

NORTHEAST RED WATERSHED DISTRICT

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Board Meeting 2025-01

January 23, 2025

PRESENT

BOARD

Scott Spicer – NRWD Board Vice Chairperson, Red River S.D. Chair
Edgar Scheurer – Carrs Creek/Lower Seine S.D. Chair
Rene Grift – Upper Cooks Creek S.D. Vice chair
Elwood Lamont – Lower Cooks Creek S.D Chair
Russ Gawluk – Brokenhead River S.D Chair
Brian Chorney – Devils Creek S.D. Vice chair
Ashley Rawluk – Red River S.D. Vice chair

VIRTUAL

Verner Johnson – NRWD Board Chairperson, Provincial Appointee
Glen Fuhl – Lower Cooks Creek S.D. Vice chair

STAFF

Danica Racicot – Manager
Starr Harder – Administrator
Makayla Baldwin – Program Coordinator

GUESTS

Colleen Cuvelier – Provincial Watershed Planner

REGRETS

Wil Heather Carrs Creek/Lower Seine SD Vice chair
Brad Ingles - Upper Cooks Creek S.D. Chair
Jack Kowalchuk – Devil’s Creek S.D. Chair, Brokenhead S.D. Vice chair
Greg Mandzuk– Catfish Creek /Gull Lake S.D. Chair
Dave Horbas – Catfish Creek /Gull Lake S.D. Vice chair

Call meeting to order at 9:00 am

Scott Spicer asked to chair meeting by Verner Johnson.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The voting Board of Directors is as follows:

NRWD Board Chairperson	Verner Johnson
NRWD Board Vice Chairperson	Scott Spicer
Provincial Appointee	Verner Johnson
Carrs Creek/Lower Seine Chairperson	Edgar Scheurer
Upper Cooks Chairperson	Brad Ingles
Lower Cooks Chairperson	Elwood Lamont
Brokenhead Chairperson	Russ Gawluk

Catfish Creek/Gull Lake Chairperson Greg Mandzuk
Devils Creek Chairperson Jack Kowalchuk
Red River Chairperson Scott Spicer

In absence of the Chairperson of a district the Vice Chairperson may replace as follows;

Carrs Creek/Lower Seine Vice Chair Wil Heather
Upper Cooks Vice Chair Rene Grift
Lower Cooks Vice Chair Glen Fuhl
Brokenhead Vice Chair Jack Kowalchuk
Catfish Creek/Gull Lake Vice Chair Dave Horbas
Devils Creek Vice Chairperson Brian Chorney
Red River Vice Chairperson Ashley Rawluk

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution No. 2025-01

BE IT RESOLVED the board approves the agenda as provided.

Moved: Russ Gawluk

Seconded: Edgar Scheurer

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Resolution No. 2025-02

BE IT RESOLVED the board approves meeting minutes from the Northeast Red Watershed District (NRWD) Board Meeting November 14, 2024.

Moved: Elwood Lamont

Seconded: Edgar Scheurer

CARRIED

Resolution No. 2025-03

BE IT RESOLVED the board approves meeting minutes from the Northeast Red Watershed District (NRWD) Annual Organizational Meeting November 21, 2024.

Moved: Brian Chorney

Seconded: Elwood Lamont

CARRIED

4. FINANCIAL

4.1. Approval of financials reconciled to December 31, 2024

Resolution 2025-04

BE IT RESOLVED the board approves financial statements reconciled to December 31, 2024.

Moved by: Russ Gawluk

Seconded by: Rene Grift

CARRIED

4.2. Review of the YTD 2024-25 budget

5. REPORTS

5.1. **NRWD Chair Report** -Verner Johnson passed to Scott Spicer
No report.

5.2. **Staff Report** – *Report attached*

5.3. **Sub-District Committee Chair Updates**

Catfish Creek/ Gull Lake – no report

Upper Cooks Creek - Rene Grift

Inquired on status of proposed works surrounding water retention project (Skillen) and flooding concerns. Board chairperson and manager indicated the landowner seeking support had also filed complaint with license officer regarding proposed works. Works are now on hold until further discussion. Concern will be deferred to Infrastructure Committee meeting.

Carrs Creek/Lower Seine – Edgar Scheurer

Projects to be done, mowing drain along TransCanada Hwy just before Deacons Corner. (On a list for investigation about contracting the work rather than continuing with RM of Springfield). Didn't get done before freeze up, should be considered priority.

Brokenhead River - Russ Gawluk

RM of Reynolds had concerns about Levy required relative to opportunity for expansion with crown land. Community of Molson and Ste. Rita inside boundary, the remainder is all Crown Land.

Province is exploring possibility of a new watershed (Winnipeg River). Request for presentation for landowners of small acreages in Ste. Rita to participate (Colleen, Danica, Makayla) in watershed district programming. Community Facebook group would be good to let people know what kinds of projects could be attempted. Program Coordinator states there is potential for open houses helping smaller landowners to fill applications in spring.

Tour in December was delayed, as Manager had mentioned limits to number of annual SD meetings per year.

Devils Creek - Brian Chorney

Talked to Jack about following up with a spring tour around spring thaw to see drainage appearance at that time of year.

Lower Cooks Creek – Elwood Lamont

Tour at spring thaw. Lighter maintenance and cleanouts, no major concerns at present.

Red River – Scott Spicer/ Ashley Rawluk

Discussion of another tour in spring, otherwise Ashley and Scott can go for a drive with Manager. Request NRWD represent at RM of St. Clements open house, tentatively in June.

5.4 Provincial Update – Report attached

December report missing from package, to be circulated by Manager.

New financial reporting package and webinar planned for review with district staff. Next week in Brandon Surface Water Section- Small Dam Development workshop to provide help, avoid pitfalls and ensure project success.

Using the IWMP as a guiding document we can apply for funding to support projects within district. Example: Ecological Corridor program, successful application but due to push back from the local community, they are no longer proceeding.

Hadashville open house on January 18 - work underway to create formation proposal for Winnipeg River Water District. Expansion of NRWD would not be considered before 2026-2027 year.

Once expansion plans develop, then Alexander could be considered for joining the District.

6. OLD BUSINESS - none

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. NRWD Signing Authority Update

Resolution 2025-05

BE IT RESOLVED that the signing authority for all Northeast Red Watershed District at Access Credit Union be as follows;

One of;

Manager – Danica Racicot

Administrator – S. Starr Harder

And one of;

Chairperson – Verner Johnson

Vice Chairperson – Scott Spicer

Board Member - Elwood Lamond

Moved by: Russ Gawluk

Seconded by: Brian Chorney

CARRIED

7.2. Manitoba Association of Watersheds (MAW) Representative Appointment

Resolution 2025-06

BE IT RESOLVED the board approves the appointment of Scott Spicer as the MAW representative.

Moved by: Verner Johnson

Seconded by: Brian Chorney

CARRIED

7.3. Policy Updates: 1.8, 3.16, 4.10

Resolution 2025-07

BE IT RESOLVED the board approves the revision of policy 1.8; membership should include at least three members, one of which is the board chair. Policy 4.10 as shown and removal of policy 3.16 Programming-Growing Outcomes in Watersheds (GROW) as presented.

Moved by: Brian Chorney

Seconded by: Edgar Scheurer

CARRIED

7.4. Northeast Red Watershed District Standing Committee Appointments

Current committee volunteers listed below, will issue volunteer request to absent members.

HR Committee (4): Verner Johnson, Scott Spicer, (Glen Fuhl willing if subcommittee members cannot fill remaining spaces).

Policy Committee (3): Russ Gawluk, Ashley Rawluk.

GROW Committee (7 with 4 producers minimum): Edgar Scheurer, Brian Chorney.

Discussions on GROW Committee meeting requirements. Meetings to be called when project falls outside the set program parameters or we exceed available budget. Duties to follow Policy 1.8. Committee can help develop changing parameters, or have committee members visit with application opportunity.

Watershed Planner to deliver GROW presentation once committee established.

Building Committee (4): No volunteers.

7.5. Policy and Procedures Revision-tabled until policy committee populated.

7.6. HR Updates

Manager has completed the probationary review of the Program Coordinator and has saved to file. Following policy updates, the administrator and manager are due for annual reviews leading into next fiscal year. Program Coordinator expected to go on

maternity leave in April. Goal to advertise to hire term with possibility of extension by March for training overlap.

Resolution 2025-08

BE IT RESOLVED the board approves advertising for the Program Coordinator term position.

Moved: Russ Gawluk

Seconded: Brian Chorney

CARRIED

7.7. Tree Giveaway – Spring tree giveaway proposal attached

Resolution 2025-09

BE IT RESOLVED the board approves the Tier 2 budget allocation in the amount of \$20,000 towards a tree giveaway for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Moved by: Edgar Scheurer

Seconded by: Elwood Lamont

CARRIED

Suggestion to have contact information for feedback follow-up and for distribution of newsletter. Applications from outside NRWD boundary (not part of another watershed district), can be added to a waitlist for fulfillment if funds remain after completing projects with district boundary.

7.8. Conservation Program Landowner Projects

Program Coordinator presented two shelterbelt applications to show example to Board. Staff are able to approve projects going forward within limitations of Policy 1.8.

7.9. Rain Garden Funding Cap for Businesses and Organizations

Confirmed that projects are approved based on overall budget and criteria, individual board approval not required.

Resolution 2025-10

BE IT RESOLVED the board approves the rain garden program guideline for public organizations to reimburse the landowner 75% to a maximum of \$2,500 per project.

Moved by: Russ Gawluk

Seconded by: Elwood Lamont

CARRIED

7.10. Board Meeting Schedule

Leave as morning of the third Thursday of the month.

7.11. Sub-District Committee Meeting Schedule

Minimum of two per year, spring tours, annual meeting in November. Sub-district Chairs to confer with subdistrict members regarding desire for future meetings.

8. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

8.1. Frank Helen Tile Drainage Project

Applicant seeking approval from NRWD following submission of license with the Province as project drains into NRWD's CPR Drain. Discussed mechanics of tile drainage. Decision deferred to Infrastructure Committee meeting in February.

8.2. Mrs. Vaags Request for Documents

Motion to go in CAMERA at 12:00pm to discuss personnel and legal.

Motion to go out of CAMERA at 12:25pm

9. ADJOURNMENT

Next Board Meeting scheduled for Thursday February 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjourned 12:30 pm

Scott Spicer- Vice chairperson

Starr Harder, Administrator