

**MINUTES OF THE ROSEAU RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT BOARD OF
MANAGERS MEETING HELD June 1, 2011**

ORDER: Chairman Todd Miller called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

MANAGERS PRESENT: Floyd Haugen, LeRoy Carriere, LaVerne Voll and Todd Miller.

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator, Rob Sando; Administrative Assistant Halstengard

OTHERS PRESENT: Refer to attendance sheet.

CONSULTING STAFF PRESENT: Engineer Randy Knott

DELEGATIONS: Rick Solberg, Landowner; Senator Lessard, Special Assistant to DNR Commissioner; Lori Dowling, DNR NW Regional Director; Russel Walker, Jack Swanson and Roger Falk, Roseau County Commissioners.

AGENDA: A **motion** was made by Manager Voll and seconded by Manager Carriere to approve the agenda with additions. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES: A **motion** was made by Manager Carriere and seconded by Manager Haugen to approve the May 4th, 2011 minutes with changes. Motion carried unanimously.

RECEIPTS:

Receipts -- Memo	Balance
Citizens State Bank -- Interest on checking	\$ 32.34
State of Minnesota -- Hay Creek / Norland reimbursement	\$ 8,816.67
City of Warroad -- discharge fee	\$ 1,800.00
RRWMB -- Project Team reimbursement	\$ 3,818.39
RTW inc -- refund, workers' comp ins	\$ 31.00
USDA -- AWEP payment Kveen/Pontow ring dike	\$ 37,083.14
Marshall County -- share of taxes	\$ 1,121.61
TOTAL	\$ 52,703.15

Bills -- Memo	Amount
City of Roseau -- utilities	\$ 496.65
Verison -- cell phone charge	\$ 51.32
CenturyLink -- phone bill	\$ 110.02
Sjoberg's Cable TV -- cable internet	\$ 43.32
Marco -- copier maintenance	\$ 29.42
Roseau Times-Region -- notice	\$ 10.50
Minnesota Energy -- natural gas bill	\$ 97.30
Floyd Haugen -- meetings, mileage and expenses	\$ 283.06
LeRoy Carriere -- meetings, mileage and expenses	\$ 201.07
Todd Miller -- meetings, mileage and expenses	\$ 376.15
LaVerne Voll -- meetings, mileage and expenses	\$ 274.32
Rob Sando -- expenses and mileage	\$ 227.23
Rob Sando -- salary	\$ 3,111.86
Tracy Halstensgard -- wages	\$ 1,722.03
Postmaster -- stamps	\$ 220.00
PERA -- employee and employer share	\$ 853.81
Internal Revenue Service -- 941 tax	\$ 1,467.20
Doug's Supermarket -- food for meetings and supplies	\$ 41.53
Scott's True Value -- supplies	\$ 152.86
Multi Office Products -- supplies	\$ 33.74
MonTech Computers -- Norton	\$ 64.11
Quality Printing -- printing	\$ 161.38
Auto-owners Insurance -- fire	\$ 499.11
Kathy Marvin -- office furniture	\$ 3,600.00
TOTAL	\$ 14,127.99

BILLS: A **motion** was made by Manager Voll to pay the normal monthly bills, seconded by Manager Carriere. Motion carried unanimous.

DELEGATIONS:

Rick Solberg is present to discuss the permit applications he submitted. The board discussed permits #11-02, 11-03 and 11-05 with Mr. Solberg. Manager Haugen has looked at the area and informed the board of the situation. Manager Haugen stated it was his opinion that the installation of culverts and traps would affect the landowners to the east. There was discussion on the efficiency of the township ditch that flows into the Whitney ditch. Chairman Miller suggested Manager Haugen and Administrator Sando view the area before a decision is made. Manager Voll stated he didn't see an issue with permit # 11-05. After extensive discussion, Manager Voll made a **motion** to approve permit #11-05 seconded by Manager Carriere. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Solberg agreed to withdraw permit #11-02 for the installation of a trap. The board discussed permit #11-03 with Mr. Solberg. After some discussion, a **motion** was made by Manager Carriere to table permit #11-03, seconded by Manager Voll. Motion carried unanimously.

Representative Dan Fabian addressed the board. Rep. Fabian discussed the update on the BWSR financing bill as well as Legacy Funding. Rep. Fabian discussed the fact that some land exchange and reclassification bills have been signed by the legislature. Rep. Fabian stated that it was easier to work with the DNR, rather than against them and he is confident that projects will be able to be built in the Skime area. Chairman Miller stated there were some accountability issues with the local DNR management. Chairman Miller went on to discuss the obsolescence of the management plans on state land stating that the DNR has not been working with LGU's on drafting management plans and local managers are basically operating their areas as they wish. The Watershed District is required to have an Overall Plan that had input from the State and Federal Agency and those agencies now don't wish to follow what was outlined in the Watershed Districts Overall Plan. Chairman Miller discussed Mike

Carroll's meeting with the board last month. Rep. Fabian discussed the funding of the East Diversion for the City of Roseau and project funding for the Red River Valley. Rep. Fabian stated he was fairly sure the governor had signed the environmental bill. Rep. Fabian stated that DNR Commissioner Landwehr was planning a trip to the area. Mr. Fabian would like to have a focused presentation and provide information to Commissioner Landwehr prior to the meeting so that earnest discussion can take place.

Lori Dowling, NW Regional Director and Senator Lessard, Special Assistant to the Commissioner, met with the board. After introductions, Chairman Miller outlined the district, amount of State land, and projects. Ms. Dowling discussed her background and position. She stated that the Commissioner Landwehr and the DNR are committed to becoming friendlier to their consumers, the public. Senator Lessard discussed his position as Special Assistant to Commissioner Landwehr. Manager Voll discussed water control structures in Beltrami. Ms. Dowling asked what message the District would like to send back to the Commissioner's office. Chairman Miller stated that management of water on state land is a must in this district. For socioeconomic reasons it's imperative that projects are build that will save ag land and infrastructure from flooding. Chairman Miller stated it was a quality of life issue for residents of the Watershed District. The management plan for the structures in Beltrami that expired in 1989 (there is no revised plan on record), allowed for maintenance that was never carried out. A new plan is being worked on for LUP/BISF lands, and the District wants to be involved in the development of that plan, as State and Federal agencies were in the District's Overall Plan. Rep. Fabian felt it important that the LGU's are consulted and concerns addressed in the drafting of the management plan. Ms. Dowling asked who would be opposed to utilizing state land for impoundments. Chairman Miller stated local DNR managers mainly. Fish & Wildlife managers and Tribal government were two who had voiced concerns if their property was impacted in any way. Ms. Dowling handed out a memo concerning funding breakdown.

Chairman Miller asked Senator Lessard about the Lessard's Outdoor Heritage Council and funding for watersheds. Sen. Lessard stated that he couldn't speak for the council, but he explained that the council gives priority to fish & wildlife. Ms. Dowling asked if it would be beneficial from a funding perspective, if the DNR would take the lead on the projects in Beltrami. Miller stated that would be something the board would agree with as long as the mediation agreement was followed. The Watershed Board would fully expect the DNR to fund the project with joint operation for FDR benefits as that was the original purpose. Sen. Lessard suggested a liaison between the Lessard Counsel and the Watershed District. The board felt that would be extremely beneficial and Sen. Lessard said he would take that idea back to the Counsel.

Chairman Miller opened the meeting up to the audience. Rep. Fabian stated that he wants the DNR and LGU's to work together, however FDR needs to remain the main focus for the Watershed Districts. Commissioner Swanson spoke about taking farmland out of production to create wetlands. Rep. Fabian spoke about a bill addressing that issue. Commissioner Walker commented on Con Con lands and non-payment of ditch taxes by the State. Chairman Miller talked about rule making that allows the DNR to determine benefits instead of using standard determinations practices. Chairman Miller also spoke about drainage benefits to state land stating that drainage was needed to effectively manage the land. Currently costs for that drainage and maintenance is being paid by private landowners along those systems. Roseau County Engineer Brian Ketring discussed the working relationship and communication with local DNR management. Commissioner Falk thanked Ms. Dowling for coming and stated his interest in supporting FDR projects to help ag producers. Chairman Miller asked if there were any further comments from the managers. Manager Carriere reiterated the need to repair the water control structures in Beltrami. Manager Haugen stated that east and north of his land is all state land and the water that comes off of that land is detrimental to farming in his area. Manager Haugen also spoke about a FEMA repair that was stopped by the DNR. Manager Haugen commented on the water that comes into the WMA from Canada and stated that he supports the effort to discharge water from the WMA to the West into the Roseau River. Sen. Lessard asked about the relationship with Canada. Manager Voll discussed the RRIW. Chairman Miller talked about the IJC. Administrator Sando and Chairman Miller spoke about the RRRRA.

Sen. Lessard spoke about the "25 small grant program" funded by the Lessard Heritage Council. He spoke about streamlining the application process for small projects and stated the council is looking for small projects to fund to help wildlife that could also be FDR.

Ms. Dowling reiterated the points discussed at this meeting. Chairman Miller stated that the District applies a Watershed wide approach to managing water and public land is 40% of the watershed.

The Board took a brief recess.

Randy Prachar updated the board on the land acquisition process for the land in Pohlitz. Mr. Prachar apologized for the misunderstanding on the Palmville Joint Powers Agreement. The board has been provided a copy of the formal agreement from the State. Chairman Miller stated that he has some concerns and would like the County and District

attorneys to review it. Miller pointed out some issues with the agreement. It was the consensus of the board to have the attorney review the document and will contact Mr. Prachar with any concerns.

Mr. Prachar asked about the Lake Bottom project. Chairman Miller stated that the board wants to be involved in the project, but at this time it is not a priority for the District. The sequencing of projects the board has set forth are as follows: upstream impoundments, outlet improvement then the Lake Bottom Project. Mr. Prachar and Administrator Sando will schedule a meeting to discuss the WMA agreement. The Board reviewed the pool elevations provided by Mr. Prachar. Chairman Miller mentioned planning a tour of the RRWMA.

The board reviewed a permit application from Jeff Pearson (#11-06). Manager Voll made a **motion** to approve the permit, seconded by Manager Carriere. Motion carried unanimously.

PROJECT TEAM & ENGINEERS REPORT:

Hay Creek/Norland: Engineer Knott discussed the mitigation specs for the project. Engineer Knott stated that they would like to move forward with letting the bids for the mitigation work. Manager Voll, Chairman Miller and Administrator Sando will review the bid package and report to the board. Chairman Miller asked about the compaction testing. Engineer Knott informed the board of what was taking place. HDR will provide a copy of the results to the District. Chairman Miller asked about the outlet structure that Spruce Valley had finished for Wagner Construction. Engineer Knott updated the board on the progress and stated he had not been to the site since last fall. Chairman Miller stated that any reports generated by HDR, copies need to be provided to the District. A **motion** was made by Manager Carriere and seconded by Manager Haugen to pay the Spruce Valley Corporation bill in the amount of \$53,550.00. Motion carried unanimously. Manager Voll spoke about damage being done to the access road.

Palmville Project: The board will have legal review completed on the agreement provided by the DNR. Administrator Sando installed the monitoring equipment and spoke to the County about grading and adding gravel to the road. Garry Bennett will be up the week of June 6th to survey Mickinock Creek downstream from the new culvert installed on the Wilson Road..

Beltrami: Chairman Miller updated the board on the meeting with the County Highway committee meeting. The board discussed engineering for a culvert sizing project. Manager Voll made a **motion** to move forward with Houston Engineering to do the culvert sizing project, seconded by Manager Haugen. Motion carried unanimously. Manager Carriere suggested getting a couple of quotes from different firms. Manager Carriere made a **motion**, seconded by Manager Haugen to retain HDR Engineer on the WMA project. Motion carried unanimously.

WD#3: Manager Haugen has contacted Dennis Wahl to fabricate catwalks to operate the structures.

Chairman Miller stated the County was looking into purchasing a scanner capable of scanning large maps and plans. The District would pay the County to scan in maps and plans.

Lake Bottom: Discussed previously in the meeting.

Big Swamp: Manager Haugen stated there was no meeting.

Lee Ring Dike: The board discussed a letter from Olson Construction concerning an extension. It was the feeling of the board that an honest attempt to complete the project had not been made and they would not grant an extension at this time.

WMA: as previously discussed.

PERMITS:

A **motion** was made by Manager Voll and seconded by Manager Haugen to table Permits #11-04 (Roseau County Highway Dept) until the next meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Rules Committee: Manager Carriere will provide information to Administrative Assistant Halstensgard to be processed

Personnell Committee: Nothing to report

Governing Documents: Nothing to report

RRWMB Report:

Administrator Sando stated that the shared COE position was somewhat contentious as the RRWMB doesn't want to pay for the position. Mark Meister has resigned and they hope to have someone in place by July or August. A Step 1 Submittal was applied for by Wild Rice Watershed District and the group took a tour of the area.

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Sando reported on the following issues:

- The request to the County for PILT.
- Tim Michals request to pasture along Hay Creek. An easement contract will be developed.
- There was discussion on the right-of-way markers. Engineer Knott asked if they should put in the post when they go out to survey. The board was in agreement with that. Administrator Sando will contact the landowners and inform them that the right of way is being marked.
- MAWD annual tour is June 16-18 in TRF.

RRIW: There has been no meeting. Manager Voll has been attempting contact with the Canadian contingency.

West Interceptor: There was discussion on charging per bale for whoever wants to cut and bale it. The price was set at \$10 per bale. Administrator Sando will be meeting with City Superintendant David Drown to discuss this year's maintenance. There was discussion on whether or not the board still wants to pursue the assessment to the taxes or allow the City to line item it in their budget. It was the consensus of the board to place it as a tax assessment. Administrator Sando discussed the vegetation monitoring report required by the COE permit. After some discussion, the board directed Administrator Sando to provide the previous report to the COE.

OLD BUSINESS:

The ditch systems will be reviewed for FEMA damages.

Curtis Pontow requested making payments to the board for the remainder of the amount owed for his ring dike. It was the consensus of the board that one payment should be made for the full amount.

The board was updated on progress on the website.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was nothing on the agenda under new business.

After reviewing the vouchers, a **motion** was made by Manager Voll, seconded by Manager Carriere to approve the Manager's vouchers and Administrators Sando's expenses. Motion carried unanimously.

Upon a motion made by Manager Carriere, seconded by Manager Haugen, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

LeRoy Carriere, Secretary

Tracy Halstensgard, Administrative Assistant