

NORTHEAST RED WATERSHED DISTRICT

66156 Pineridge Road, Sunnyside, MB R5R 0G9

204-777-2223 admin@northeastred.ca

Virtual Board Meeting 2026-04

April 15, 2026

PRESENT Verner Johnson– NRWD Board Chairperson, Provincial Appointee
BOARD Scott Spicer – NRWD Board Vice Chairperson, Red River S.D. Chair
Elwood Lamont – Lower Cooks Creek S.D. Chair
Greg Mandzuk – Catfish Creek/ Gull Lake
Jack Kowalchuk – Devils Creek S.D. Vice Chair
Brad Ingles – Upper Cooks Creek S.D. Chair

REGRETS Edgar Scheurer – Carrs Creek/Lower Seine
Russ Gawluk – Brokenhead, S.D. Chair
Natashia Lapiere – Brokenhead, S.D. Vice Chair

STAFF Ana Isabela Landivar- Manager
Starr Harder – Administrator
Julie Litke – PWCP Coordinator
Makayla Baldwin- Program Coordinator

GUEST Rene Bravo, Provincial Watershed Planner
Bob Austman, MB Woodlot Association delegation

Meeting called to order at 9:01 a.m.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution No. 2026-21

BE IT RESOLVED the board approves the agenda with the addition of IN CAMERA discussion for HR item 3.6.

Moved: Jack Kowalchuk

Second: Scott Spicer

CARRIED

2. Adoption of Minutes

2.1. Approval of NRWD Board Meeting 2026-03 Minutes March 25th, 2026.

Resolution No. 2026-22

BE IT RESOLVED the board approves the minutes Northeast Red Watershed District Meeting 2026-3 Minutes of March 25, 2026, approved as amended.

Moved: Elwood Lamont

Second: Greg Mandzuk

CARRIED

3. Financial

3.1. Approval of financials reconciled to March 31, 2026.

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Resolution No. 2026-23

BE IT RESOLVED the board approves the monthly financials reconciled to March 31, 2026.

Moved: Brad Ingles

Second: Jack Kowalchuk

CARRIED

3.2. Final Budget for the Year Q4 Report 2025-26

3.3. Activities Report

Resolution No. 2026-24

BE IT RESOLVED the Board approves the 2025-2026 Final Budget Q4 and activities report as presented.

Moved: Greg Mandzuk

Second: Elwood Lamont

CARRIED

3.4. Final Budget 2026-27

Resolution No. 2026-25

BE IT RESOLVED the Board approves the 2026-2027 final budget as presented.

Moved: Scott Spicer

Second: Jack Kowalchuk

CARRIED

3.5. Carry-Over

Resolution No. 2026- 26

BE IT RESOLVED the Board approves the updated 2025-2026 carryover in the amount of \$454,746.

Moved: Elwood Lamont

Second: Scott Spicer

CARRIED

3.6. HR Discussion

Motion to go IN CAMERA at 9:14 a.m.

Moved: Brad Ingles

Second: Greg Mandzuk

Program Coordinators and Administrator depart.

Motion to remove IN CAMERA 9:30am

Moved: Brad Ingles

Second: Greg Mandzuk

Program Coordinators and Administrator return.

4. Reports

4.1. NRWD Chair Report

4.2. NRWD Staff Report, as provided

Outreach, visit Brokenhead First Nation and extend invitation to our office.

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4.3. Sub-District Committee Roundtable

Upper Cooks, none

Lower Cooks, Elwood Lamont, spring runoff going well

Carrs Creek/Lower Seine, Brad Ingles, inquiry about 1313A. Manager has plans with Manager of SRRWD and contractors to be set for construction at the end of April.

Brokenhead- none

Devils Creek, Jack Kowalchuk, considering tour but water levels are down. Subdistrict meeting April 17th at RM of Brokenhead office.

Catfish Creek/Gull Lake-Greg Mandzuk, forwarded acreage question to CAO of Lac du Bonnet. Reynolds responded yesterday, waiting for response from Lac du Bonnet.

Red River- Scott Spicer, good spring, a few frozen culverts. Small ice jam N. of #4 bridge, expected to clear imminently with good weather. Spring tour difficult due to scheduling, delayed until May at soonest.

4.4. Infrastructure Committee Report, as presented.

Meeting held April 1, report attached.

Boundary road license (partnering with RM of St Clements) approved, arrived two weeks. RM of St Clements leading project.

4.5. Programming Report, as presented.

PWCP numbers will continue to be updated for next meeting, Conservation amounts shown are complete year end amounts. Report for 2026-2027 as presented. PWCP is ongoing until end of June. Program coordinator must have the PWCP year wrapped up for end of July.

4.6. MAW Report – met on April 13th, MAW in a good financial position, investing in rolling over 1yr,2yr,3yr GIC. Will now develop a policy for the use of interest earned. Considering adding Electronic Funds Transfer for receipt of charitable donations because of demand. Envirothon started yesterday, donation budget to help run Envirothon was \$20,000, and received \$24,000. Katharine Cherewyk, Executive Director of Agriculture in classroom spoke to Board. Requested copy of slideshow and list of schools they are working with, more information to follow.

MAW Conference made \$42,000 last year, save the date is imminent.

Working on preserving the history of provincial drainage and conservation with old LGD (drainage and land use guidelines) to ensure information is available in the future. If Winnipeg River pulls together, Alexander is one of the old LGD's. Working on budget, updating strategic plan. Armand reported managers meeting RRBC has a soils program coming to Canada from the U.S.

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Discussion around what it would look like, available funds and if the WD's could manage the program, very preliminary. Discussed market review and succession planning.

Agriculture Agrifoods Canada completed audit of years 2022-2023, MAW managed program for both Saskatchewan and Manitoba, \$15 million program over the two years. Questions about \$70,0000 of funding, an excellent result.

Assiniboine West has sent out a letter about liability for landowners and the board reviewed and took no action.

4.7. Provincial Update, April report included highlight budgets for 2026.

Manager received confirmation of the new Winnipeg Water District for next fiscal year. Invitations were sent to municipalities.

Scott Spicer departs at 10:00am

5. Old business

5.1 Manitoba Woodlot Association 10:00 a.m.

Bob Austman provided a power point presentation. Former Educator of MB model forest, associated with International Forest Alliance which promotes small scale forestry.

Their goal is to encourage Government creation of policies that help people better manage their forests, ensure woodlot owners know about best practices.

Watershed Districts and Woodlot association have an overlap in goals and benefits of well managed forest extend to District IWMP. When they meet with landowners, they set up Resource Management Plan (RMP), walk and talk with landowner. Rank priorities, conduct resource assessment, full scale inventory, timbre (stage of maturity, decline, disease, age). Connect landowner with various resources to help landowner manage property, not just at landscape level. Interested in partnership with WD, would include Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC). Habitat, water filtration and carbon sequestration are all benefits of well managed woodlands.

Manager proposes consideration of partnership governance model as an extension of our program for members with woodlot.

Where are the woodlots in NRWD, mostly in the Southeast, Red River Valley and Central Interlake. Diagonal line from Neepawa to southeast of Sprague you see majority of woodlots in Manitoba.

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Chair suggests presenting to Manitoba Association of Watersheds and attending MAW Conference in Brandon at the beginning of December.

The association is waiting on word from the Forest Stewardship Council for funding. Proposal written for \$100,000 to get things started, should hear by June.

Greg Mandzuk commented Lac du Bonnet has woodlots that may participate. EMO of Lac du Bonnet (John Fleming) would be interested in all programs related to forest fire prevention. Suggest Bob reach out to various RM's EMO coordinators as climate issues are of increasing concern.

Manager inquired if we could consider funding to support individual landowners interested in the Woodlot management plan. Watershed could advertise program, coordinate their eligibility and connect local landowners with Woodlot Association.

5.2 Board Internal Control Questionnaire

Reviewed and ready to return to Sensus as completed.

6. New Business

6.1. Well Water Testing Program, as provided

a) Partnership Agreement

Discussion on approval from the Province to proceed with the partnership agreement. Manager reviewed Watershed Act to align and support the essence of the agreement.

Lac du Bonnet requests Watershed Planner to get an explanation from the Province about the inability to provide PWCP programming outside the boundaries. Watershed Planner to inquire about the section of policy 1.7 mentioned by himself, regarding the statement that PWCP is unapplicable to deliver outside boundaries. Chair also requests to provide proof that this policy refers to Federal money. Province will not provide a letter of support towards this.

Staff highlights that the Province should work towards maintaining good relations with RMs. Is Province considering the jeopardized relationship of RM with the Watershed district?

What is the cost to these RM's of joining district? Province doesn't have that information.

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Brad reminds Watershed Planner that cost is prohibitive to some of these smaller RMs.

Greg provides reminder of the flawed original district formation for Reynolds with small population in current subdistrict. All producers in the province should be able to apply for the same program.

Request Watershed Planner to return with response for May 20th meeting.

Manager shared the Watersheds Act; it appears we can work outside our boundaries if board agrees.

Watershed Planner raises the question of extending program outside district border without additional levy, how will this impact the other districts. If the board agrees it is a board decision.

Manager affirms that financials of the District are not a problem to provide additional programming to the other side of Reynolds and Lac du Bonnet. The Board agrees to delivering outside boundaries.

Jack Kowalchuk departs 11:03pm

7. Information and Correspondence

7.1. MAW Tour

7.2. Landowner Liability IMWD Letter

Request policy change province wide to remove landowners' liability over Watershed Districts projects. Board supports Manager drafting a letter for review by email before sending it to IMWD.

7.3. CAWD Wage Review

Proposal to sharing wages across all District, hiring a consultant to review. Board prefers to suggest a committee from HR departments across Watershed Districts share results with MAW to limit unnecessary cost. Manager to inform Central Assiniboine Watershed District and MAW.

8. Adjourned at 11:16am Moved by Brad Ingles

8.1. Next meeting: Wednesday, May 20th, 2026

Verner Johnson -Chairperson

Starr Harder-Administrator