

NORTHEAST RED WATERSHED DISTRICT

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Board Meeting 2024-9

July 18, 2024

PRESENT Verner Johnson – Chairperson, Provincial Appointee
BOARD Marc Ross – Vice Chairperson
Russ Gawluk – Brokenhead River S.D.
Elwood Lamont – Lower Cooks Creek S.D.
Jonothon Roskos - Carrs Creek/Lower Seine S.D.
Greg Mandzuk – Catfish Creek /Gull Lake S.D.
Jack Kowalchuk – Devils Creek S.D.
Scott Spicer – Red River S.D.
Glen Fuhl – Lower Cooks Creek S.D.

STAFF Danica Racicot – Manager
Starr Harder – Administrator

GUESTS Colleen Cuvelier – Provincial Watershed Planner

REGRETS Roger Vaags – Carrs Creek/Lower Seine S.D.
Edgar Scheurer – Red River S.D.
Brian Chorney – Devil’s Creek S.D.
Dave Horbas – Catfish Creek /Gull Lake S.D.
Brad Ingles - Upper Cooks Creek S.D.

Call meeting to order at 9:02 am

Adoption of Agenda

Resolution No. 2024-39

BE IT RESOLVED the board approves the agenda with the addition of New Business f. final budget amendment and g. Infrastructure update approval. Correction to meeting number on Agenda to 2024-9.

Moved: Marc Ross

Seconded: Elwood Lamont

CARRIED

Adoption of the Minutes

Resolution No. 2024-40

BE IT RESOLVED the board approves meeting minutes from Northeast Red Watershed District (NRWD) Board Meeting June 20, 2024 and the Special Board Meeting June 27, 2024.

Moved: Jonothon Roskos

Seconded: Scott Spicer

CARRIED

FINANCES

Resolution 2024-41

BE IT RESOLVED the board approves the Income Statement and Expenses to June 30, 2024 reconciled. Expenses listed for month in the amount of \$ 36,679.01.

Moved by: Marc Ross

Seconded by: Jack Kowalchuk

CARRIED

Determine interest rate on chequing account, may need to move funds beginning of month to get full interest for a month, need to check type of account. Explore options for transferring funds.
Review of the YTD 2024-25 budget produced by manager.

REPORTS

Provincial Update by Colleen Cuvelier, audit received, mileage as of April \$0.46 per km.

Policy review and 2 committee appointments available, full report provided.

Colleen will confirm whether tenders are required for culvert purchases when Watershed Districts typically only purchase from one source provider AMM.

Manitoba Association of Watersheds (MAW) Update, Marc Ross

Reminder of August tour of Redboine upcoming, convention December 2-4, 2024 in Brandon.

Russ mentioned Seine Rat Roseau 13 13A tour upcoming August 8th.

Manager Report attached

Verner asking about applications, what are some good examples of acceptable projects.

Danica spent a day with Joey to learn about eligible projects. New Springfield drainage policy mentions riparian area 25 ft buffer off every ditch. Look into whether or not a buffer is payable along a municipal ditch because riparian has to be along a Creek only. Jack concerned about residential growth along Devils creek, desire establishment of a mandated riparian area but it would be provincial or federal jurisdiction. Development has requirements but more difficult to control choices on existing land. Marc requested a presentation from Lynda Nicol at future meeting on programming in Watershed Districts.

Administrator Report

Audit completed, signed and mailed on Thursday, July 11th. Signed copies will be sent by email or printed by request.

Participated in Wetland project at the RM of Springfield office and attended Red River Basin North chapter meeting.

Remuneration for board members up to June 20th meeting prepared.

Sub-District Committee Chair Updates

Carrs Creek/Lower Seine – Jonothon Roskos, nothing to report

Upper Cooks Creek – Marc Ross, beaver problems between 47N and 302, 47E North.

Supposed to be starting at 45 E, haven't heard anything. Beaver problems between 47E and 302, trapping required.

Lower Cooks Creek –Elwood Lamont
Swede drain cleanout mostly done.

Brokenhead River- Russ Gawluk

Initiative to extend Watershed boundary is underway - Lynda Nicol came out to visit and they shared the RM map to explain issues, desire to include agricultural producers. Have a developer that wants to create a 1/4 acre retention, wants to encourage farmers with riparian setback and nitrogen management.

Lynda anticipates getting a letter of support from the Chairman, and planning a meeting including Province, MAW, AMM and their RM. Should be able to include members in programming before the border officially changes. Meeting in October with officials, and in November with farming community to share options and success stories. Promote nitrogen management and setbacks and other opportunities.

Danica to provide Russ with location of water sampling occurring on Brokenhead River as part of Lake Winnipeg Community Based Monitoring Network.

Catfish Creek/ Gull Lake - Greg Mandzuk

Subcommittee meeting next Tuesday 9am at the RM, with ag producers meeting to follow at 10am. NRWD will provide an electronic presentation, promote our programs to the Ag community. Expect a dozen producers.

Devils Creek - Jack Kowalchuk

Trying to arrange meeting still.

Met with MB Hwys about Tyndall road access point, some concerns about residential growth. Might require planning in the future. Residential growth along Devils' creek a concern.

Red River – Scott Spicer

St Clements open house attendance challenge for NRWD staff due to schedule conflict with Redboine tour. RM staff to assist District in setting up informational booth and handing out programming information on August 15, 2024.

OLD BUSINESS

Spruce Road Water and Waste Line NRWD Drain Permission Update.

RM of Springfield confirmed that the RM will return the state of the drain to its current state or leave in better condition following installation of line. Pre-construction survey will be done to establish baseline. Should maintenance be required, RM of Springfield will notify NRWD to coordinate. RM will assume all liabilities towards NRWD drain segments during construction and will draft an agreement outlining all conditions mentioned for signing prior to works starting in 2025. Wait for resolution after we receive agreement.

NEW BUSINESS

Human Resource Committee Update

Manager evaluation complete, recommendation to file her signed evaluation.

Resolution 2024-42

Whereas the Board of the Northeast Red Watershed District instructed the HR Committee has completed the evaluation; **be it resolved** the board accept and approve the recommendation of the HR committee.

Moved: Russ Gawluk

Seconded: Marc Ross

CARRIED

Three issues before HR committee include;

1. Program Coordinator hire
2. Giving and getting input from staff, a report from HR committee with things brought up by staff, what is being addressed and what needs more work.
3. May need a policy change about both administrator and manager reporting to the board. As well as wage scales, related to contract.

Suggest short HR committee meeting after this meeting Some HR discussions may go IN CAMERA at time of the report.

Conservation Programming

Shared IWMP program targets, took each type of program and the number of IWMP goals they addressed. The most predominant target in IWMP is riparian management, i.e. livestock fencing, stream crossing, alternative watering systems and re-establishing vegetation. Water retention was considerably lower on the list when compared against IWMP goals.

Jack Kowalchuk departs at 10:57

Review of all Northeast Red Watershed District proposed programs and respective funding caps. Once updated Danica plans to add applications to the website.

Scott asked about charges for administration, MHC GROW funding and PWCP funding to cover salaries.

Livestock crossings, riparian fencing and alternative water systems can be done on one form, with fencing required to be done first to access crossings and alternative watering systems.

Abandoned well sealing, discussion about the regulations around sealing and Colleen mentioned a three-part form proving the well was sealed correctly. We should call Friesen Drillers, Perimeter or Kayanski to find out what the process is to be government compliant. Let them know we would like to list them on our application forms as options for landowners to contact, approved certified well sealer. Government online site say only drilling contractors licensed can fill an abandoned well.

Reimbursement dependent upon receipt of required documentation and receipts.

Shelterbelt limit increased to \$3000, and added a \$100 application fee for shelterbelts.

Horizon lab may have a subsidy program right now, look into private well testing. Determine if landowner to pay while we do the drop off and pick up. Revisit water testing cost, budget allocation.

Next board meeting we can review the buffer strip and water testing program limits.

Resolution 2024-43

BE IT RESOLVED the board approves the programs as reviewed excluding drinking water and buffer strips.

Moved: Marc Ross

Seconded: Scott Spicer

CARRIED

Revisit Manager Discretionary Policy 2.9

Resolution 2024-44

BE IT RESOLVED the board approves the revision of Manager Discretionary Policy 2.9 to As a guideline \$10,000 of the project budget shall be subject to the managers discretion. Included in this general discretion are activities such as but not limited to;

Moved: Russ Gawluk

Seconded: Greg Mandzuk

CARRIED

Building Committee Establishment

Creating a plan going forward to determine future of building and evaluate necessary repairs. Starting point likely to get a new house inspection. We will have the septic tank dealt with imminently.

Resolution 2024-45

BE IT RESOLVED the board agrees to the creation of a building committee and appoints the following people to the building committee.

1. Russ Gawluk
2. Jonothon Roskos
3. Greg Mandzuk
4. Starr Harder and or Danica Racicot

Moved: Scott Spicer

Seconded: Marc Ross

CARRIED

Reserve Account Update

Marc says Ste Genevieve should be finished, did the money get moved when they did the crossing. The project is complete.

Manitoba Hydro was from the ground wire that went across Cooks Creek Diversion, bipole 3. We were paid as land owner, the money went into that account to be separate from general account.

Bipole was in 2017 audited statements.

The St Genevieve was 2018\2019

General Reserve was money aside for one year salary and building expenses.

Discussion around removing these separate accounts for reserve funds to have one savings account and one chequing account. All of our reserves are accounts on paper for internal purposes. Board can determine to get rid of hydro reserve.

For 13 13 A we are required to have a reserve account.

Scott recommends staff determine how you want it to work, run by province and talk with auditor to ensure following correct practice and return to board with recommendation.

Cost-Share Reserve Account Balance

Resolution 2024-46

BE IT RESOLVED the board approves the 2023-24 bridge cost-share reserve account balance addition to the 2024-25 final budget in the amount of \$120,000.

Moved: Marc Ross

Seconded: Elwood Lamont

CARRIED

Infrastructure Planning

Resolution 2024-47

BE IT RESOLVED the board approves the work plan created by the NRWD Infrastructure committee at its July 16, 2024 meeting in the amount of \$81,500.

Moved: Jonothon Roskos

Seconded: Elwood Lamont

CARRIED

Next meeting – Thursday August 22, 2024 9:00 AM.

Adjourned 12:55 PM

Verner Johnson- Chairperson

Starr Harder, Administrator