



Red River Watershed Management Board

Board of Managers

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Naomi Erickson, Administrator-Detroit Lakes

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

April 17, 2007

City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, April 17, 2007, at the City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota.

Chairman John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

Steve Lee	Roger Anderson
Ron Osowski	Orville Knott
Daniel Wilkens	Robert Wright
Jerome Deal	

Others present were:

- Naomi Erickson, Administrator
- Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
- Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator
- Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator
- Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
- Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD
- Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD
- Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Warren Seykora, Wild Rice WD
- Gregg Wiche, U.S. Geological Survey
- Karen Ryberg, U.S. Geological Survey

An update of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) General Reevaluation, Twin Valley Lake/Dam Project was added to the agenda under District Reports.

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

U.S. Geological Survey

Gregg Wiche, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), presented an update on the streamgaging network that the RRWMB participates in as a funding partner with USGS. He explained that the network is vital to the National Weather Service's river forecast and warning program and the goal to reduce flood damages and loss of life. Without the data from this network, increased losses from floods of both life and property would occur.

While the streamgaging network serves future and long-term needs, it also serves day-to-day needs of decision-makers who want data that are current to within a few minutes or hours. The USGS has responded to this need by expanding the use of satellites to relay data from streamgaging stations to USGS offices and the primary users of streamflow data.

Karen Ryberg, USGS, discussed a new publication currently being developed which is an educational poster depicting the flood history of the Red River. The poster will include a list of the major floods in the Red River basin, as well as factors that caused the floods.

In addition to funding provided by the USGS for the development of the poster, financial assistance of \$2,500 was requested from the RRWMB. Other sources of funding to be pursued include the North Dakota State Water Commission and the Red River Joint Water Resources Board. **Motion** by Manager Osowski to authorize \$2,500 to assist with the development costs of the poster, contingent that similar funding is obtained from North Dakota, **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**.

Project Coordinator Report

Ron Harnack distributed the Project Coordinator Report. The status of the bills introduced for the RRWMB and the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group are as follows: Farmstead Ring Dike program - Senate \$125,000/yr (can use all in first year), House \$200,000/yr (can use all in first year; \$600,000 in both the Senate and House for the development of a high-resolution digital elevation model of the Red River Basin; and the annual appropriation for Work Group operating expenses – Senate (no new funding) \$210,000/yr, House (\$100,000 increase) \$310,000/yr.

Harnack reported that Rep. Lanning is preparing legislation relative to the management of water on a basin-wide basis. He added that he has participated in discussions regarding various options for the establishment of river basin authorities with Rep. Lanning and representatives from the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts.

Harnack explained that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has developed work groups to discuss the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting process. He has attended one meeting and offered to represent the RRWMB on the committee. Following discussion, the board agreed that Harnack should attend the meetings on behalf of the RRWMB.

Harnack distributed a draft letter addressed to the delegation regarding the Farm Bill. He explained that he had been contacted by a representative from the Nature Conservancy regarding endorsement

from the RRWMB for the letter. The board decided not to offer their endorsement for the letter of support at this time.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) did not meet prior to the board meeting. He noted that the issue of reviewing completed projects in order to identify the total land area utilized by projects will be addressed at their next meeting.

Thul reported that the controversial ag dikes located along the Red River have been removed. One dike remains in question and a survey was requested in order to determine the level of noncompliance.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

Wayne Goeken distributed the project monitoring monthly report. Individual schools are beginning to monitor for the 2007 season with staff working on setting up sampling schedules for the schools for the upcoming monitoring season.

Coordination is occurring with Barnesville, Hawley, and Fertile River Watch teams to do e.coli monitoring as part of their 2007 monitoring program. Lab work will be conducted through RMB Labs in Detroit Lakes, MN.

Red River Basin Commission

Manager Wilkens reported that the next RRBC board meeting is scheduled for June 7th at 9:00 a.m. at the Ramada Inn in Grand Forks, ND. A tour will be conducted on June 6th of the Grand Forks area. The 25th Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference is scheduled for January 9-11, 2008, tentatively in Winnipeg, MB.

Administrator Report

A) Public Information Committee

The Public Information Committee met following the March 20th board meeting to review the RFPs submitted for the Public Information Consulting Services position. Interviews were conducted on April 2nd at the Ramada Plaza & Suites in Fargo, ND for the seven applicants that applied for the position. A recommendation from the committee will be presented to the board for consideration at today's meeting.

B) Red River Basin Turbidity Impairment Year Three Contract

At the November 21, 2006 board meeting, the board authorized the Professional and Technical Services contract between the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the RRWMB for the Red River Basin Turbidity Impairment Project. The project funding sources are as follows: 319 TMDL - \$100,000; Clean Water Legacy Act (CWLA) - \$100,000; and, RRWMB - \$41,500.

A portion of the CWLA funding will be used towards a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) project entitled *Characterization of Reference Sediment Transport Conditions for Selected Ecoregions in Minnesota*. A Reimbursable Cooperative Agreement between the RRWMB and USDA was forwarded to the board's attorney for review and approved for signature.

C) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. Roseau River International Watershed, Thursday, April 19, 2007, Roseau River Watershed District office, Roseau, MN.
2. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, Thursday, May 24, 2007, The Lodge on Lake Detroit, Detroit Lakes, MN.
3. Red River Basin Commission Tour and Board Meeting, June 6-7, 2007, Grand Forks area.
4. Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Summer Tour, June 29-30, 2007, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, Little Canada, MN.

District Reports

- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD reported on the Public Law 566 (Snake River Watershed) Project. The application process by the City of Warren has begun for a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and is expected to be completed in the summer of 2007. This will remove the city from the flood plain and also need for expensive flood insurance.

Although the project is not fully operational, during the spring flooding of 2006 the project is estimated to have saved the City of Warren and surrounding areas \$8.7M in economic damages.

- The Bois de Sioux WD reported on the North Ottawa Project. The District has been developing Phase III for construction. Due to the limited available funding, the project was divided into two phases named IIIA and IIIB. Bids were opened on Phase IIIA on March 27, 2007. The low bid was awarded to Riley Brothers Construction of Morris, MN with a bid of \$1,656,319.30. The engineer's estimate was \$1,997,962.11. Contracts have been signed and Phase IIIA construction will begin as soon as conditions warrant.

Approximately \$400,000 of work remains on Phase II with Midwest Construction of Marshall, MN. There is some grading work left on some of the contract along with all the permanent seeding.

It is possible that Phase IIIB could be bid yet this year depending on whether state funding is appropriated.

Public Information Committee

Manager Deal, Chair of the Public Information Committee, reported that interviews were conducted on Monday, April 2, 2007 in room Sonata 1 of the Ramada Plaza & Suites, Fargo, North Dakota. He announced the names of the applicants that applied for the position.

Manager Deal reported that based on discussions of the committee members, it is recommended that TeamWorks International, Inc. and LaBreche Murray be offered the position of Public Information Consulting Services.

Motion by Manager Deal to authorize N. Erickson to offer the position of Public Information Consulting Services to TeamWorks International, Inc. and LaBreche Murray and proceed with finalizing a contract, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

Mediated Negotiations

Manager Deal reported that representatives of the RRWMB have been meeting to develop responses to a letter forwarded from the Buffalo-Red River WD (BRRWD) dated January 8, 2007 regarding the mediated negotiations. The letter from the BRRWD, along with the draft responses prepared on behalf of the RRWMB were distributed for review.

Harnack suggested that prior to forwarding the RRWMB's response to the BRRWD, a meeting should be conducted with Rep. Lanning and Sen. Langseth to discuss the board's perspective regarding mediation. Manager Wilkens concurred with Harnack. Manager Finney directed Harnack to schedule a meeting between Rep. Lanning and Sen. Langseth with Managers Deal, Wilkens and Harnack, prior to forwarding the responses to BRRWD. **Motion** by Manager Osowski to approve the responses prepared relative to the letter dated January 8, 2007 and proceed with pursuing a meeting with the above-mentioned legislators, **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**.

USACE General Reevaluation, Twin Valley Lake/Dam Project, Wild Rice River

Warren Seykora reported that a meeting was conducted on March 29th to address the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' General Reevaluation of the Twin Valley Dam Project. The letter of support from the RRWMB that was authorized at the previous monthly meeting was distributed, along with copies of local newspaper articles summarizing the meeting.

District's Funding Requests

1. Red Lake WD / Thief River Sedimentation Project

Myron Jesme, Administrator requested that the board direct the TAC to review the components of the above-mentioned project prior to submitting a Step I application. **Motion** by Manager Knott to authorize the TAC to review the Thief River Sedimentation Project of the Red Lake WD, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

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The next meeting will be on May 15, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator