



Red River Watershed Management Board

Board of Managers

John Finney, President-Humboldt Steve Lee-Badger Dan Money-Hallock Ron Osowski-Oslo
Orville Knott, Vice President-Red Lake Falls Daniel Wilkens, Treasurer-Fertile Robert Wright, Secretary-Felton Jerome Deal-Wheaton
Naomi Erickson, Administrator-Detroit Lakes

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

June 19, 2008

Dakota Magic Casino & Hotel, Hankinson, North Dakota

The RRWMB met on Thursday, June 19, 2008, at the Dakota Magic Casino & Hotel, Hankinson, North Dakota.

President John Finney called the meeting to order following a tour of the Redpath Project of the Bois de Sioux WD.

Members present were:

Steve Lee	Dan Money
Ron Osowski	Daniel Wilkens
Joe Spaeth	Jerome Deal

Others present were:

- Naomi Erickson, Administrator
- Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
- Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator
- Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Mark Meister, CR*CS
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
- Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC
- Diane Ista, Wild Rice WD
- Don Buckhout, BWSR Performance Review & Assistance
- Bob Bezek, MNDNR Regional Hydrologist
- Julie Klocker, BWSR Assistant Director
- Evelyn Ashiamah-Finch, Monitoring Specialist
- Paul Brutlag
- Dave Stumbo
- Joy Stumbo

No additional items were added to the agenda.

Motion by Manager Deal to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as written,
Seconded by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

Motion by Manager Money to dispense with the reading of the Treasurer's report and approve as written, **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 Osowski, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Public Information Initiative

Mark Meister distributed the public information monthly report. He stated that he developed and distributed a news article "*Watershed Board Sponsors Flood Protection Study.*"

Meister stated that he met with an *Agweek* reporter regarding the possibility of preparing a feature article on watershed management issues as they relate to agriculture. The reporter would like to publish an article in either November or December of 2008.

Meister noted that he has expanded the RRWMB Fact Sheet to include a "*Frequently Asked Questions*" section. He added that reporters find this type of document particularly helpful in developing stories. The document will be reviewed by the Public Information Committee prior to distribution.

Meister reported that he is developing a "Communications Intern Manual" for board consideration at the July or August board meeting.

Project Coordinator Report

Ron Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. He reported that at the previous monthly meeting, the board authorized him to proceed with N. Erickson and the board's attorney to prepare funding agreements for the North Ottawa Impoundment Project and the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project.

The North Ottawa Impoundment Project was originally funded by a maximum watershed district obligation of \$750,000 with a 75% state funding contribution. The amount remaining to be forwarded from the RRWMB would actually be considered part of their funding commitment to the project, therefore, no loan agreement is necessary.

The Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project costs have increased significantly since the project was originally presented for funding consideration. Based on the Step III application from the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD (MSTRWD), the revised estimated project cost is \$10,500,000.

For the purposes of facilitating construction of the project, Harnack suggested that the board consider loaning the MSTRWD \$1,488,000 above the RRWMB obligation of total costs (16.67%). Following discussion, the board agreed to execute the loan agreement.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

In the absence of Wayne Goeken, the project monitoring monthly report was distributed. Manager Wilkens introduced Evelyn Ashiamah-Finch, the new Monitoring Specialist hired in conjunction with the Water Quality Project Monitoring initiative.

Manager Wilkens stated that Wayne Goeken – Monitoring Coordinator, requested him to inquire whether the Board of Managers would consider the possibility of leasing a vehicle(s) for the Water Quality Project Monitoring effort. He explained that Ms. Ashiamah-Finch's vehicle is not an appropriate size to accommodate sampling. He further added that W. Goeken had developed a spreadsheet comparing the pros and cons of leasing/purchasing vehicles, however, he did not have copies of the spreadsheet for distribution.

Following discussion, the board appointed a committee consisting of Orville Knott, Mark Meister, and Daniel Wilkens to consider the issue of leasing or purchasing vehicles for the Water Quality Project Monitoring initiative. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to establish the Water Quality Project Monitoring Committee consisting of Orville Knott, Mark Meister, and Daniel Wilkens, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Red River Basin Commission

Julie Goehring reported that the RRBC June board meeting included a tour of the Freshwater Fish Marketing plant and the Red River Floodway. Former RRBC board member Doug McNeil guided the Floodway tour.

Goehring added that the agenda for the 26th Annual Conference is being finalized. The conference is scheduled for January 20-22, 2009 at the Hotel Fort Garry, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

Thul stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) did not meet this month. He referred to the modeling effort of the RRBC and noted that he concurs with the utilization of the MIKE 11 model.

Thul discussed the Red River Basin Watershed Feasibility Study of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). He reported that the RRWMB and the North Dakota Red River Joint Water Resource Board have each executed contracts with the USACE to undertake a Watershed Feasibility Study (WFS). Phase II of the study is a Red River Basin Modeling Effort of the mainstem of the Red River of the North and its tributaries. He requested that this item be added to next month's agenda for further discussion.

Administrator Report

A) Funding Commitments Worksheet

N. Erickson distributed revised funding commitments worksheets. Two versions were prepared for board review. One version included the *net* amount of board commitments for programs, while the other version included the *gross* amount. Following discussion, the board requested N. Erickson to update the worksheet depicting the *net* amount of board commitments each month.

B) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. July Board Meeting, Tuesday, July 15, 2008, Meeting with the Red River Joint Water Resource Board, Governors' Inn & Conference Center, Casselton, ND.
2. August Board Meeting, Tuesday, August 19, 2008, Where?, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Consolidated Conservation (Con-con) Ditch Rule Update / Mike Carroll – Regional Director, Dave Holmbeck – Con-con Lands' Ditch Rule Coordinator

District Reports

- The Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD reported on the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project. The District has accepted the bid of Zavoral Construction of East Grand Forks, Minnesota for the construction of Phase #1 (Embankment) for a cost of \$3,806,623.78. The engineer's estimate was for \$4,574,500. Construction is expected to start the week of June 23, 2008.

HDR engineering will be taking soil borings this month and the Project Team meetings continue regarding the Brandt/Angus Coulee Project.

Seeding has been completed on two additional ring dikes this past month. Construction is expected to start on another ring dike this week and engineering plans are being developed for an additional dike to be bid next month.

Phase IV (Mitigation) plans on the Snake River have been drawn up with bid lettings in July for Part #1 (Rock Riffle Structure) and Wetmor Project (Wetland Enhancement Project) regarding the PL 566 Snake River Flood Control Project. This is the final phase of construction for the project.

District's Funding Requests

1. **Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD / Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project (Helgeland) Project / Step III Submittal:** Nick Drees, Administrator, explained that \$1,079,500 (16.67%) was committed by the RRWMB with the approval of the Step II Submittal. He explained that the total project cost has increased to \$10,500,000 and requested an increased commitment from the RRWMB of \$670,500 proportionate to their original 16.67% total project commitment.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to approve the Step III submittal for the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project for 16.67% of the total project cost (\$1,750,000), **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

2. **Wild Rice WD / Step I Submittal / Project No. 42**
The information required for a Step I submittal was distributed to the board for review at the January 22, 2008 board meeting. Manager Finney inquired whether the TAC had reviewed the Step I Submittal for Project No. 42. Dan Thul stated that the TAC could review Project No. 42 and present a recommendation to the board at the July board meeting. Following discussion,

the agreed to table action on the Step I Submittal of Project No. 42 until the July board meeting.

The next meeting will be on July 15, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. at the Governors' Inn, Casselton, ND. The joint meeting of the RRWMB and the Red River Joint Water Resource Board will begin at 10:00 a.m. following the conclusion of the RRWMB meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator