

# WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT

11 East 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Ada, Minnesota 56510

Phone (218) 784-5501

## SPECIAL MEETING

1. A Special Meeting of the Wild Rice Watershed District Board of Managers was held on Thursday, March 17, 2005, at the office of the District located at 11 Fifth Avenue East, Ada, MN.
2. The following members were present: Warren J. Seykora, Steve Dalen, Jim Skaurud, Diane Ista, Bob Wright, Joe Spaeth and Jim Wagner Sr. The following members were absent: None. In addition, the following persons were also present: Mark Harless and Loretta Johnson, Recording Secretary.
3. Chairman Seykora called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.
4. Manager Ista began by talking about the decision making process and the necessity of not making decisions based on personality issues.
5. Manager Dalen presented on the board the following statement: *"If you agree that everybody has a right to drainage; then need to be obligated to manage water with feasible projects including storage."*
6. Manager Spaeth questioned at what time the costs incurred by the federal government as a result of flooding would be shown and felt this is very important. Manager Ista stated that Senator Dayton's office compiled the costs incurred as a result of FEMA and federal crop insurance since the flood of 1997. Manager Wagner stated that these costs do not include personal costs, by local individuals not covered by insurance. Manager Spaeth felt this is an important part of the information that is included in the package. Spaeth also talked about the loss of life as a result of the severe flooding in 1997.
7. Manager Dalen began a board display to review and work on during the meeting for the purpose of paring down the projects to be included in the overall package. Manager Ista talked about recent discussions with Dan Thule, Lance Yoe and Don Buckhout regarding the possibility of the Beach Ridge Project and said that they were very interested. Lance Yoe suggested that the District follow up with this project idea to the North Dakota Bureau of Reclamation. Dalen stated that he is in favor of this project but would like to see it included in an overall package and maybe include only a part of it such as a percent or section. Dalen felt that it is important to represent the entire watershed district and questioned if congressmen seeking funding would be in favor of taking an entire block of land in one area or would rather see projects throughout the entire District.
8. Managers continued to discuss the package concept. Manger Dalen questioned if there are any hard numbers available as to the number of acre-feet of storage necessary to protect the valley from flooding damages. Manager Wright questioned if they should use the percent of flooding that comes from the tributaries and stated that 40% comes from the South Branch and Felton Ditches.

Manager Wagner questioned who would analyze the package and determine what projects would be funded if a flood control package were submitted for funding. Dalen felt that would be for congressmen to decide.

9. Chairman Seykora stated that the Board needs hard numbers and costs for each project within the package before going to congressmen seeking funding. Manager Wagner stated that all streams are contributing to flooding but many, such as those in the northern part of the watershed district that flow westerly and contribute to the Marsh River northwest of Ada, are not in the priority area. Manager Ista stated that it would be necessary to first determine the acre-feet of protection that is needed and then the acre-feet of protection in each individual project.

10. Consensus of Managers was that the Felton Ditch contributes 20,000 ac/feet; Main Stem 75,000 ac/feet; and the South Branch contributes 30,000 ac/feet.

11. Manager Wagner felt that it is necessary to have hard figures from engineering before finalizing the package because you do not want to analyze with misleading figures. Chairman Seykora stated that they need to go back to what they want to achieve, how much do we want to reduce, what can be done and what is the goal that we want to achieve.

12. Consensus of Managers was that the Felton Ditch Project should be included in the package. Manager Wright asked what should be included on the South Branch; there is a lot of erosion going on above the sites. Manager Wagner also brought up corridor storage, the possibility of storing water along ditch systems.

13. Manager Dalen felt that the biggest incentive or selling point of the package is the economic damages and losses caused by the flooding in the valley. Chairman Seykora stated that there have been quotes of about \$5 billion in damages from flooding since 1997, but for legislative support, it will be necessary to show that they are good projects for the dollars spent. Manager Wagner said that they would have to come up with the best project that is possible for the money. Chairman Seykora questioned when in the process of choosing the package, the cost of each of the individual projects would be used in making the decision.

14. Manager Wagner stated that the funding for flood damage reduction is completely different than funding following hurricanes and other natural disasters that cannot be stopped from happening again. Long-term success is necessary in which there would be no need for future dollars from FEMA or federal agencies because the protection from the flood damage reduction projects would be permanent.

15. Discussion continued regarding the Twin Valley site or the Faith site, and if there is a need for both or just one for protection. Seykora talked about the setback levees on the main stem and questioned if there is a benefit in including the setback levees in the project package. Manager Ista stated that she would like to have both Twin Valley and Faith sites in the package at this time. Manager Dalen stated that the package chosen could be changed at any future time if Managers choose to do so. Manager Spaeth felt that it would be more likely to obtain federal and state funding for the Beach Ridge Project than a Twin Valley Project.

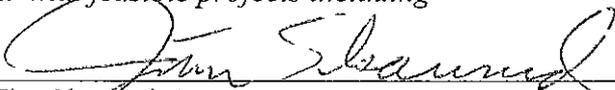
16. Mark Harless stated that he felt any projects that were built on farmland should be used for mitigation purposes for projects in other areas that may need mitigation acres.

17. Manager Wright agreed to leave both the Twin Valley and Faith site in the package at this time for a total of 30,000 ac/feet of storage, but the number of ac/feet of the individual project to be defined later.

18. Consensus of Managers was that one of the topics of discussion at the next flood storage meeting should be dry verses wet dam issues.

19. A **motion** was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Dalen to schedule a special meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, April 8, 2005, at the District office for the purpose of continued discussion on flood storage. **Carried.**

20. Chairman Seykora adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m. Attached at the end of these minutes is a chart developed at today's meeting entitled: *"If you agree that everybody has a Right to Drainage then need to be OBLIGATED to manage water with feasible projects including"*

  
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Jim Skarud, Secretary



# WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT

11 East 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Ada, Minnesota 56510

Phone (218) 784-5501

## REGULAR MEETING

1. The regular meeting of the Wild Rice Watershed District Board of Managers was held on Wednesday, March 9, 2005, at the Wild Rice Watershed District located at 11 East 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ada, MN.
2. The following members were present: Joe Spaeth, Warren J. Seykora, Steve Dalen, Jim Skaurud, Diane Ista, Bob Wright and Jim Wagner Sr. The following members were absent: None. In addition, the following persons were also present: Attorney Elroy Hanson, Administrator Bennett, Perry Ellingson and Loretta Johnson, Recording Secretary.
3. Chairman Seykora called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.
4. A **motion** was made by Manager Dalen and seconded by Manager Wagner to approve the agenda for the Wednesday, March 9, 2005, regular meeting. **Carried.**
5. Monthly Meeting Minutes. A **motion** was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Wright to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2005. **Carried.**
6. Monthly Financial Report. Doug Marcussen distributed copies of the February 28, 2005, Financial Report. Upon a **motion** by Manager Wright and second by Manager Skaurud, the monthly Financial Report was approved for entry into the record. **Carried.**
7. 2004 Audit. Doug Marcussen reported that he contacted three auditing firms regarding the District's 2004 audit and expects proposals prior to the April 13, 2005, regular board meeting.
8. Kenny Holum and Edwin Johnson arrived at 8:55 a.m.
9. Monthly Billings. A **motion** was made by Manager Wright and seconded by Manager Spaeth to approve the February 9, 2005 bills, including ½ cost share to the Red River Watershed Management Board in the amount of \$4,770.06. **Carried.** A listing of the billings is attached at the end of these minutes.
10. Managers Special Interest. Manager Wagner questioned Attorney Hanson about the possibility of the District being held responsible for attorney fees for the Carlson/Jacobson related to their request for information. Wagner stated that it is his understanding if Jacobson decided to proceed into the court system, and if it was determined that the District had not been providing the information in a timely manner required under the Data Practices Act, this could be possible. Hanson stated that this could happen if it is determined that the District has been withholding the information requested.

Wagner also asked about the Janis Jensen request for the total costs of the farm ring dikes and acquisitions, stating that Jensen felt she was not being given the information in a timely manner. Administrator Bennett stated that related to the Jensen request the District is complying with the Data Practices Act policy as set forth by the Board of Managers. The District requested clarification on the data request, which requested information that would need to be compiled and was not readily available in the format being requested. The District also offered to have Marcussen meet with Jensen to review the files and a meeting was scheduled and later canceled by Jensen. Jensen has not provided a date when she would be available to reschedule the meeting with Marcussen. Wagner felt the District needs to be following its Data Practices Act policy to make sure of legal compliance. Related to the accusations that Jacobson had not received all of the information he had requested Attorney Hanson felt it would be proper to contact Attorney Van Korf to make an inquiry with Jay Carlson, Jacobson's attorney, about the accusation and to indicate that the District intends to comply with their request and if they feel not all of the information has been provided that they have requested they should notify the District. Manager Ista stated that when constituents and/or anyone ask for information, it should be made available to them as quickly as possible. Ista also stated that she would like a copy of all of the District's policies that the Board is working under. Attorney Hanson stated that maybe the District policies should be revisited by the Board to make sure that it is streamlined in accordance with the Government Data Practices Act. Chairman Seykora questioned what the CCWRWD want the information for. Attorney Hanson stated that the District does not need to know what it is for, that is not pertinent. A **motion** was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Wagner authorizing staff to prepare a handbook for the Watershed District, which will contain all policies under which the Board of Managers is functioning. **Carried.** Consensus of Managers was for Attorney Hanson to contact Attorney Von Korf to correspond with Jay Carlson to make sure they have obtained all of the information they have requested under the Data Practice Act Policy. Hanson also agreed to contact the MN Board of Water and Soil Districts (BWSR) and a couple of other districts regarding their policies related to the Data Practices Act.

11. Terry Guttormson arrived at 10:00 a.m.

12. Project No. 9 – South Branch Repairs. Engineer Bents reviewed comments received from BWSR Engineer Allan Kean on the repair project in Sections 31-35 of Winchester Township. Kean suggested that because the South Branch has substantial erosion and sedimentation occurring, it is recommended that utilizing alternative channel cross sections could help reduce long-term maintenance costs. Ideally, this would be done in conjunction with other measures upstream that reduce runoff, peak flows and erosion. Kean also recommended consideration of a meandered low flow channel within a larger trapezoidal channel, which presumably the bottom elevation of the high flow channel would be higher than the current design bottom grade, wider and with somewhat steeper side slopes to maintain high flow capacity. Kean also recommended setback levee spoil banks on the project. Engineer Bents stated that the District is currently working under a repair petition and the proposed changes by Kean would be beyond normal repair. Manager Wagner felt that as soon as a larger rain event happens the ditch bottom would fill back to where it is at the current time. Bents stated that this is an advisement document and there are a limited number of issues that can be addressed during a repair. The advisement by Kean can be addressed at the hearing, if the public has a concern. Consensus of the Board was to move forward with the repair as submitted in the repair report.

13. 2005 Flood Storage Evaluation. Engineer Bents gave a brief presentation on the 2005 Flood Storage Evaluation authorized by the Board of Managers on February 23, 2005, at which time Manager Wagner brought up the possibility of storing water along the west side of the beach ridge for possible water supply and flood storage. Wagner felt that a project along the beach ridge could provide the dual purpose of providing water to the City of Fargo and also flood storage for the District. Engineer Bents also provided a map of potential flood storage sites discussed at the meeting.

14. Heiberg Dam. Discussion was held about the land acquisition process and whether it is preferable for the District to have fee title ownership or an easement. Attorney Hanson stated that it is a good idea to get fee title ownership of the property and going through eminent domain would be a possibility, if necessary. Administrator Bennett questioned whether or not the District would already have property rights in the form of a permanent easement by the hearing process. To finalize the land acquisition on the project Attorney Hanson suggested that the District consider payments to the landowners for their property if it is felt that the project is going to proceed. A **motion** was made by Manager Skaurud and seconded by Manager Spaeth authorizing payment to the affected parties, using the values determined at the public hearing that utilized the appraisal by Les Trnka. **Carried.**

Engineer Bents reported that he is in the process of finalizing the grant details with the USFWS and the MN DNR, to determine the acceptability of the match. This should be resolved before the regular April meeting of the Board. The total amount of grant funding along with proposed project costs will be provided to FEMA for determining the balance of FEMA funds requested on the project. Bents also indicated that the plans and specs for the project will be finalized by April or May.

15. Skaurud Flood Storage. Administrator Bennett stated that Ryan Braulick, NRCS, is working to finalize flood storage easements on the Skaurud Flood Storage Project. One of the adjoining property owners has not agreed to sign an easement over concerns with the height of the flood pool. If the pool level has to be reduced it could affect the amount of storage that can be gained by the site. The SWCD has determined that by lowering the pool the storage could be reduced to around 100 acre-feet. A **motion** was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Skaurud authorizing Engineer Bents and staff to meet with Ryan Braulick and the property owner if requested to help work out a solution. **Carried.**

16. Attorney Zenas Baer arrived at 11:00 .m.

17. Wild Rice River COE Feasibility Study. Engineer Bents provided an update on the modeling results on the Wild Rice River Feasibility Study. Bents provided a map and the results for options two and four that include #1) setback levees and channel restoration; and #2) same as #1, with the addition of a minor diversion. Administrator Bennett asked if this included the existing condition modeling with the flow split to the Marsh River Diversion. Bents indicated that it does, however not the flow split that was originally built, rather existing at this time. Engineer Bents stated that he will be ready by the April meeting to review the remaining options currently being modeled. Perry Ellingson questioned the width of the setback levees. Bents estimated that they are between 2,000 and 2,500 feet wide with approximately 6,000 acres of land within the proposed areas. Administrator Bennett reported on the recent CREP coordination meeting that he attended in St. Paul to discuss the possibility of using CREP for land acquisition within the setback levees. Manager Ista noted that she attended the teleconference at the NRCS office with Randy Tufton and Ryan Braulick, both of whom felt there were a lot of questions that need to be resolved in utilizing CREP as part of project implementation.

Ista also requested a listing of the meeting attendees from the teleconference. It was discussed that further consideration will be needed to determine the utilization of CREP along with other incentives to help with any project implementation.

18. Edwin Bernhardson and A.C.A Heiraas arrived at 11:30 a.m.

19. South Branch Repairs. Edwin Johnson, Kenny Holum and Eddie Bernhardson met with Managers at 11:30 a.m. to present the Viewers' Reports on the repair in Sections 31-35 of Winchester Township and the SE ¼ of Section 8 of Hagen Township on Project No. 9, South Branch Wild Rice River.

Kenny Holum presented the Viewers' Report on the Winchester site. Holum stated that they held discussion with landowners to obtain values for cash rent in the area for the purpose of determining the damages for the temporary construction easement. Holum indicated that their determination on cash rent was in the area of \$80 per acre. The damages were calculated using the \$80 per acre rental rate for two years that was felt needed to get the cropland back to full production. Holum also stated that there are 2.11 acres of land in CRP. Randy Tufton, USDA, indicated that the CRP acres will need to be reseeded and the viewers have discussed the process and specification for bringing the CRP acres into compliance with the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Eddie Bernhardson stated that with CRP, the FSA is very specific on the details for restoration, including the specific times of reseeding. Engineer Bents stated that the bidding documents will include the construction requirements for the timelines in spreading spoil and the proper coordination needed to assist the property owner in bringing the area back into compliance with the FSA. Holum stated that the viewers contacted local contractors on the cost for reseeding the CRP to use as a comparison for determining the damages rate of \$162 per acre on the CRP acres. A **motion** was made by Manager Wagner and seconded by Manager Skaurud to adopt the Viewers' Report for Sections 31-34 of Winchester Township, Norman County. **Carried.** Manager Wright abstained.

Eddie Bernhardson presented the Viewers' Report for the Bank Stabilization Project located in the SE ¼ of Section 8 of Hagen Township. The rate determined for permanent easement on the 1.1 acres of tillable land was established at \$1,250 and \$1,000 for the 5.9 acres of non-tillable. The rate for the temporary easement was established at \$80 per acre per year for a two-year period. Attorney Baer asked how the viewers determined the location of the acres on the Heiraas property. Bernhardson stated that they were provided with plat maps prepared by engineering that show the acres needed for the project on an aerial photo as a background. A **motion** was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Wagner to adopt the Viewers' Report for the SE ¼ of Section 8, Hagen Township. **Carried.** Manager Wright abstained.

20. A **motion** was made by Manager Skaurud and seconded by Manager Dalen setting the hearing date and time for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday April 26, 2005, at the Felton Community Center. **Carried.** Manager Wright abstained.

21. A **motion** was made by Manager Skaurud and seconded by Manager Wagner to send letters to property owners within the construction area of both repair projects, to include a reply request, if they would prefer to have the right of way staked prior to spring planting. **Carried.** Manager Wright abstained.

22. Terry Guttormson left the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

23. Manager Wagner, Perry Ellingson, A.C. Heiraas and Attorney Zenas Baer left the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

24. Mark Harless, Naomi Erickson and Dan Thule arrived at 1:00 p.m.

25. Wayne Goeken arrived at 1:15 p.m.

26. Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) Presentation. Naomi Erickson, Administrator of the RRWMB, gave a short presentation on the history and procedures for the RRWMB. Erickson stated that the basic areas of the RRWMB include the foundation, mission statement, objectives and policies, history since the inception in 1976, authority under the law, MN legislation as of 1976, the evolution to the present mediation agreement and funding procedures for projects and programs. Dan Thule, chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee, discussed the Red River Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, which originated in November of 2001, the five parts of the purpose statement which are flood damage reduction goals, natural resource goals, comprehensive watershed planning, project review and permitting and implementation and conflict resolution. Thule also explained the process for implementing projects and funding requests by member districts of the RRWMB. Thule and Erickson left the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

27. River Watch Program. Wayne Goeken gave a PowerPoint presentation on the River Watch Program and explained the value of the monitoring data assessment. Goeken stated that some of the area schools are involved in data monitoring which also provides a good opportunity for students. Goeken stated that other watershed districts are supporting schools with funding assistance for the monitoring. Goeken stated that the cost for equipment is approximately \$6,500 and substitute teachers and transportation approximately \$2,600 for a total of \$9,000. Goeken stated that he is requesting watershed district assistance in funding and site selection. Manager Ista felt that it is a good program, but noted that there may be grant funds available for river monitoring. Administrator Bennett stated that some time ago, monitoring equipment was purchased for the Watershed District in conjunction with the MPCA and felt that a follow-up should be done with MPCA to see if this equipment could be utilized by Goeken. Goeken left the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

28. Manager Dalen left the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

29. Mark Harless left the meeting at 3:00 p.m. and Chuck Hopwood arrived at 3:00 p.m.

30. MN Board of Water and Resources (BWSR) Challenge Grants. Engineer Bents provided information on a BWSR Challenge Grant application, which would be used for the purpose ditch mapping. Bents provided a breakdown of costs for the six tasks which are: Task 1, Review of historic Ditch Information \$6,236; Task 2, Create Ditch System GIS Layers, \$21,556; Task 3, Create hard copy maps, \$7,735; Task 4, Create 14 new benefited area maps; Task 5, Project Management and Administration and miscellaneous reimbursable expenses, \$500; for a total estimate of \$44,847. Administrator Bennett stated that the grant is a 50/50 match with the watershed district contributing \$22,424. Also discussed was the grant application to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) funding to be used for the Soil and Water Conservation Flood Storage sites. Bennett questioned Managers if they wanted to move forward with the applications. A **motion** was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Skaurud authorizing JB Associates and Houston Engineering to proceed with submitting the grant applications. **Carried.**

31. Grass Buffer Strip Restoration. Attorney Hanson provided a draft letter for review related to the grass buffer strip restoration on the watershed district ditch systems. Hanson asked if the Managers wanted to send the letter to all landowners who are adjacent to the ditch or just those properties that are not in compliance. Manager Wright felt that everyone on the ditch system should be aware that they are not to encroach on the right of way and only violators should receive the notification. Engineer Bents felt the notification to all landowners adjacent to the ditch was a good idea. A **motion** was made by Manager Skaurud and seconded by Manager Wright to send the draft letter prepared by Attorney Hanson to all landowners adjacent to the buffer strip with notice that the District will be staking and restoring the encroached areas. **Carried.**

32. Brian Borgen arrived at 3:30 p.m.

33. Clay County Ditch #14. Chairman Seykora reported that he will contact the remaining landowner(s) for a signed easement on Clay County Ditch #14, within the next week. Consensus of Managers was to set the information meeting date for Clay County Ditch #14 at the April board meeting pending finalizing the land rights for the ditch work.

34. Brian Borgen Petitions. Attorney Hanson reported on the three requests submitted by Brian Borgen. Regarding the request to establish the elevation of the levees on both the north and south banks of the Wild Rice River to an equal elevation it was Hanson's determination that this work would not constitute a repair and to pursue this, Borgen would need to petition for an improvement to the project. There are basically no specific elevations set for the original project. Engineer Bents stated that there is no record or indication that the north or south side should be equal and there are no controlling elevations determined. Hanson also stated that another option might be to pursue the intended repairs as part of a permit. Regarding Borgen's request to restore the original flow split on the Wild Rice River east of Ada to the Marsh River, Hanson stated that he wants to continue his research for additional information contained in the COE Section 205 Diversion Study on the Marsh River. Related to the Borgen petition to restore the township road Hanson indicated that the road is not part of the Upper Reaches project and this work could not be done as a repair on the Upper Reaches project. Borgen could check with the county and township to determine what help they may provide in restoring the road washout.

35. Dennis Heitman and Bruce Tufte arrived at 4:00 p.m.

36. Upper Reaches Emergency Operations. A **motion** was made by Manager Skaurud and seconded by Manager Spaeth providing authority by the District to engage Houston Engineering to assist with emergency operations related to the Upper Reaches Project during flood events including emergency repairs if determined necessary by engineering. **Carried.**

37. Project No. 31 Landowner Outlet Improvements. Dennis Heitman gave a presentation on a proposed project to include trapped culverts at the outlet to Project No. 3. Heitman stated that landowners in the area are willing to pay for the cost of the pipe culverts, concrete, earthwork. Heitman stated that they would like to design the project to provide for a two to five year level of protection. Attorney Hanson raised the question of whether the proposed project should be considered as a permit application, or an improvement to the existing project. Chuck Hopwood questioned if the proposed work would require a DNR permit to work in the waterway and was told that it is. Engineer Bents stated that it would be necessary to also know what the impacts are going to be from the proposed project. Attorney Hanson stated that the next step in the process might be to provide engineering information and data to the board.

Engineer Bents stated that the correct way to proceed may be to petition for an improvement, which would become a part of Project #31 and then would be maintained as part of the project. Proceeding as a permit application, the landowners would then need to pay the costs for the engineering information. Heitman requested a checklist for landowners to follow for both the permit process and also for the petition process. A **motion** was made by Manager Skaurud and seconded by Manager Spaeth authorizing Engineer Bents and Attorney Hanson to provide the information needed to process a permit application along with the steps in the petition process. **Carried.**

38. Dennis Heitman and Bruce Tufte left the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

39. Juel and Bjorn Furuseth arrived at 4:15 p.m.

40. Project No. 29 Winter Maintenance Contract. A **motion** was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Wright authorizing an amendment to the contract with Gordon Construction for winter maintenance on Project #29 to include special permit costs related to moving construction equipment during road restrictions. **Carried.**

41. Upper Reaches Repair. Chairman Seykora reported that the costs for hiring Sentence to Serve individuals for clean up work on the Upper Reaches Project, is \$100 per day for six men including a corrections officer. The District is not responsible for liability on the workers. A **motion** was made by Manager Wright and seconded by Manager Ista authorizing staff to submit an application for Sentence to Serve work for tree cutting and removing fences. **Carried.**

42. Brian Borgen left the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

43. Heiberg Dam. Juel and Bjorn Furuseth met with Managers to discuss a request to modify the Heiberg Dam repair project for the purpose of installing an approximate four-foot pipe with a flume turbine and/or generator to generate electricity. Manager Ista felt that it may be important for Furuseths to contact the Mn DNR for approval prior to the Board making any decisions, because a permit by the DNR would be necessary. Attorney Hanson informed Furuseths that the process for moving forward with the Heiberg Dam repair is well in place, funding is ready and the District needs to move forward soon to construction. Hanson questioned the costs to Furuseths for the proposed pipe. Juel Furuseth stated that the initial cost of the pipe is approximately \$8,000 and indicated that this would be a one-time application and is far superior to other conventional turbine applications. Hanson also questioned Furuseths if they were prepared to pay the costs of the installation of the pipe, which could get to be quite costly. Juel replied that they are considering applying to various agencies for money to use for the cost of the pipe and then hoped to use funding from the sale of the electricity to pay for the installation of the pipe. Manager Ista stated that even if Furuseths applied for a permit from the District, the additional condition on the permit would be for approval from the Mn DNR and other appropriate agencies. Manager Skaurud also stated that the District needs to move ahead with the project due to grant deadlines. Attorney Hanson told Furuseths that the timing aspect of this is very important and even though the permit from the Watershed District may be the first step, it is prudent that they contact the DNR first to see if they would permit the project. Juel Furuseth asked what their next step could be if the DNR does not give them a permit. Attorney Hanson and Manager Ista both indicated that there is nothing that the Watershed District can do without approval from the DNR. Furuseths indicated that they would be contacting the DNR about the permit requirements. Furuseths left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

44. Meetings/Conferences/Seminars. A **motion** was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Wright authorizing Managers and staff attendance at the RRWMB Seventh Annual Joint Conference March 31, 2005, at the Northland Inn, Crookston. **Carried.**

45. A **motion** was made by Manager Spaeth and seconded by Manager Wright authorizing Managers and staff attendance at the MN Association of Drainage Inspectors, March 21, 2005, at Willmar. **Carried.**

46. A **motion** was made by Manager Skaurud and seconded by Manager Spaeth authorizing Managers and staff attendance at the CREP Joint Training, March 30, 2005, at the USDA Service Center, Ada. **Carried.**

47. Manager Skaurud left the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

48. Managers Special Interest Items. Manager Ista questioned Attorney Hanson about the status of the correspondence with the Department of Administration regarding the open meeting law requirements as it pertains to independent contractors. Hanson stated that he has requested an opinion along with providing copies of the independent contract agreements for them to review. Manager Ista asked if Manager Dalen's request regarding closed meetings, was specifically relative to Engineer Bents. Consensus of Managers was that it was.

#### PERMIT APPLICATIONS

49. American Crystal Sugar, Section 30, Mary Township. Upon a **motion** by Manager Wright and second by Manager Spaeth, Permit Application No. 3-9-05-1, of American Crystal Sugar to move a crossing in Section 30 of Mary Township, was approved. **Carried.**

50. Jerry Chisholm, Section 13, Green Meadow Township. Upon a **motion** by Manager Spaeth and second by Manager Wright, Permit Application No. 3-9-05-2 of Jerry Chisholm to install a field crossing in Section 13 of Green Meadow Township was approved. **Carried.**

51. City of Mahnommen, Section 2, Pembina Township, Mahnommen County. Upon a **motion** by Manager Wright and second by Manager Spaeth the renewal of Permit Application No. 3-9-05-3, of the City of Mahnommen to install storm sewer in Section 2, Pembina Township, Mahnommen County, was approved. **Carried.**

52. It was the consensus of the Board to cancel the Project Team meeting for March due to a conflict with the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Legislative Breakfast in St. Paul.

53. Wiger Tree Harvest, Section 16, Wild Rice Township. Administrator Bennett stated that Wigers contacted the Watershed District about harvesting trees on their property adjacent to District property in Section 16 of Wild Rice Township. Bennett asked Managers if they were comfortable in using the plat map submitted as means for establishing the property line and also if the District wants any trees on District property considered for harvesting. A **motion** was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Spaeth to have Manager Wagner to do an on site investigation to determine if there is any value in considering harvesting trees on the District's property that could be sold for income and to check out the property line between Wigers and the District. **Carried.**

54. Norman County Request for FEMA Funds, Winchester Township. Administrator Bennett reported that Norman County Engineer Mick Alm submitted a request for additional FEMA funding in the amount of \$108,000 to reimburse the County for the bridge replacement in Winchester Township. The request has been submitted to FEMA for consideration.

55. Chairman Seykora recessed the meeting at 5:30 p.m. to be reconvened at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 10, 2005, at the District office.

56. Chairman Seykora reconvened the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

57. The following members were present: Warren J. Seykora, Joe Spaeth, Steve Dalen, Diane Ista, Bob Wright and Jim Wagner Sr. The following members were absent: Jim Skaurud. In addition, the following persons were also present: Tim Halle, Mark Harless and Loretta Johnson, Recording Secretary.

58. Manager Dalen stated that he felt the topic of conversation today should be, "dreaming with logic and common sense." Manager Wagner commented that he read that FEMA spent approximately \$5 billion in restoring the valley following the flood of 1997. Wagner said that if the District could have \$1 billion for the purpose of flood control, a lot could be accomplished. Manager Dalen discussed pages 6-8 of the District's Overall Plan and felt that the Managers should be using this plan; Dalen also felt that the board has moved away from doing some of the strategies defined in the plan. When Naomi Erickson gave her presentation at the March 9, 2005, meeting, she discussed the fact that flood reduction is a goal of the Red River Watershed Management Board. Dalen felt that the Managers should work together on preparing a flood control package, to which both Managers Wagner and Ista agreed.

59. Manager Wagner stated that he felt the plight of the Red River Valley as a result of the severe flooding and economic losses has never been exposed and doesn't think the case has been presented to the whole United States. Wagner also talked about the psychological damages to individuals as a result of the agony and turmoil caused from the losses incurred by flooding. Wagner felt that it would be good to present this type of plight to the television for the public to be made aware of and to see.

60. Manager Ista commented that she felt the entire Board is on the same page and support the same aspects regarding diversion, set back levees, and South Branch storage but felt that the board is not all together when they talk about storage and retention. Ista felt that Board members have an obligation to be the voice to friends and neighbors in their area regarding the direction of the Board. Manager Dalen stated that storage is a part of the District's Overall Plan but felt that the Board has moved away from this.

61. Chairman Seykora stated that if you look at logic and common sense that is where the District is now, when looking at South Branch Storage and other flood damage reduction. Seykora felt that the Board does have support for what they are doing if it is feasible. Manager Ista felt that the Board needs to focus and go forward to the DNR and other agencies with feasible storage that will make a difference downstream. Manager Wagner stated that to obtain flood control measures, we need the support of the people in the entire Red River Valley.

Manager Ista said there is a need to call a meeting with Representative Paul Marquart, Representative Morrie Lanning, Red River Watershed Management Board members and Red River Basin Board representatives, Buffalo Red River Watershed Management Board and the mayors of Fargo and Moorhead to develop a coalition for support in the entire valley for flood control. Dalen stated that the Board needs to develop a flood control package that can be provided to influential legislators to seek funding assistance in the event of another severe flood.

62. Manager Wright stated that he supports on channel storage, however at the present time the Technical Advisory Committee for the Red River Watershed Management Board is working on new storage guidelines and when these are made available, we may want to change our storage sites. Manager Spaeth stated that the Board should never give up in working for on-stream storage, because it may be possible at some future time that the DNR would change their position on storage and it would be important to have the information. Spaeth also talked about the large dams that are built in areas of the western states. Spaeth said that he doesn't think the board has ever been against main stem storage, but rather looking at those projects that can be permitted when looking at flood damage reduction projects. Manager Dalen said that the District needs to have a flood control package and a strategy with all seven board members working together to succeed in obtaining flood damage reduction. Dalen said when you see the size of the Watershed District, how can we be wrong with working on a total package that encompasses the entire District.

63. Manager Wagner stated that the environmental stumbling blocks that the District needs to overcome have been put into place for a good reason; a lot of previous damage was done to the environment before any restrictions were put in place and now these stumbling blocks are there to protect the environment, which was not protected before.

64. Manager Wagner stated that it appears logical to him that large off channel storage would not work, but he stated that he does not want to do something that isn't right; whatever he decides today, he still wants to be the right decision 100 years from now. Manager Ista stated that the Board needs to use its best knowledge and available information before making any decisions. Manager Wagner stated that we don't want to do something without remembering that we need to think long term.

65. Managers continued discussing a possible flood control package that could be put together for the purpose of presenting to legislators in seeking federal and state funding for the flood damage reduction projects.

66. Manager Wagner reviewed a map with the project he earlier proposed, which would be located along the beach ridge beginning with McDonaldsville and Lake Ida Townships in the north; south through Winchester, Rockwell, Felton and Hagen. Wagner stated that he felt there is a possibility of storing water on the west side of the beach ridge, which could also be used as a potential water supply for the Cities of Fargo/Moorhead. Wagner stated that the south end of the project is ten feet higher in elevation than Fargo/Moorhead and also felt that landowners should be able to receive royalty from water sold. Wagner also stated that the first five feet of storage would be billions of gallons and at elevation 915-920 would hold approximately 7 billion gallons of water.

67. Dalen felt that this would be a good project but the District should do something district wide in addition to this. Manager Wright felt that working on a package is a good idea but thought maybe the added cost of mitigation should be available before choosing the entire package. In relation to the Beach Ridge Project, if Engineer Bents felt that it could work, there may be very little mitigation needed.

68. Manager Ista stated that she felt the Watershed District board should plan a meeting with the Red River Basin Board. Dalen agreed but felt that property owners need to be in support of this so that politicians can be encouraged to work together on choosing a flood damage reduction package for the entire District. Dalen felt that the next flood storage meeting should include choosing the project package. Wagner suggested also discussing obstacles at that meeting to remain realistic. Manager Wright felt it would be preferable to have more facts about the Beach Ridge Project before choosing the projects for a package. Manager Wagner stated that even with the large Beach Ridge Project, the District should never stop looking for additional flood storage projects.

69. Manager Dalen stated that if he were a federal legislator seeking funding and voting support from other legislators, a package including several projects would be preferable to one large project such as the entire Beach Ridge Project. Manager Ista stated that she thinks a federal legislator might prefer a project common to the Beach Ridge Project, which would solve sediment problems, flooding and water supply for the Fargo/Moorhead area. Dalen suggested working on a flood control package at the next flood storage meeting.

70. Attached at the end of these minutes is a chart entitled "Dreaming with Logic & Common Sense" which provides an overview of the discussion and concept from this meeting.

71. A **motion** was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Dalen to schedule a special flood storage meeting for 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 17, 2005, at the District office. **Carried.**

72. Public Information Contract. A **motion** was made by Manager Ista and seconded by Manager Wagner authorizing Tim Halle and Jim Birkemeyer to continue the radio and newspaper media information and staff to work with Nan Bischoff, COE, for the purpose of including these media contracts in the COE WRRFS for cost share funding. **Carried.**

73. Chairman Seykora adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Skaurud, Secretary

# Wild Rice Watershed District

## Account Detail

March 1 - 30, 2005

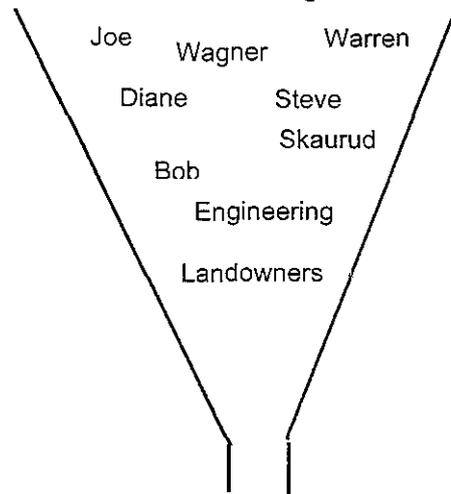
Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
Checking-RAB				
03/03/2005	8708	Becker County SWCD	Envirothon	(100.00)
03/03/2005	8709	Mahnomen County SWCD	Envirothon	(100.00)
03/03/2005	8710	Michael & Brenda Burke	J.D. #51 Easement Repairs	(1,844.88)
03/03/2005	8707	MN Viewers Asc.	Viewers Asc.	(125.00)
03/03/2005	8711	Ruth Goltz	Easement J.D. #51 Repair	(950.64)
03/09/2005	8714	AmeriPride	Cleaning Services	(28.08)
03/09/2005	8715	Auto Value/Radio Shack	Batteries	(9.14)
03/09/2005	8716	City of Ada	Utilities	(196.84)
03/09/2005	8717	Clay County Auditor	Labels	(29.40)
03/09/2005	8718	Clearwater SWCD	Flood Retention Grant Program	(6,000.00)
03/09/2005	8719	Diane Ista	Per Diem and Expense	(197.30)
03/09/2005	8720	Eddie Bernhardson	Viewers	(494.17)
03/09/2005	8721	Edwin M. Johnson	Viewers Costs	(396.31)
03/09/2005	8722	Houston Engineering, Inc.	Engineering Fees	(29,082.66)
03/09/2005	8723	ICS Agency		(10,292.00)
03/09/2005	8724	James Wagner, Sr.	PER Diem\Expense Reimb	(273.02)
03/09/2005	8725	JB Associates, Ltd., Inc.	Administrative Fees	(14,502.91)
03/09/2005	8726	Jim Skaurud	Per Diem and Expenses	(238.79)
03/09/2005	8727	Joe Spaeth	Per Diem and Expense	(187.57)
03/09/2005	8728	Kenneth Holum	Viewers Per Diem/Exp	(492.06)
03/09/2005	8729	KRJB Radio	Water Wise Spots	(560.00)
03/09/2005	8730	Loretel Systems	Office Phone	(406.28)
03/09/2005	8731	Mahnomen Pioneer	4 Waterwise	(100.00)
03/09/2005	8732	Marcussen Accounting	Bookkeeping/Mtg Attendance	(420.00)
03/09/2005	8733	Mudpumper Mudjacking	Olson Agassiz	(1,325.00)
03/09/2005	8734	Norman County Auditor/Treasurer	Landowner Listing	(10.65)
03/09/2005	8735	Norman County Index	Press Release/Water Wise/Office Supplies	(965.28)
03/09/2005	8736	Norman County SWCD	Develop Mailing List	(459.00)
03/09/2005	8737	Office Supplies Plus	Office Supplies	(40.97)
03/09/2005	8738	PERA	03/01-03/09	(204.65)
03/09/2005	8739	Red River Watershed Management Board	1/2 cost share	(4,770.06)
03/09/2005	8740	Rinke Noonan	Legal Fees/Jay Carlson/Jacobson	(805.00)
03/09/2005	8741	Robert E. Wright	Per Diem and Expenses	(192.56)
03/09/2005	8742	Rural American Bank	FICA Withholding, Managers\Wtrshed	(400.88)
03/09/2005	8743	Steichen Excavating	Install Texas Crossing	(276.25)
03/09/2005	8744	Steve Dalen	Per Diem and Expenses	(269.71)
03/09/2005	8745	The Shopper	Water Wise	(24.60)
03/09/2005	8746	Tim Halle	Press Release/Annual Report	(562.00)
03/09/2005	8747	Twn Valley Times	Water Wise	(94.60)
03/09/2005	8748	US Postal Service	Envelopes	(210.85)
03/09/2005	8749	Visser Trenching	Snow Removal	(105.00)
03/09/2005	8750	Wambach & Hanson	Legal Fees	(3,908.10)
03/09/2005	8751	Warren J. Seykora	Per Diem & Expenses	(1,126.00)
03/09/2005	8614	ARC Lanes	Noon Lunch	(42.00)
03/16/2005	8752	Juel & Bjorn Furuseth	Heiberg Dam-Land	(1,000.00)
03/16/2005	8753	Phillip Ellingworth	Heiberg Dam-Land	(750.00)
03/23/2005	8755	Aquila	Utilities	(91.93)
03/23/2005	8754	G R Graphics-Supplies	Staples, Copy Maching	(87.70)
03/23/2005	8754	G R Graphics-Maintenance	Copier agreement/scanner agreement	(392.52)
Total Checking-RAB				(85,142.36)

# DREAMING WITH LOGIC & COMMON SENSE

## Advantages of Us as Managers

- 1 Huge \$ Loss  
\$5B 1997
- 2 Systems Approach Plan
- 3 Environmental Damage
- 4 Personal Damages
- 5 Red Board Support
- 6 Nation Wide Political Support
- 7 Long Term Success

## Problem Plunger

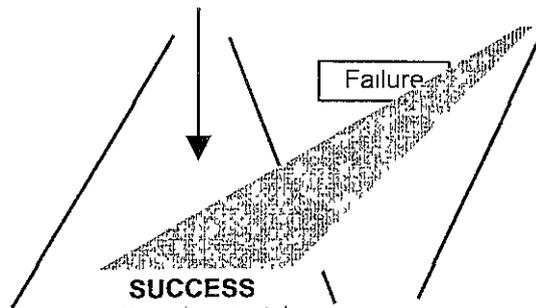


RED RIVER BASIN SUPPORT

ADMINISTRATION

## Board Roles

- 1 Pursue FDR in best interests of the District
- 2 Gain National Attention



## Possible Pkg Proj.

- 1 On Channel
- 2 Large Off Channel
- 3 Setback Levees
- 4 Small Off Channel Sites

## Short Term 2-100 yrs

- 1 Moccasin
- 2 Sec. 26 Ida
- 3 Harless
- 4 Wright
- 5 RRWS
- 6 Twin Valley
- 7 Faith
- 8 Hagen
- 9 S. Br. On Channel
- 10 Set backs

## Obstacles

## Intermediate 15-25 yrs

- 1 South Branch On Stream
- 2 Set Backs

## Keys to Success

- 1 Direction
- 2 How do we get there
- 3 Roles

LOOKING AT!!!!

VS

PURSuing



