

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Managers Minutes
July 23, 2026

President, Gene Tiedemann, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District Office, Thief River Falls, MN.

Managers Present: Gene Tiedemann, Tom Anderson, Terry Sorenson, Grant Nelson, Al Page, and Brian Dwight. Managers Absent: LeRoy Ose. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Elaine Rychlock, Tony Olson, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby attended virtually.

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Dwight, and passed by a unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the July 9, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the July 9, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

RLWD Permit No. 26055 in Lambert Township, Section 35, Red Lake County, was discussed. This permit was originally approved at the June 25, 2026, RLWD Board meeting. The landowner is requesting to change the scope of work. After discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Nelson, to amend RLWD permit no. 26055. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report as of July 22, 2026. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Financial Report as of July 22, 2026. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette and staff member Elaine Rychlock reviewed the 2026 General Fund as of June 30, 2026.

The Board reviewed Change Order No. 5 for Chief's Coulee, RLWD Project No. 46S for a net increase in the amount of \$9,412.00. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve Change Order No. 5 in the amount of \$9,412.00 to Anderson Excavating. Motion carried.

The final payment hearing for Anderson Excavating for the Chief's Coulee Project, RLWD Project No. 46S, was called to order at 9:15 a.m. Engineer, Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., stated that Anderson Excavating has completed all construction in the final amount of \$61,541.45. After opening the hearing for public comment and no public comment being received, President Gene Tiedemann closed the hearing. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Nelson, to approve the Final Pay Estimate to Anderson Excavating in the amount of \$61,541.45 for the Chief's Coulee Project, RLWD Project No. 46S. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette presented a letter received from Polk County resident, Bruce Enright. The letter is a request for review of benefits assigned to his property in relation to the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179. Administrator Audette stated that the Viewers reviewed the area and determined that the benefitted rate for Mr. Enright's property should be reduced from \$325 per acre to \$52 per acre, with a benefitted amount decrease of \$9,140.04;

with a total project adjusted benefitted amount of \$3,937,374.30. After much discussion, a motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Sorenson, to accept the viewers' recommendation and to amend and update the Viewers' Report with the discussed recommendations. Motion carried.

The proposed 2027 Budget and Salary recommendations and General Fund Budget were presented by Administrator Audette. Audette noted that the Budget and Salary committee met twice prior to today's meeting to develop the budget. Audette presented a worksheet of descriptions of what expense is included in each line item of the budget. The proposed salaries are based on employee steps, along with the 4.0% COLA for each employee. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Nelson, to approve the proposed 2027 General Fund Budget, in the amount of \$317,700 and set the 2027 General Fund Budget hearing for 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 27, 2026, at the Red Lake Watershed District office. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the proposed purchase of a new UTV. After much discussion, motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, authorizing Administrator Audette, in consultation with the Budget/Salary Committee, to pursue the possibility of purchasing, a good used, low mileage UTV. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the purchase of a new vehicle for 2026. Staff member Erick Huseth obtained truck quotes from the following area dealerships: Thibert Chevrolet, Neighbors Ford TRF, Christian Bros Ford, and Westside Motors. A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Nelson, to approve purchase of a 2026 F150 Super Crew STX 145 from Neighbors Ford in Thief River Falls with a purchase price of \$35,050. Motion carried. Neighbors Ford is giving us \$14,000 for trade of our 2019 Chevy Silverado.

Rob Sip, RRWMB, was present in person and staff from Park Street Public were present virtually via Zoom to provide a legislative update.

Sip reviewed the 2027 RRWMB Budget/Levy.

Sip discussed the upcoming RRWMB 50th Anniversary Celebration that will be held August 25-26 in Detroit Lakes, MN.

The Board reviewed the following permits for approval. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 26058, Richard Schmitz, Louisville Township, Red Lake County; No. 26060, DT Midstream, Sullivan Township, Polk County; No. 26066, Mitchell Stanley, Grand Plain Township, Marshall County; and No. 26068, David Dahlen, Star Township, Red Lake County.

Administrator discussed purchasing apparel and accessory items that include our new logo. Discussion was held on how much clothing allowance for each staff/Board member. It was decided to bring sample items with costs to the next Board meeting on August 13.

Administrator's Report:

- **Thief River Bank Stabilization Project:** A pre-construction meeting for the Thief River 1W1P Bank Stabilization Projects will be held on July 31, 2026 at the District office. -
- **Clearwater Riverbank Stabilization Project** - A pre-construction meeting for the Clearwater River 1W1P Bank Stabilization Project will be held on August 4, 2026, at the District office.
- **RLWD Bus Tour** – District staff have scheduled a Board tour of the Moose River/Grygla area for July 30th. The bus will leave the office at 9:00 a.m.
- **Mud River Hearing** – Administrator Audette, Dalager, and Jim Graham will attend the LSOHC hearing appointments the end of August. A set date and time has not be scheduled.
- **Turtle Connection Cross** – District staff are working on getting easements recorded with Polk County.
- **Goose Lake** – Audette and Manager Nelson will participate in a Goose Lake meeting with local landowners, MnDNR and local legislators.

Manager Dwight said he will be going to an upcoming Town Hall meeting with Steve Green in Beltrami County.

Motion by Dwight, seconded by Nelson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.



LeRoy Ose, Secretary