RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT FULL BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
ORIGINATING AT THE CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE CONFERENCE ROOM
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
JULY 17, 2026
9:00 A.M.

A special meeting of the Red River Joint Water Resource District (RRJWRD) Full Board was held on July 17, 2026, at 9:01 a.m.

Present were Josh Ihry, Steele County Water Resource District; Keith Weston, Southeast Cass Water Resource District; Tom Perdue and Jim Heider, Grand Forks County Water Resource District; Jay Colwell, North Cass Water Resource District; Don Kemp, Pembina County Water Resource District; Arv Burvee, Richland County Water Resource District; Richard Sundberg, Rush River Water Resource District; Michael Wyum, Sargent County Water Resource District; Melissa Hinkemeyer, Director, Secretary; Elizabeth Smith, Administrative Assistant; Katie J. Schmidt, Ohnstad Twichell, P.C.; Yaping Chi, North Dakota Department of Water Resources (NDDWR); Mike Opat, Houston Engineering, Inc.; Julie Ly and Frank Oakgrove, Red River Basin Commission; Luann Kemp, Pembina County Water Resource District Secretary-Treasurer; and Lori Christanson, Grand Forks County Water Resource District Secretary-Treasurer. Barnes County, Maple River, Nelson County, Ransom County, Traill County, and Walsh County Water Resource Districts were absent.

Strategic planning for restoration and reconstruction of flood retention dams in the Red River Basin

Manager Weston updated the Board on the draft strategic plan for restoration and reconstruction of flood retention dams in the Red River Basin. Manager Weston discussed proposed prioritization criteria including the weight system and point scale and how it will be utilized during the dam inventory. Yaping Chi noted available dam inspection reports from the NDDWR will be utilized to populate the dam rankings. NDDWR inspection reports are not available for all dams included in the strategic plan. Inspections would be needed for those dams that do not have a recent NDDWR inspection report. Additionally, the Elm River Dams Nos. 1, 2, and 3 were recently reconstructed and thus will only need a brief inspection of the principal spillways. Ms. Chi noted she will attend the site inspections with the member districts' engineers for consistency. Manager Weston indicated the goal is to complete the ranking prior to the September RRJWRD Full Board meeting.

Discussion was held on a cost estimate for the dam inventory needed to form the initial list. It was estimated that research and site inspections for each dam that will need an on site inspection will cost on average $3,500. Discussion was held on the scope of work

and consistency for all site visits. Ms. Chi noted she will attend the site inspections with the member districts' engineers for consistency.

The Board discussed scheduling a meeting with the member districts' engineering firms, Manager Weston, Manager Kemp, and Ms. Chi to review expectations for and organize the site inspections prior to beginning the inspections.

A motion was made by Manager Burvee and seconded by Manager Wyum to approve funding of the research and site inspections for the dam inventory needed to form the initial prioritization list included in the strategic plan, not to exceed $145,000. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be considered by the Board, the meeting adjourned without objection at 9:23 a.m.

APPROVED:

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Josh Ihry
Chairman

ATTEST:

_____
Melissa Hinkemeyer
Secretary