed the tax levy rate determination. **Motion** by Manager Deal to maintain the levy at 100% for FY 2007, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator, distributed the *State of the Red River of the North*, an assessment of the 2003 and 2004 Water Quality data for the Red River and its major Minnesota tributaries.

The Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (Work Group) established the Red River Basin Monitoring Advisory Committee to develop a condition monitoring program for the Minnesota portion of the Red River basin. The report presents results and analysis of the first two years of this program. Concentration data as well as total loads of sediment and selected nutrients were reported for the 2003 and 2004 sampling season.

The report is available on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website: www.pca.state.mn.us in the water quality and the Red River Basin sections.

Red River Basin Commission

Julie Goehring reported that the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) will conduct a tour of the Wild Rice Watershed on August 2, 2006. The tour will feature water detention structures, drainage practices, no till farming, and wetland restoration with presentations by the managers of the Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD). The RRBC board meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. on August 3, 2006 at the Shooting Star Casino.

The 24th Annual Conference will be on January 23-25, 2007, in Fargo, ND, with a theme of “*The Ripple Effect: Working Today For A Better Tomorrow.*”

Manager Erickson discussed Canadian participation relative to the Roseau River International Watershed (RRIW). He explained that although funding has been secured from Manitoba to assist with implementation of the plan developed by the RRIW, the expenses of the committee members are not reimbursed from Manitoba. He inquired whether a letter could be forwarded from the RRBC in support of a state grant submitted by the Roseau River WD to assist with the expenses incurred by the RRIW. Julie Goehring responded that she would discuss this issue with Lance Yohe, Executive Director.

Manager Erickson stated that the local cost share of the grant is \$5,000 and requested the RRWMB to assist with funding 50% of the local share of the state grant with the Roseau River WD, or \$2,500. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize a 50/50 local cost share, not to exceed \$2,500, with the Roseau River WD relative to the state grant submitted for the RRIW, **Seconded** by Manager Skaurud, **Carried**.

Administrator Report

A) Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

N. Erickson reported that the Governor has named Brad Moore as Acting Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Moore currently serves as Assistant Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, where he oversees seven divisions including Enforcement, Ecological Services, Waters, and Lands and Minerals.

B) Financial Coordinator Job Description

N. Erickson stated that the Human Resource Committee will meet today following the board meeting to further discuss the job description developed for the position of Financial Coordinator.

C) Farmstead Ring Dike Program

N. Erickson reported that the legislature has funded \$125,000 for ring dike construction by the Watershed Districts in the Red River Basin. The RRWMB authorized soliciting proposals from member watershed districts for ring dike construction in order to consider the allocation of cost share funding at the regular monthly meeting scheduled for August 15, 2006.

D) Annual Audit

N. Erickson noted that the annual audit is currently being conducted with the accounting firm of Dahl, Hatton, Muir & Reese of Hallock. After receiving the completed financial information, the Annual Report will be published and distributed.

E) Personnel Manual

N. Erickson stated that the Human Resource Committee met on June 7, 2006 in Detroit Lakes, MN to discuss the proposed revisions to the Personnel Manual. The revisions to the manual were distributed to the board for review at the June board meeting for authorization at the July board meeting. **Motion** by Manager Deal to approve the revisions to the Personnel Manual, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

F) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. Red River Basin Commission, Wild Rice Watershed tour, Wednesday, August 2, 2006, Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomon, MN. The RRBC Board meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, August 3 at the casino.
2. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, Wednesday, August 30, 2006, Northland Inn, Crookston, MN.

District Reports

- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported on the Public Law 566 (Snake River Watershed) project. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) estimated that without the structures on the Snake River in place this spring an additional 3' of water would have flowed through the city of Warren which would have compared to the 1997 flood. It is estimated that the project prevented \$8.7 million in economic damage to the surrounding area.
- The Red Lake WD reported on Ditch No. 11, Project No. 166. The final hearing for the petition to improve 6 ¼ miles of Polk County Ditch No. 40 will be conducted at 10:00 a.m. on July 20, 2006 at the Northland Community College in East Grand Forks, MN. The Property Owner Reports have been mailed and the Final Engineer's Report has been filed. Depending upon the outcome of the hearing and whether or not the board elects to proceed, the District plans to begin construction in mid August.
- The Sand Hill River WD reported that plans have been completed for the Union Lake Flood Control and Erosion project. The District is working with the Lake Improvement District and the landowners to establish easements and ownership of the site.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met prior to the board meeting. He explained that a committee has been developed by the Work Group to identify prioritization criteria for projects that are currently progressing. The process will address such issues as flood damage reduction benefits, natural resource benefits, project readiness, and partnerships.

Thul noted that he has been involved with several road raises regarding agricultural dikes in the basin. He explained that a number of ring dikes existed where the road provided access but cease and desist orders were issued in order to determine whether permits were needed. He stated that the DNR plans to work with the local watershed districts and counties in order to resolve the issue.

Thul distributed a resolution received from Chuck Fritz, International Water Institute (IWI) regarding the need for a basin-wide Digital Elevation Model (DEM). The resolution stated that there is a documented need in the Red River of the North basin to acquire high-resolution topographic data and develop a seamless digital elevation model that can be used for a wide variety of resource management planning, project development, and decision support services. Following discussion, the board directed N. Erickson to invite Chuck Fritz to attend the August board meeting to further discuss the issue.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on August 15, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. at the City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:00 p.m. following lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator