



Red River Watershed Management Board

Board of Managers

John Finney, President-Humboldt LeRoy Carriere-Roseau 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 December 17, 2013 Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, December 17, 2013 at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

President John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were: LeRoy Carriere Dan Money
 Ron Osowski Orville Knott
 Daniel Wilkens Greg Holmvik
 Jerome Deal

Others present were: Naomi Erickson, Administrator
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Heidi Hughes, Public Information Officer
Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering, Inc.
Pat Downs, Executive Director, RRRRA
Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, USDA-NRCS
Kevin Ruud, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
Jeff Lewis, Assistant Executive Director/Policy, RRBC
Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering, Inc.
Wayne Goeken, Special Projects Coordinator, IWI
Keith Mykleseth, Assistant Regional Manager, MDNR
Pete Waller, Board Conservationist, BWSR
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
Torin McCormack, Roseau River WD
Ben Kleinwachter, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
Louis Smith, Attorney, Smith Partners
Roger Hanson, Sand Hill River WD
Phillip Swenson, Sand Hill River WD

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

Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)

P. Downs distributed a monthly report of activities. He attended the first public meeting in Fargo hosted by the North Dakota State Water Commission (NDSWC) to facilitate improved participation in the water planning process and to outline proposed changes to the agency's cost-share policy. Concerns of the Red River Joint Water Resource District (RRJWRD) and the RRWMB as partners of the RRRA were discussed at the meeting. The draft policies are currently out for review with the comment period open until December 31, 2013. The new policies are scheduled to take effect by July of 2014.

Annual Audit

B. Opsahl, CPA - Brady, Martz & Associates reviewed the board's 2012 annual audit. Copies of the report were distributed for review at the November board meeting.

Suggestions to the board included authorizing the annual cost of living adjustment to the compensation provided to N. Erickson as outlined in the employment agreement and also requesting the member watershed districts to forward copies of Form B to the RRWMB office.

Rules and Regulations Committee

L. Smith, attorney - Smith Partners, explained that a review has been conducted of all member watershed district rules in an effort to develop a standardized set of rules that could be customized to address individual watershed district needs. The model rules were distributed for review. **Motion** by Manager Deal to adopt the revised rules and regulations, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

Public Information Initiative

Manager Finney introduced Heidi Hughes of the Agassiz Audubon Society. She has been working with the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD with their public information efforts and has agreed to provide the RRWMB public information services in the interim.

Project Coordinator Report

In the absence of Ron Harnack, the Project Coordinator Report was distributed. Legislative summaries have been received from the following watershed districts: Two Rivers, Roseau River, Wild Rice, Sand Hill River, and Buffalo-Red River. Proposals are still needed from the following watershed districts: Red Lake, Middle Snake Tamarac, and Bois de Sioux. Plans are to have the final summaries completed and endorsed by the RRWMB and the Work Group in January.

Administrator Report

A) Governing Documents

N. Erickson stated that the Governing Documents Committee has completed their review of the publication. She noted that the proposed revisions developed by the committee will be distributed to the Board of Managers for review prior to the January board meeting.

B) Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Roundtable

N. Erickson reported that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Roundtable has been scheduled for Friday, January 10, 2014, at the Ramada Mall of America, Bloomington, MN. The DNR Roundtable brings together stakeholders who are concerned about Minnesota's fisheries, wildlife, and ecological and water resources. It allows stakeholders to learn from one another, voice their perspectives, and build important relationships. **Motion** by Manager Money to authorize D. Wilkens and J. Deal to attend the meeting, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**.

C) Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant

The Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant agreement in the amount of \$264,000.00 has been received from the State of Minnesota for FY14 & FY15. **Motion** by Manager Holmvik to authorize the grant agreement in the amount of \$264,000 for FY14 & FY15, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

D) Project Acceleration Project

N. Erickson explained that at the December 18, 2012 board meeting, the Board of Managers authorized \$180,000 to expand the Project Planning Tool (PPT) within member watershed districts. She noted that C. Fritz has been involved with the Wild Rice WD project team to develop the PPT for the Upper Green Meadow problem area. The costs incurred to expand the pilot project in the Wild Rice WD have been charged to the Project Acceleration Project previously authorized by the board. Following discussion, the Board of Managers agreed that C. Fritz should continue with this effort as the costs incurred were previously authorized.

E) Vacation Accrual

N. Erickson reported that her unused vacation days for calendar year 2013 have been calculated. She elected to be paid for a portion of her unused vacation days, and carry forward one week to 2014.

F) River Watch Forum

N. Erickson noted that the 2014 River Watch Forum has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at the University of Minnesota - Crookston Campus. Last year, the board scheduled their March board meeting to coincide with the River Watch Forum. Following discussion, the Board of Managers agreed to conduct their March board meeting in conjunction with the annual River Watch Forum again this year.

G) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. **Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group**, December 18, 2013, Detroit Lakes, MN.
2. **Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)**, January 14, 2014, 1405 Prairie Parkway, Suite 311, West Fargo, ND.
3. **Red River Basin Commission's 31st Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference**, *The Pulse of the Basin: Getting to the Heart of the Issues*, January 14-16, 2014, Ramada Plaza Suites, Fargo, ND.
4. **16th Joint Annual Conference (March Conference)**, Tuesday, March 25, 2014 - Wednesday, March 26, 2014.

Red River Basin Commission

J. Bents, Houston Engineering, Inc. and J. Lewis, Red River Basin Commission conducted a presentation that was previously given to the Diversion Authority regarding the preliminary results of the upstream retention studies completed in the Red River basin. The final report is scheduled to be completed by the end of the month.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

D. Thul reported that he attended the meeting hosted by the Northwest Regional Development Commission and the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD to discuss the flooding concerns at Oslo and the surrounding area on November 21, 2013. Manager Osowski added that attendees discussed rather than having the Minnesota Department of Transportation repair the bridge in question that funding should go toward construction of a new bridge. N. Drees noted that discussion has occurred with Senator Stumpf to obtain legislative funds to conduct a study to determine the appropriate course of action.

Manager Finney inquired whether R. Osowski would consider continuing to attend upcoming meetings representing the RRWMB, even though he's planning to retire after today's meeting. Manager Osowski responded that he would be willing to attend on behalf of the board.

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported on the Roseau River Wildlife Management Area project team. Comments have been received on the first draft of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). The watershed district staff will coordinate with the Wildlife Manager to further revise the worksheet and provide additional information. The Purpose and Need Statement is currently under revision.
- The Two Rivers WD reported that long-time manager, O'Neil Larson retired from the Board of Managers. Manager Larson began his term on July 2, 2002 and retired from the board on October 31, 2013. He represented the south-eastern area of Kittson County, including but not limited to portions of the townships of Arveson, Deerwood, Springbrook, Jupiter, Norway and Pelan.
- The Wild Rice WD reported that the Green Meadow project team met and discussed problem areas. Input was received from local landowners and state agencies. A consensus was reached to continue exploring various alternatives to alleviate the problems within this area.
- The Bois de Sioux WD distributed a handout of an article published in a local newspaper regarding the importance of local control demonstrated by the watershed district.

Water Quality Project Monitoring

In the absence of C. Fritz, W. Goeken distributed the IWI Monitoring and Education Activity Report. A summary of the River Explorers program was developed and submitted to the Red River Basin

Commission for possible inclusion as a "success story" that would be shared at the RRBC Conference in January 2014.

W. Goeken reported that IWI met with representatives of South-Central Eco Institute, International Institute on Sustainable Development, and Joe Courneya-Red River Basin Commission on November 26, 2014 in Manitoba to share updates on River Watch activities in the Red River Basin and to explore further development of the program in Manitoba.

N. Erickson distributed a handout provided by C. Fritz related to the development of a Flood Damage Reduction Project Acceleration Team to be discussed at a future date.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

Service Award

Manager Finney presented Ron Osowski with a twenty-four year service award for his devoted service given to the Red River Watershed Management Board.

The next meeting will be on January 21, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Deal
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator