



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

July 15, 2008

Governors' Inn & Conference Center in Casselton, ND

held jointly with the

Red River Joint Water Resource Board.

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, July 15, 2008, at the Governors' Inn & Conference Center, Casselton, North Dakota.

President John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

Steve Lee	Orville Knott
Ron Osowski	Daniel Wilkens
Joe Spaeth	Jerome Deal

Others present were:

- Naomi Erickson, Administrator
- Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator
- Ben Varnson, Red River Joint Water Resource Board
- Rob Sando, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Mark Meister, CR*CS
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, RRBC
- Janeen Stenso, Outreach Coordinator, RRBC
- Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office
- Paul Wannarka, MNDNR Red River Basin Coordinator
- Steve Dalen, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
- Warren Seykora, Wild Rice WD
- Blake Carlson, Engineer, JOR Engineering, Inc.
- Robert Braseth, President, Citizens for Farmland Preservation (CFFP)
- Marijo Vik, Recording Secretary, Citizens for Farmland Preservation (CFFP)
- Brian Borgen, Director, Citizens for Farmland Preservation (CFFP)

Ben Varnson, Red River Joint Water Resource Board (RRJWRB), welcomed the Board of Managers and invited them to join the RRJWRB following the board meeting for the annual joint meeting of the two boards. He added that a tour of the Maple River Dam and West Fargo Diversion will be conducted at the conclusion of the meeting.

Warren Seykora, President – Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD) requested that the Board of Managers allow the meeting to be tape-recorded by the WRWD. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize the WRWD to tape-record the board meeting with the recording to become the property of the District, **Seconded** by Manager Lee, **Carried**.

Motion by Manager Deal to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as written, **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 Deal, **Carried**. A one-page handout of monthly bills to be approved was distributed. **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Knott, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **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 2009, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

Public Information Initiative

Mark Meister distributed the public information monthly report. Several press releases regarding the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD were developed and distributed to print, radio, and TV broadcasting stations. Coverage of the groundbreaking ceremony appeared in the Grand Forks Herald, Warren Sheaf, and on KFGO and Minnesota Public Radio.

Meister reported that he conducted a presentation at the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts' (MAWD) Summer Tour and received a request from Ray Bohn to submit a presentation proposal for the MAWD Annual Meeting & Trade Show scheduled for December 4-6, 2008 in Alexandria, MN. A proposal has been submitted titled "*The Red River Watershed Management Board's Public Information Initiatives: Strategies for Public Engagement.*"

Project Coordinator Report

Ron Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. He explained that the Drainage Work Group is discussing a proposal drafted by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to develop Drainage Records Modernization Guidelines. Manager Wilkens suggested that a letter be forwarded to BWSR from the RRWMB requesting that a cost-share program be developed as stakeholders submit grant requests to BWSR to implement the modernization initiative.

Following discussion, the board directed N. Erickson to draft a letter in conjunction with Manager Wilkens and R. Harnack. **Motion** by Manager Osowski to authorize forwarding a letter to BWSR requesting that a cost-share program and implementation strategy be developed regarding the Drainage Records Modernization Guidelines initiative, **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**.

Administrator Report

A) Funding Commitments Worksheet

N. Erickson distributed the revised funding commitments worksheet that reflects the “net” commitments of the RRWMB.

Steve Dalen, Wild Rice Watershed District Administrator, noted that the RRWMB commitment of \$1,560,000 to the Felton Ditch Storage Project approved on July 19, 2005 is scheduled to be rescinded this month as per the funding procedures outlined in the board’s Governing Documents. He stated that the Wild Rice WD requests the RRWMB to consider extending Step I approval for the project.

Following discussion, the Board of Managers agreed to a one-year extension of the project contingent upon receiving a written request from the District. **Motion** by Manager Deal to grant an extension for Step I approval of the Felton Ditch Storage Project of the Wild Rice WD, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

B) IRS Standard Mileage Rate

The Internal Revenue Service announced a new interim mileage rate. The new rate, effective from July 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008 is 58.5 cents per mile. The rate from January 1, 2008, through June 30, 2008 was 50.5 cents per mile.

