

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY
MARRIOTT HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER
MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA
MARCH 23, 2016

The Red River Retention Authority (RRRA) met March 23, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, Moorhead, Minnesota.

Present were Gary Thompson, John Finney, Jerome Deal, Rodger Olson, Greg Holmvik and Ben Varnson, Board members; Kent Lokkesmoe, Pat Fridgen (by telephone) and Jeff Lewis, non-voting members; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer and those whose names appear on the attached roster.

Gary Thompson called the meeting to order.

Minutes

It was moved by John Finney, seconded by Ben Varnson and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2015, meeting.

NRCS / Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Randy Gjestvang handed out information to update the RRRA on progress made on the RCPP Plans. Mr. Gjestvang requested information from participating watersheds for the next semi-annual update to the NRCS regarding the RCPP, which is due the end of May. Keith Weston thought the last semi-annual report was very thorough and the information provided was more than adequate. Chad Engels reminded the group the required completion date is September 30, 2018. Cooperative Agreements can be amended, if necessary.

Discussion was held concerning the development of a *Cooperative Agreement* for funding in the amount of \$70,000 for outreach to the watersheds selected for RCPP funding under the *Memorandum of Understanding* between the NRCS and RRRA. Mr. Gjestvang and Mr. Weston will outline deliverables for the *Cooperative Agreement* application.

Mr. Weston said a meeting will be scheduled to address Corps of Engineers concurrence points in the NRCS watershed planning process and other related matters.

The *Memorandum of Understanding* between the Corps of Engineers, NRCS and RRRA sets out that the Corps of Engineers is to consider funding a position to help with coordination of the process. Tamara Cameron said it has been difficult trying to find a person to dedicate specifically to the Red River Valley as it is a substantial investment of time. Funding for the position was also discussed.

Appointment of Secretary-Treasurer for 2016

It was moved by Jerome Deal, seconded by Ben Varnson and unanimously carried to appoint Carol Harbeke Lewis as Secretary-Treasurer of the Red River Retention Authority for calendar year 2016.

Designation of depository of Red River Retention Authority public funds

It was moved by Greg Holmvik and seconded by John Finney to designate Alerus Financial as the depository of Red River Retention Authority public funds. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Financial report

It was moved by Rodger Olson and seconded by Jerome Deal to accept the Financial Report presented by the Secretary-Treasurer. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Bills

It was moved by Jerome Deal and seconded by John Finney to approve the payment of Checks #1427 through #1430, as presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director position

The need for filling the vacant RRRRA Executive Director position was considered. The Board commended Mr. Gjestvang and Dan Thul for handling the duties on an interim basis. The schedule and workload relating to the RCCP was discussed. Hiring someone by early to mid-2017 was suggested. Funding for the position was also discussed. The Co-Chairs will continue working on the matter and further discussion will take place at a future meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be considered by the Board, the meeting adjourned without objection.

APPROVED:

Gary Thompson
Co-Chair

John Finney
Co-Chair

ATTEST:

Carol Harbeke Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer