



## Red River Watershed Management Board

### *Board of Managers*

John Finney, President-Humboldt LeRoy Carriere-Roseau Dan Money-Hallock Ron Osowski-Oslo  
Orville Knott, Vice President-Red Lake Falls Daniel Wilkens, Treasurer-Fertile Greg Holmvik-Ada Jerome Deal, Secretary-Wheaton  
Naomi Erickson, Administrator-Detroit Lakes

## RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

November 19, 2013

Red River Retention Authority office, West Fargo, North Dakota

The RRWMB met on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at the Red River Retention Authority office, West Fargo, North Dakota.

President John Finney called the meeting to order.

Members present were:

LeRoy Carriere	Dan Money
Ron Osowski	Orville Knott
Daniel Wilkens	Greg Holmvik
Jerome Deal	

Others present were:

- Naomi Erickson, Administrator
- Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator
- Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
- Nick Drees, Administrator, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD
- Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering, Inc.
- Pat Downs, Executive Director, RRRRA
- Kevin Ruud, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake WD
- Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute
- Jim Kukowski, Two Rivers WD
- Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering, Inc.
- Ron Adrian, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc.
- Sharon Josephson, Congressman Peterson's office
- Henry Van Offelen, MDNR Red River Basin Coordinator
- Tracy Halstensgard, Administrator, Roseau River WD
- Riley Maanum, Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation
- Gerry Van Amburg, Buffalo-Red River WD
- Joe Courneya, Assistant Executive Director/Program, RRBC
- Louis Smith, Attorney, Smith Partners
- Diane Ista

**Motion** by Manager Deal to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as written with minor corrections, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. **Motion** by Manager Carriere to approve the Treasurer's Report, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**. A one-page handout of monthly bills to be approved was distributed. **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Deal, **Seconded** by Manager Osowski, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

### **Water Quality Project Monitoring**

C. Fritz distributed the IWI Monitoring and Education Activity Report. The application for Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring at 35 sites in the Red River basin in 2014 and 2015 has been selected to receive funding. The next steps begin now with preparation of the work plan and final budget.

C. Fritz reported on the status of the Basin Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee's (BTSAC) Surface Drainage Study. Plans are to have a report finalized by next spring.

C. Fritz added that TSAC also reviewed the draft recommended guidelines for Tile Drainage Systems developed by the board's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). D. Thul inquired whether the board should wait to approve the recommended guidelines until BTSAC has finalized their Surface Drainage Study report. Manager Wilkens responded that the board should proceed with adopting the guidelines as proposed by the TAC, however, future modifications may be necessary.

Manager Finney referred to the Rules & Regulations Committee meeting conducted yesterday and inquired whether the outcome of the Surface Drainage Study could affect the proposed changes to the model rules and regulations under development. L. Smith offered to forward a copy of the draft rules and regulations to C. Fritz for BTSAC review.

### **Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)**

P. Downs distributed a monthly report of activities. He thanked N. Drees for his report to the RRRA at their November 12, 2013 meeting.

P. Downs reported that he attended the November Diversion Authority meeting. The RRBC conducted a presentation on the preliminary results of the upstream retention studies completed in the Red River basin. Although proposed sites have been identified to achieve the goal of a 20% reduction on the main stem, a formula to fund the projects must be developed.

P. Downs discussed the series of meetings hosted by the North Dakota State Water Commission (NDSWC) to facilitate improved participation in the water planning process and to outline proposed changes to the agency's cost-share policy. He explained that the Red River Joint Water Resource District (RRJWRD) developed a letter regarding the NDSWC's ongoing cost-share policy review process. The RRJWRD has requested a letter of support from the RRWMB as a partner in the RRRA to the NDSWC reaffirming the concerns of the RRJWRD. A draft letter of support was distributed for review. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize the letter of support for the RRJWRD to the NDSWC, **Seconded** by Manager Money, **Carried**.

### **Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) Work Group Report**

H. Van Offelen distributed a report on activities of the FDR Work Group. Meetings have been conducted of both the Project Water Quality Monitoring and Communication Subcommittees. The next Work Group meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2013 in Detroit Lakes, MN.

H. Van Offelen reported that a review of water storage opportunities and constraints on Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) is being conducted. As distributed detention studies are completed, the MDNR will review the watersheds for water storage opportunities on and near WMA's and will identify associated constraints.

### **Project Coordinator Report**

R. Harnack reviewed the Project Coordinator Report. The House Capital Investment Committee toured the mid section of the state in the first week in November with the North Ottawa Impoundment Project in the Bois de Sioux WD along their tour route. Thanks to J. Roeschlein and M. Wilson for their efforts in coordinating the tour.

R. Harnack reported that the legislative session begins on February 25, 2014, with this year being the first year of a two-year bonding bill. He encouraged watershed district administrators to finalize their five-year plans in order to keep projects progressing.

### **Administrator Report**

#### **A) 2012 Annual Audit**

N. Erickson reported that the 2012 annual audit has been completed by Brady, Martz & Associates. Copies of the report were distributed for review. **Motion** by Manager Deal to invite the auditor to attend the December board meeting to review the report, **Seconded** by Manager Knott, **Carried**.

#### **B) Stream Gaging Cost-Share Program**

N. Erickson stated that the joint funding agreement between the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the RRWMB for fiscal year 2014 has been received. The amount of \$126,974 shall be contributed to cover all of the cost of the necessary field and analytical work directly related to the program. A handout was distributed.

#### **C) Upcoming Meetings/Conferences**

1. **MAWD Annual Meeting & Trade Show**, December 5-7, 2013, Arrowwood Conference Center, Alexandria, MN.
2. **Governing Documents Committee**, Friday, December 13, 2013, RRRRA office, West Fargo, ND.
3. **Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group**, December 18, 2013, Detroit Lakes, MN.
4. **Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)**, January 14, 2014, 1405 Prairie Parkway, Suite 311, West Fargo, ND. **Red River Basin Commission's 31st Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference**, *The Pulse of the Basin: Getting to the Heart of the Issues*, January 14-16, 2014, Ramada Plaza Suites, Fargo, ND.

### **Red River Basin Commission**

J. Courneya, Assistant Executive Director/Program, RRBC distributed a brochure for the 31st Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference, *The Pulse of the Basin: Getting to the Heart of the Issues*. The conference will be conducted on January 14-16, 2014 at the Ramada Plaza Suites & Convention Center, Fargo, ND. The Natural Resources Framework Plan (NRFP) Report was also distributed.

J. Courneya referred to the presentation conducted by the RRBC for the Diversion Authority on the preliminary results of the upstream retention studies completed in the Red River basin. He noted that the final report is scheduled to be completed in December. S. Josephson inquired why the information presented to the Diversion Authority wasn't distributed to the RRWMB. J. Bents responded that although the RRBC presented the preliminary results, the official report has not been finalized. J. Courneya stated that the RRBC would forward the presentation to N. Erickson for distribution to the board.

N. Drees inquired whether watershed districts should address achieving the goal of a 20% main stem reduction or problem identification when considering potential projects. Manager Finney responded that both issues should be considered. R. Harnack added that the Mediation Agreement addresses permitting issues by requiring project teams to follow the Points of Concurrence (POC) process developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The POC require problem identification prior to obtaining permit approval.

M. Lanning added that at their meeting, the Diversion Authority requested project proposers to identify specific projects for funding consideration. P. Downs noted that the RRRRA has forwarded a list of potential projects to the Diversion Authority.

S. Josephson stated that constructing retention projects is a three-step process. The first step involves assembling the available technical data to simulate the benefits to the main stem. Secondly, the list of potential projects must be ranked by priority. The final step is project construction.

D. Ista suggested that the board send a letter to the Diversion Authority requesting that potential funds be allocated in an escrow account designated for projects that provide downstream benefits. Manager Osowski responded that if such a letter is developed it should be forwarded from the RRRRA.

### **Red River Coordinator/TAC Report**

D. Thul distributed the draft recommendations for Tile Drainage Systems that were developed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). He referred to Page 2, item no. 2 under *Controlled Tile Systems*. At the previous board meeting, it was agreed to modify the language to reflect the temperature dropping below 32 degrees.

N. Drees noted that the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD Board of Managers are concerned about item no. 2 including the word "require" in the recommendation. Manager Money added that the recommendation could conflict with current NRCS requirements. P. Downs responded that he had discussed this provision with K. Weston who explained that should producers want to deviate from the current policy a new plan could be developed.

J. Kukowski stated that the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association had reviewed the draft recommendations and their organization was concerned about item no. 2 as well. R. Maanum, Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, noted the difficulty in facilitating drainage during freezing conditions. D. Thul responded that although these provisions are the preferred recommendations developed by the TAC, other alternate provisions are listed in the guidelines. Manager Finney concurred with D. Thul and noted that the guidelines developed are only recommendations for consideration. **Motion** by Manager Holmvik to adopt the recommended guidelines for Tile Drainage Systems, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

D. Thul discussed the USACE general comments on Phase 2 of the Red River Basin Watershed Feasibility Study (WFS). Since the USACE has provided funding and technical assistance for this effort, and it's included as Work-in-Kind (WIK) for the study, the USACE must conduct a review of the work completed. The TAC has reviewed the USACE comments and developed responses. A handout was distributed for review. **Motion** by Manager Money to approve the TAC responses to the USACE comments, **Seconded** by Manager Wilkens, **Carried**.

D. Thul reported that the Northwest Regional Development Commission and the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD are hosting a meeting to discuss the flooding concerns at Oslo and the surrounding area on November 21, 2013. D. Thul and N. Drees indicated they plan to attend the meeting.

### **District Reports**

- The Roseau River WD reported that the next project team meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2013. A review of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) developed for the Roseau River Wildlife Management Area (RRWMA) Project will be conducted, as well as the development of the Purpose & Needs Statement relative to the POC. T. McCormack recently met with a USACE representative and the WMA manager on site to review the wetland delineation. There were no issues identified. The grant agreement from the State was recently received and will be finalized soon.
- The Wild Rice WD reported on the status of Goose Prairie Marsh. A site tour was conducted to view the problem areas. Proposed locations for control structures for the problem areas were also discussed.

### **District's Funding Requests**

No requests for funds were submitted this month.

### **Other Issues**

- S. Josephson, Congressman Peterson's office, stated that the conferees have been appointed for the farm bill legislation and the committee is meeting. Plans are to have it completed before year-end.

The next meeting will be on December 17, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sand Hill River Watershed District, Fertile, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jerome Deal  
Secretary

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Naomi L. Erickson  
Administrator