RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
RESOLUTION OF POLICY
REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENT REQUIREMENTS AT REGULAR MEETINGS

WHEREAS, the Red River Joint Water Resource District (the "District") is a joint water resource district and political subdivision organized under North Dakota law, including Chapters 61-16 and 61-16.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, and specifically including N.D. Cent. Code § 61-16.1-11.

WHEREAS, as a North Dakota political subdivision, the District is subject to North Dakota's open meetings requirements under Chapter 44-04 of the North Dakota Century Code.

WHEREAS, during the 2025 Legislative Session, the North Dakota Legislature approved SB 2180, a bill that includes a new public meeting requirement in Chapter 44-04 for cities, counties, townships, school districts, park districts, and water resource districts (the "Public Entities").

WHEREAS, under SB 2180, at every regularly scheduled meeting, the Public Entities must include an opportunity for members of the public to provide comments.

WHEREAS, SB 2180 directs the Public Entities to implement policies that include rules for public comments, including time limits for public speakers, total meeting time limitations for public comment, rules regarding permissible topics, and rules of decorum.

WHEREAS, as a water resource district, the District must comply with SB 2180 and approves this RESOLUTION OF POLICY in compliance with the public comment policy requirements under SB 2180.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this RESOLUTION OF POLICY represents the District's official policy regarding public comments at regular board meetings as mandated under SB 2180.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District's policy under this RESOLUTION OF POLICY ensures the public's right to speak at a regular meeting and ensures the public comment process is orderly, efficient, and respectful.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District approves the following policy regarding public comments at the District's meetings, under SB 2180:

1. The District will include a public comment agenda item as the first non-procedural agenda item at all regular meetings of the District.
    a. "Regular" meetings include the District's regularly scheduled monthly meetings, as approved by the District and filed with the appropriate County Auditors, all as required under N.D. Cent. Code § 44-04-20(3).

2. Each person interested in providing public comments at a meeting must submit a speaker card, in person or via email, to the District's Secretary prior to the meeting being called to order that includes:
    a. the person's name;
    b. the person's address; and
    c. an agenda item from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda that the person seeks to address.

3. If a speaker card does not include all three items above, the person is disqualified and the person may not speak at the meeting.
4. The District will afford each person three minutes to provide comments. The District will notify each speaker when the three minutes have expired and the speaker will promptly conclude.
5. To ensure orderly and efficient meetings, the District will limit the public comment agenda item to a total of thirty minutes, regardless of how many people have submitted speaker cards.
6. The District will call on each person who has properly submitted a completed speaker card to present public comments, in the order of submission.
7. All comments must:
    a. address the agenda item identified on the speaker card, from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda; and
    b. be pertinent to the District.
8. Comments may not:
    a. be defamatory, abusive, harassing, or unlawful;
    b. include information that is exempt or confidential under North Dakota open records or open meetings law; or
    c. interfere with the orderly conduct of the District's meeting.
9. Speakers may not yield their allotted time to another person.
10. Anyone unable or unwilling to speak in-person may submit written comments to the District's Secretary prior to the meeting; the written comments must include the person's name and address and must be pertinent to an agenda item from the current meeting agenda or the previous meeting agenda. If a person submits written comments to the District's Secretary at least twenty-four hours prior to the District's meeting, the Secretary will circulate and distribute the comments to the District's Board of Managers prior to the meeting and the District will address and discuss the comments at the meeting. If a person submits written comments to the District's Secretary less than twenty-four hours prior to a meeting, the District will not address or discuss the comments at that meeting and the Secretary will circulate and distribute the comments to the District's Board of Managers after the meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this RESOLUTION OF POLICY supersedes any of the District's previous policies or practices regarding public comments at the District's meetings.

Date Approved: June 11, 2025

RED RIVER JOINT WATER
RESOURCE DISTRICT

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Josh Ihry, Chair

ATTEST:

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Melissa Hinkemeyer
Secretary-Treasurer