



## 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 October 15, 2013 Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, 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  
Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator  
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator  
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  
Kevin Ruud, Administrator, Wild Rice WD  
Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD  
Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute  
Jim Zeigler, Unit Supervisor-MPCA  
Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering, Inc.  
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.  
Wally Sparby, Congressman Peterson's office  
Henry VanOffelen, MDNR Red River Basin Coordinator  
Torin McCormack, Roseau River WD  
Riley Maanum, Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation

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

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. **Motion** by Manager Money to approve the Treasurer's Report, **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 Knott,

**Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

### **Public Information Initiative**

N. Erickson reported that she was contacted by M. Meister who indicated that he was unsure when he'd be able to resume providing public information services to the board as he continues to address family health issues. She added that M. Meister explained that he had contacted Heidi Hughes of the Agassiz Audubon Society to inquire about her availability to assist the board with providing public information services in the interim.

Following discussion, the board requested N. Erickson to contact M. Meister to discuss plans to retain H. Hughes to provide public information services in his absence. The Board of Managers also authorized N. Erickson to contact H. Hughes to retain her to provide public information services to the board and negotiate an hourly rate for services provided.

### **Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)**

P. Downs distributed a monthly report of activities. A series of North Dakota State Water Commission (NDSWC) hosted meetings are scheduled for November and December to facilitate improved participation in the water planning process and to outline proposed changes to the agency's cost-share policy. Water project sponsors are encouraged to attend one of the six meetings that are being held within major drainage basins of the state.

P. Downs announced that a facility has been selected to co-locate the offices of the RRBC, IWI, RRRA, NRCS, River Keepers, and the NDSWC. The new office is located at 1120 28th Ave North, Fargo, ND. Plans are for the RRRA to move into the new location in March following the expiration of their current lease.

### **Water Quality Project Monitoring**

C. Fritz distributed the IWI Monitoring and Education Activity Report. A FDR Water Quality Workshop has been tentatively scheduled for October 30, 2013 pending responses from participants. The participants will review current FDR projects' water quality goals, monitoring results, and analysis along with steering future monitoring and analysis for FDR projects.

C. Fritz reported on the status of the North Dakota River Watch Program. The program has been funded and currently initial contacts are being conducted to seek five schools in the Red River basin to commit to participating in River Watch activities in 2014 and 2015.

### **Project Coordinator Report**

R. Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. The House Capital Investment Committee plans to tour the mid section of the state the first week in November with the North Ottawa Impoundment Project in the Bois de Sioux WD along their tour route. The District will have representatives available to meet with the legislators.

R. Harnack reported that there are three vacant positions on the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). He encouraged individual watershed districts to select possible candidates and notify BWSR in order to maintain representation from the Red River basin.

## **Administrator Report**

### **A) Annual Calendar**

N. Erickson reported that she contacted Kris Versdahl who maintains the board's website and inquired about her availability to assist with the development of the board's annual calendar. Ms. Versdahl indicated that she would be available to assist with the calendar and would contact the individual watershed districts in the near future to request information to begin compiling the needed content.

### **B) Governing Documents / Rules & Regulations Committee Meetings**

N. Erickson stated that the next meeting of the Governing Documents Committee has been scheduled for Monday, November 18, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the RRRRA office, with the Rules & Regulations Committee to meet that afternoon following lunch.

She suggested that the Board of Managers consider conducting the regular November board meeting at the RRRRA office as well since it's scheduled for the day following the committee meetings on Tuesday, November 19, 2013.

### **C) 16th Joint Annual Conference (March Conference)**

N. Erickson reported that the *16th Joint Annual Conference* has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2014 - Wednesday, March 26, 2014. Please note that the *Legislative Reception & Day at the Capitol* will be conducted the week prior on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 to Thursday, March 20, 2014 at the St. Paul Kelly Inn.

### **D) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences**

1. **Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group**, October 16, 2013, Red Lake WD office, Thief River Falls, MN.
2. **Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)**, November 12, 2013, 1405 Prairie Parkway, Suite 311, West Fargo, ND.
3. **Governing Documents Committee / Rules & Regulations Committee**, Monday, November 18, 2013, RRRRA office, West Fargo, ND.
4. **MAWD Annual Meeting & Trade Show**, December 5-7, 2013, Arrowwood Conference Center, Alexandria, MN.
5. **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.

## **Red River Coordinator/TAC Report**

D. Thul reported that the MDNR and BWSR sponsored a meeting for agency representatives participating on individual project teams. The meeting was conducted by H. VanOffelen and D. Buckhout and presented the history of the mediation process in addition to providing training relative to agency roles on project teams.

D. Thul discussed a conference call conducted with Nan Bischoff, St. Paul District USACE / Project Manager for the Red River Basin Watershed Feasibility Study (WFS). The USACE is developing a long-term plan in conjunction with the WFS and discussions have occurred with the RRBC regarding incorporating the Long Term Flood Solutions (LTFS) plan into this effort.

D. Thul noted that he attended a RRBC meeting to discuss project prioritization. The Diversion Authority previously allocated \$500,000 to the RRBC to assess and prioritize potential retention projects. The projects identified will contribute towards the 20% mainstem reduction goal for the Red River.

D. Thul reviewed the draft recommendations for Tile Drainage Systems that were developed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and previously distributed at the June 18th board meeting. Discussion occurred relative to recommended Red River mainstem operation for controlled tile systems. It was agreed to modify item no. 2 from *(or until after crop has been planted in the spring)* to *(or until the temperature reaches 32 degrees)*. Following discussion, the Board of Managers requested the member watershed districts to review the recommendations and forward any comments or suggestions to Dan Thul prior to the November board meeting.

### **District Reports**

- The Wild Rice WD reported on the status of Goose Prairie Marsh. A draft operating plan for the potential project was developed by the MDNR and reviewed by the Project Team. A hydraulic analysis will be completed to determine bounce and how quickly it can be drawn down. A determination will be made on whether a crossing on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service land can be relocated prior to the October 30, 2013 Project Team meeting.

### **District's Funding Requests**

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on November 19, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. at the Red River Retention Authority office, West Fargo, ND.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:00 p.m. following lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jerome Deal  
Secretary

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Naomi L. Erickson  
Administrator