



Red River Watershed Management Board

Board of Managers

John Finney, President-Humboldt Todd Miller-Warroad Dan Money-Hallock Ron Osowski-Oslo
Orville Knott, Vice President-Red Lake Falls Daniel Wilkens, Treasurer-Fertile Greg Holmvik-Ada Jerome Deal, Secretary-Wheaton
Naomi Erickson, Administrator-Detroit Lakes

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

April 16, 2013

City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at the City Council Chambers, Warren, Minnesota.

President John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

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| LeRoy Carriere | Dan Money |
| Ron Osowski | Orville Knott |
| Daniel Wilkens | Greg Holmvik |
| Jerome Deal | |

Others present were:

- Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
- Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering, Inc.
- Tracy Halstengard, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, USDA-NRCS
- Pat Downs, Executive Director, RRRRA
- Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Danny Omdahl, Asst. Administrator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Jeff Lewis, Assistant Executive Director/Policy, RRBC
- Danni Halvorson, Director – River Watch and Monitoring, IWI
- Joe Courneya, Assistant Executive Director/Program, RRBC
- Kevin Ruud, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
- Wallace Sparby, Congressman Peterson's office
- Brian Dwight, Clean Water Specialist, BWSR
- Rob Sip, MDA - Environmental Policy Specialist

Manager Finney reported that the tour of the Richard P. Nelson Floodway and the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project scheduled following lunch was canceled due to unfavorable weather conditions. He also explained that N. Erickson was absent today due to the unexpected death of her mother.

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

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. **Motion** by Manager Deal to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Manager Carriere, **Carried**. Due to N. Erickson's absence, discussion occurred regarding approval of the monthly bills. **Motion** by Manager Money to approve and pay bills pending approval by the President and Treasurer, **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Public Information Initiative

Manager Finney discussed the 15th Joint Annual Conference conducted on March 26-27, 2013 at the Courtyard by Marriott & Conference Center, Moorhead, MN. He thanked the Planning Committee members including M. Meister, N. Erickson, J. Ziegler, B. Dwight, H. VanOffelen, and R. Sip. The conference had excellent media coverage this year including the KFGO broadcast with Joel Heitkamp and several television networks in attendance. Another highlight of the conference was an update on the status of the Farm Bill from Congressman Collin Peterson.

Manager Deal added that a film crew has been working in the Bois de Sioux WD to obtain footage to be used for information to develop a video for presentations, the district's website, and on broadcast and cable-access television. The video will be produced to promote a watershed district perspective. R. Sip added that at the February board meeting, he said that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) may be a potential funding source for this effort. R. Sip noted that upon further review, the MDA has decided to provide funding towards the project.

Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)

P. Downs distributed a monthly report of activities. He reported that retention plans were discussed in the following watershed/water resource districts: Cass County Joint Water Board, Bois de Sioux WD, Richland/Cass Joint Board, and the Southeast Cass Water Resource District.

P. Downs stated that the RRRA and the RRBC have discussed conducting outreach meetings regarding the Fargo-Moorhead Diversion contract. Meetings have occurred with L. Yohe and J. Lewis.

P. Downs reported that multiple site visits have been conducted regarding potential co-location for the offices of the RRBC, IWI, RRRA, and River Keepers. Additional visits are planned in the near future.

Water Quality Project Monitoring

D. Halvorson distributed the IWI Monitoring and Education Activity Report. Data from the snow study participants has been provided to the National Weather Service (NWS) for use in spring flood forecasting. Schools participating in the River Watch Program have been contacted to encourage monitoring and reporting of information and forward any information provided to the NWS if the school is not entering data in the online data site.

D. Halvorson stated that C. Fritz requested he inquire about the board assigning a technical representative to the Basin Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (BTSAC). Manager Finney suggested that D. Thul, N. Dalager and C. Anderson be appointed to BTSAC as board

representatives. **Motion** by Manager Deal to appoint D. Thul, N. Dalager, and C. Anderson to BTSAC as board representatives, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

Project Coordinator Report

In the absence of Ron Harnack, the Project Coordinator Report was distributed. Legislative updates include:

1. **Bonding**: The Governor's bonding recommendation is \$15,000,000 for FDR grants. The final results depend on discussions through conference committee assuming the Senate and House can pass the bill on the floor.
2. **General Fund**: HF976 (Wagenius) includes funding of \$264,000/year for the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (Work Group) and \$100,000/year for the RRBC funding.
3. **Clean Water Legacy**: HF1183 (Kahn) includes \$100,000/year for River Watch. These funds are required to be matched 50/50.

Red River Basin Commission

J. Lewis, Assistant Executive Director/Policy - RRBC, distributed a report from the RRBC. Modeling is currently being conducted upstream of Halstad. Snow water equivalent estimates for the Red River of the North Basin for the years 2009, 2011 and 2013 were distributed.

An invitation to the RRBC's Drainage Tour on Wednesday, June 5, 2013 was distributed. The tour itinerary includes site visits to a MDA On-Farm Drainage Site in Clay County, the North Ottawa Impoundment Project in the Bois de Sioux WD, Fairmount Tile Drainage Site (ND), and Vegetative Filter Strips (Cogswell, ND).

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

D. Thul reported that he's in the process of scheduling a meeting with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to discuss developing guidelines for the conservation plans required by BWSR relative to the Conservation Drainage Grant program. At the previous monthly meeting, the board authorized the TAC to work with K. Weston, P. Downs and C. Fritz to develop a board recommendation regarding the proposed guidelines.

D. Thul stated that he's been working with Nan Bischoff, St. Paul District USACE / Project Manager for the Red River Basin Watershed Feasibility Study (WFS) on the Project Management Plan (PMP). He added that the USACE has no funding to continue with Phase II of the WFS which includes the area of Halstad and north.

D. Thul noted that the MDNR has recently hired Keith Mykleseth as the Assistant Regional Manager for the Division of Ecological and Water Resources. Mr. Mykleseth will be assisting Peter Buessler, Regional Manager in the Northwest Region Headquarters located in Bemidji.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Public Waters Permitting

Manager Money distributed the draft *Watershed District Watercourse Excavation Guidance* application. Meetings of MDNR staff and watershed district representatives have been conducted to address permit requirements for ditch maintenance and cleaning.

The purpose of the guidance is to:

1. assist in determining MDNR Public Waters Permitting needs,
2. provide additional background on information already required under (The Application) and describe additional essential information needs unique to watercourse excavations proposals, and to
3. provide tools to assist in project planning and meeting information needs.

District Reports

- The Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD reported on the Brandt/Angus Flood Control Project. The remaining work to be completed includes some seeding and minor repairs. The District plans to partially operate the impoundment this spring. The amount of runoff will determine the duration of operation.
- The Red Lake WD reported on the Grand Marais Creek Outlet Restoration Project. The District is securing flowage and temporary easements as well as completing the permitting requirements. Plans are to advertise for bids in early May. The revised project budget is ~ \$5.9 million which is slightly higher than previously anticipated, however, the District is hopeful that bids for the project will offset some of the cost overruns.
- The Wild Rice WD reported that a Project Team meeting was conducted on February 27, 2013 to discuss the Goose Prairie Marsh site along with the Moccasin Creek area. Following discussion, it was agreed to pursue these potential sites with both landowners and the MDNR.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

Other Issues

- Manager Wilkens reported that a meeting is scheduled on May 7, 2013 to discuss the status of the Sand Hill River WD Project Team. The Board of Managers plans to meet with J. Deal, M. Carroll, C. Fritz, and J. Ziegler to discuss the problems incurred by the Project Team when developing potential projects.
- B. Dwight stated that he has accepted the position of Clean Water Specialist - Northwest for BWSR. This position is the fourth position of this classification in the state, and his primary area of responsibility will be the Red River basin. Although he will continue to be involved with various groups in the basin including the RRBC, the Work Group, and others he will not be involved with project team efforts as he was previously.

The next meeting will be on May 21, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 1:00 p.m. following lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Deal
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator