



Red River Watershed Management Board

Board of Managers

John Finney, President-Humboldt LeRoy Carriere-Roseau Dan Money-Hallock Ben Kleinwachter-Strandquist
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Naomi Erickson, Administrator-Detroit Lakes

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

April 15, 2014

Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

President John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

LeRoy Carriere	Dan Money
Ben Kleinwachter	Orville Knott
Daniel Wilkens	Greg Holmvik
Jerome Deal	

Others present were:

- Naomi Erickson, Administrator
- Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator
- Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
- Heidi Hughes, Public Information Officer
- Nick Drees, Project Coordinator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Pat Downs, Executive Director, RRRRA
- Jim Zeigler, Unit Supervisor-MPCA
- Julie Goehring, South Basin Manager, RRBC
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Blake Carlson, Engineer, WSN Engineering, Inc.
- Keith Weston, Red River Basin Coordinator, USDA-NRCS
- Kevin Ruud, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
- Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering, Inc.
- Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Torin McCormack, Roseau River WD
- Rob Sip, MDA - Environmental Policy Specialist
- Trevor Stanley

Motion by Manager Holmvik to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as written with minor corrections, **Seconded** by Manager Carriere, **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**. A one-page handout of

monthly bills to be approved was distributed. **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Knott, **Seconded** by Manager Carriere, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Rules & Regulations / Administrator's Group

Manager Wilkens, Committee Chair of the Administrator's Group, suggested conducting a meeting to further address the Model Watershed District Rules and Regulations Update recently adopted by the Board of Managers and also plans to utilize upcoming Farm Bill funding. Following discussion, the Board of Managers agreed to schedule a meeting of the Administrator's Group on Friday, May 2, 2014 in the Fargo-Moorhead area at a location to be determined.

Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)

P. Downs distributed a monthly report of activities. The RRRA hosted a meeting on April 14, 2014 for members of the Farm Bill implementation and information group along with resource and state agencies.

Congressional staff communication continues with local staff members from Representatives Peterson and Cramer, and Senators Hoeven, Heitkamp, Franken, and Klobuchar. Letters of support were received from the delegations and forwarded to the Secretary of Agriculture requesting designation as a Critical Conservation Area (CCA) for the Red River basin.

Water Quality Project Monitoring

C. Fritz distributed the IWI Monitoring and Education Activity Report. The Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) water quality reports are being prepared and will be provided to the Work Group Water Quality Monitoring Subcommittee for review and finalization.

C. Fritz reported that staff participated in a meeting on 03/28/14 in Fertile, MN to discuss submitting a proposal to BWSR for the Sand Hill River WD to be a pilot watershed for the One Watershed One Plan initiative. K. Ruud noted that several organizations are conducting monitoring. J. Ziegler stated the importance of coordinating with other agencies to avoid a duplication of efforts.

C. Fritz distributed handouts to address FDR/NRE project development and acceleration. Since the 2014 U.S. Farm Bill will provide significant funding to the Red River basin to cost-share FDR/NRE projects, there is a need to progress projects from planning to construction over the next 3-5 years in order to capitalize on the funding. The Board of Managers requested the Administrator's Group to further discuss these issues at their meeting scheduled on Friday, May 2, 2014.

C. Fritz discussed the awards presented at the 2014 River Watch Forum. The River Watch Partnership Award was presented to Dan Wilkens who's been an advocate for the program at the local, regional, state, and international level since the start of River Watch in the Sand Hill River in 1995. This award recognizes those individuals or organizations that have helped support and advance the River Watch program in the Red River basin whether through providing leadership, technical assistance, financial resources, coordination, or other support.

Public Information Initiative

H. Hughes, Public Information Officer, reviewed a sample Facebook page she developed for board consideration. She explained to those unfamiliar with the medium, that only an account must be set up in order to view Facebook pages. She added that by posting pictures of interest, not only can a larger audience be reached, but the demographics of individuals visiting the site can be identified which allows for targeting specific audiences.

Manager Finney inquired whether maintaining a Facebook page could be a useful tool for communicating with legislators. R. Harnack responded that posting project information on Facebook could not only improve communication throughout local watershed districts but also assist in obtaining statewide legislative support for project funding.

Project Coordinator Report

R. Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. Local property tax assessments for 2014 were discussed. As property taxes for some landowners have substantially increased, the need for the Board of Managers to consider an option for member watershed districts to request a reduction in their local portion of the RRWMB levy was discussed. **Motion** by Manager Deal to conduct a Finance Committee meeting in order to develop a board recommendation regarding an option for member watershed districts to reduce their local portion of the RRWMB levy, **Seconded** by Manager Carriere, **Carried**. Following discussion, the Board of Managers agreed to conduct the Finance Committee meeting today following the regular monthly meeting.

R. Harnack reiterated the urgency to expedite project development and acceleration that C. Fritz discussed earlier. Although the Work Group provides limited resources for project teams and watershed districts provide the local match for state funding, often the associated costs of progressing a potential project through the necessary points of concurrence exceed the funding capability of some watershed districts. The Board of Managers may want to consider providing additional funding to project teams on a case by case basis for project development including planning, assessment and preliminary engineering.

Administrator Report

A) RRB Flood Damage Reduction Work Group / Project Team Support

N. Erickson reported that for fiscal year 2014 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014), the Work Group allocated each project team \$10,000 for project team expenses with eligible expenses reimbursed at 50%. The following project team reimbursement requests have been submitted to date:

Project Team	Total Funds Available this Fiscal Year	Expenditures	Balance Remaining
Bois de Sioux WD	\$10,000.00	\$7,904.98	\$2,095.02
Buffalo-Red River WD	\$10,000.00	\$4,259.62	\$5,740.38
Middle Snake Tamarac WD	\$10,000.00	\$4,163.53	\$5,836.47
Red Lake WD	\$10,000.00	\$0	\$10,000.00

Roseau River WD	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0
Sand Hill River WD	\$10,000.00	\$4,282.45	\$5,717.55
Two Rivers WD	\$10,000.00	\$0	\$10,000.00
Wild Rice WD	\$10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$0

These funds must be expended prior to **June 30, 2014** or will be considered for reallocation. Please submit reimbursement requests as soon as possible as the last Work Group meeting prior to the end of fiscal year is scheduled for Wednesday, June 18, 2014.

B) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

1. **Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group**, May 21, 2014, MnDOT, Detroit Lakes, MN.
2. **Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) / Tour & Meeting**, June 4-5, 2014, Roseau, MN.
3. **Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)**, June 10, 2014, Cass County Water Resource Office (1201 W Main Ave, West Fargo, ND).

Red River Basin Commission

J. Goehring, South Basin Manager, RRBC distributed an agenda for the June Summer Tour and Board meeting scheduled for June 4-5, 2014 in Roseau, MN. This year's summer tour will include projects in the northern Red River basin. Project sites within the Two Rivers and Roseau River Watershed Districts will be visited as the tour focuses on flood damage reduction and drainage water management sites.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report

D. Thul reported that the Basin Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (BTSAC) discussed the flooding in Oslo, MN that occurs at North Dakota Highway 54 and Minnesota Highway 1. A ring levee protects the town, which becomes an island surrounded by an ocean of water when both highways are flooded during extreme flood events. An estimate of \$170,000 has been developed to complete Phase 1 of a study to address providing access to the City of Oslo. Houston Engineering is preparing an estimate for Phase 2 to determine the impacts of rearranging the ag levees to construct a floodway to handle flood volumes comparable to the flood of 1997.

D. Thul discussed Phase 2 of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Red River Basin Watershed Feasibility Study (WFS). The Distributed Detention Strategies (DDS) of individual subwatersheds are included as Work-in-Kind (WIK) for the study. The DDS effort was intended to identify conceptual detention storage projects within each member watershed district and determine whether the 20% flow reduction strategy of the RRBC's Long Term Flood Solutions (LTFS) Plan could be achieved. The Fargo-Moorhead Diversion Authority (FMDA) provided \$500,000 to the RRBC for a Halstad Upstream Retention (HUR) modeling project to determine the impacts/benefits of retention sites identified upstream of Halstad (southern 1/3 of basin). These results will be prioritized by the RRRA and added to the LTFS Plan when completed. The TAC agreed to forward a recommendation to the USACE to utilize federal funding to extend the modeling effort to the Canadian border to encompass the entire Red River basin.

District Reports

- The Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD reported that a public hearing for a redetermination of benefits on Judicial Ditch No. 14 has been scheduled at the Newfolden Community Center on May 28, 2014.
- The Red Lake WD reported on Ditch No. 15. At their February 13, 2014 board meeting, the Board of Managers accepted the Construction Plans and Specifications for the project. On March 13, 2014 at the regularly scheduled board meeting, 10 bids were opened for the project with the low bid being awarded to Davidson Construction in the amount of \$1,017,680.20. Plans are to begin construction in early May pending the receipt of the USACE permit.
- The Wild Rice WD reported that the Green Meadow Project Team is scheduled to meet on May 28, 2014. Plans are to finalize the alternatives and strategies for the project. The Points of Concurrence No. 1 was approved by the Board of Managers for submittal to the USACE.

District's Funding Requests

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

The next meeting will be on May 20, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. at the Wild Rice Watershed District, Ada, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:05 p.m. following lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Deal
Secretary

Naomi L. Erickson
Administrator