C) Requests for Public Data

N. Erickson reported on two requests for public data received by the board. The requests were forwarded to legal counsel for review. The board’s attorney indicated that the board’s current Data Practices Act policy was inconsistent with the statute regarding the cost per page to copy and suggested that the board should consider updating their policy to conform to the statute. **Motion** by Manager Deal to authorize the board’s attorney to update the Data Practices Act policy to conform to current statutes, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

D) Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

N. Erickson reported that the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group met on June 19, 2008 in Hankinson, ND. Upcoming meetings of the Work Group have been scheduled in conjunction with the RRWMB August 19, 2008 and November 18, 2008 regular monthly meetings.

E) Water Quality Project Monitoring Committee

The Water Quality Project Monitoring Committee (Daniel Wilkens, Orville Knott, and Mark Meister) met via conference call on June 26, 2008 along with John Finney and N. Erickson to discuss the issue of leasing or purchasing vehicles for the Water Quality Project Monitoring initiative.

Manager Wilkens reported that the Water Quality Project Monitoring Committee recommends not to lease or purchase vehicles for the Water Quality Project Monitoring initiative at this time but rather to continue reimbursing employees at the IRS mileage rate.

F) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. August Board Meeting, August 19, 2008 / TRF, Fertile? / Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Consolidated Conservation (Con-con) Ditch Rule Update / Mike Carroll – Regional Director, Dave Holmbeck – Con-con Lands’ Ditch Rule Coordinator.
2. Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, scheduled in conjunction with the August 19, 2008 RRWMB regular monthly meeting.

3. Red River Basin Commission, September 4, 2008, Ramada Plaza Suites & Convention Center, Fargo, ND.

Red River Basin Commission

Julie Goehring reported on the 26th Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference, *Shaping the Basin's Future*. The conference is scheduled for January 20-22, 2009 at the Hotel Fort Garry, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Goehring introduced Janeen Stenso as the new Outreach Coordinator for the RRBC. Ms. Stenso stated she was previously employed by the RRBC and looks forward to rejoining the organization and her new responsibilities as Outreach Coordinator.

Water Quality Project Monitoring Report

In the absence of Wayne Goeken, the project monitoring monthly report was distributed. A National Science Foundation proposal is being explored to advance best management practices relative to utilizing the River Watch program to teach science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills.

A summary paper outlining how River Watch addresses inadequacies in the current education system is being developed which will be used for discussion with representatives in the Minnesota Department of Education for possible funding support.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

In the absence of Dan Thul, N. Erickson distributed the TAC recommendation for the Project No. 42 (CD18) project. She stated that at the June board meeting, D. Thul indicated that the TAC would review Project No. 42 and present a recommendation to the board at the July board meeting.

The TAC recommendation states that in June 2006, the Wild Rice WD initiated the South Branch of the Wild Rice River FDR Initiative. This impoundment project is the first site to be developed. It involves the construction of approximately 2 miles of embankment and outlet works consisting of a 24" gate on an 8' by 8' conc. box drop inlet structure with a 48" RCP outlet pipe. The project will provide 2.8 inches (1,770 acre-feet) of floodwater storage of which 960 acre-feet will be gate controlled. The primary purpose of the project is to reduce flood damages within the South Branch of the Wild Rice River sub-basin as well as downstream along the Wild Rice and the Red Rivers. Secondary purposes have not been identified explicitly, however could include a combination of land set-aside, prairie and wetland restorations, education and recreational area, and low flow augmentation.

The Technical Advisory Committee supports Step I approval for the Project No. 42 project.

N. Erickson also distributed copies of the final draft of the *Red River Basin Watershed Feasibility Study* and the *Project Management Plan* for the study.

District Reports

No Watershed District reports were submitted this month.

Citizens for Farmland Preservation

Robert Braseth, President of the Citizens for Farmland Preservation (CFFP) organization, distributed a handout summarizing recent land purchases of the Wild Rice WD and requested that the Board of Managers examine the methods used by the Wild Rice WD. He noted that the CFFP is opposed to the Wild Rice WD proceeding with the Project No. 42 project (CD18), and indicated that there are more cost effective ways to spend public money to achieve flood damage reduction.

Manager Finney suggested that the CFFP participate in project team meetings of the Wild Rice WD. He added that a more appropriate forum to address concerns of the procedures followed by the Wild Rice WD could be the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group.

District's Funding Requests

1. 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. At the June board meeting, the Board of Managers agreed to table action on the Step I submittal until the TAC recommendation could be presented at the July board meeting.

Motion by Manager Knott to approve the Step I submittal for the Project No. 42 project, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

The next meeting will be on August 19, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wright
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator