

**MEETING MINUTES
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
FULL BOARD MEETING
BEST WESTERN RAMKOTA HOTEL
BISMARCK, ND
DECEMBER 7, 2017 ~ 12:00PM**

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

ROLL CALL

Water Resource Districts present were: Richland, Ransom, Sargent, Pembina, Grand Forks, Traill, Barnes, North Cass, Southeast Cass, Rush River, Nelson, and Steele. Member counties absent were: Walsh & Maple River. Also present were: Attorney Sean Fredricks; Treasurer Carol Harbeke Lewis; Secretary Nettie Johnson; Randy Gjestvang, State Water Commission; and those whose name appears on the attached roster.

APPROVE ORDER OF AGENDA

Andy Neset moved to approve the order of the agenda. Josh Ihry seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES

Lance Yohe moved to approve the full Board's September 27, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. Bruce Anderson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

COST-SHARE REQUESTS

2017 USGS Monitoring Program

Chris Laveau, Hydrologist with the USGS, met with the full Board today to describe the 2018 Cooperative Monitoring Program. Upon a recommendation by the RRJWRD Executive Committee to approve the Joint Funding Agreement for the continued USGS cooperative streamflow monitoring programs for FY 2018, Lance Yohe moved to approve the cost-share request and pay up to a maximum of \$137,500.00 for FY 2018. Robert Thompson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Carol Harbeke Lewis presented the RRJWRD financial report for the full Board to review. Ben Varnson moved to approve the financial report as presented. Bruce Anderson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Attorney Sean Fredricks described the WRD Association meeting he attended yesterday. Cost-share advocacy for the purposes of hiring for a position on behalf of legislative purposes on a daily basis was considered. Mike Dwyer presented a proposal for the hiring of Jeff Diemert to be a presence at all legislative meetings and hearings and report back with any new water laws or changes to existing water laws. This will be discussed further at our January 2018 meeting.

Mr. Fredricks, Gary Thompson and several others met with Jim Schmidt in reference to watershed planning issues. All parties are attempting to meet all objectives. Mr. Schmidt has some concepts he would like to present at the next Water Topics Committee meeting in February. Sean Fredricks stated that he and others will be attending that meeting and will bring back to the RRJWRD what was discussed.

RESOLUTIONS

The following are some proposed resolutions and one ‘goal’ to offer based on what were discussed at the Resolutions meeting yesterday:

GOALS

To promote and encourage meaningful and frequent communication between the North Dakota Legislature, the State Water Commission, the North Dakota Water Users Association, and the North Dakota Water Resource Districts Association.

RESOLUTIONS AND POSITIONS

We support appropriation of funds by the Legislature to enable the State Water Commission to provide cost-share funding for snagging and clearing projects.

We support a reasonable and efficient economic analysis process regarding the implementation or application of an economic analysis process for “water conveyance projects and flood-related projects,” as mandated by 2017 House Bill No. 1374, § 12, but oppose the incorporation of federal benefit-cost analysis principles.

We support Water Resource Districts’ rights to regulate tile or subsurface drainage in a reasonable manner to ensure responsible watershed management and to protect downstream communities, landowners, and infrastructure.

We support inclusion of a separate line-item specific to Water Resource District watershed improvement projects in the Legislature’s State Water Commission budget appropriation bills, for purposes of funding retention, flood protection, snagging and clearing, and rural flood control projects.

We support modification of the State Engineer’s one-tenth of an inch standard regarding property rights requirements for applications for dams, dikes, or other devices.

Attorney Fredricks said that the Engineer’s Selection Process was discussed and the idea to eliminate it was also proposed.

Mr. Fredricks and the Board all agreed that it is necessary for us all to be more proactive and strategize for the foundation of what WRD’s can do in the next session.

COORDINATOR POSITION

Discussion was held on the necessity of having a good advocate to represent WRD’s. It is preferable to have someone who has served in the legislature and has a level of respect on city and county levels. This will be discussed further at future meetings.

F-M DIVERSION

Mark Brodshaug introduced Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer who serves as a senior technical and administrative advisor on the Diversion Authority. Mr. Benson provided updates on the status of the Fargo-Moorhead Diversion Project.

The Governor's Task Force established by North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum and Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton met for a second time on Wednesday, Nov. 1, in Moorhead. Both Governors commented that it was an informed discussion and that good process that was made. The group is working to find solutions and a path forward to protect Fargo and Moorhead from flooding.

At the meeting, task force members unanimously approved three items:

- The Task Force charter was approved
- The group will pursue 33,000 Cubic Feet per Second (CFS) as the flow data for a 100-year flood level
- A technical advisory group will be convened by both governors to solicit and consider alternatives for meeting flood risk management goals.

Robert Thompson reminded the Board of the reason why WRD's were formed and why we all have to pull together to support the FM Diversion Project.

STATE-WIDE SIGNIFICANT PERMIT ISSUES

Sean Fredricks stated that there are no new updates as they are still awaiting a decision from the State Engineer's Office.

RANDY GJESTVANG REPORTS & UPDATES

Mr. Randy Gjestvang provided a report on meetings and inspections that he has been involved with from September 27, 2017 through December 6, 2017.

SWC Cost-share:

- Updates were given on the Economic Analysis Guidelines and Process Development.
- The contract was awarded to HDR Engineering.
- A workshop was held on November 2nd with Representatives of the NRCS, ND WRDA, Cities, ACEC-ND, and Legislators. There was good feedback from all.
- There are efforts to make economic analysis process with a fillable platform that will be user friendly and still be dependable and accurate.
- SWC will be provided a draft for review.
- Completion is set for January 2018.

Mr. Gjestvang provided updates to State Water Plan 2019-2021 Water Development Report.

SWC map services have been discussed with the IT staff.

An application for “leave to appeal” over a federal ruling has been referred to a panel of 3 judges of the Supreme Court regarding the Border Dike lawsuit. A decision on whether to hear the appeal is expected in 1-2 months.

Updates were given on the Red River Basinwide Feasibility Study regarding the Regional Detention Analysis, remaining scope of work, and interaction with consultants and Corps efforts.

Discussion was held on the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan and the RRJWRD’s participation in developing it. Randy said the final document has been reviewed and the Executive Committee wrote a letter to Nanette Bischoff at the Corps of Engineers offering our continued support of this Plan and in future basin-wide comprehensive integrated watershed management.

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY

Mr. Keith Weston provided a report of the activities and meetings he has been involved with since November 8, 2017. Several of those activities and meetings are listed below:

Finalized mailing lists for RCPP postcard mailings and sent out over 8,600 postcards on November 17th.

Participated in the 2017 MAWD conference in Alexandria, MN on November 30th and December 1st, 2017.

Drafted a letter from the RRRRA to the US Army of Corps in support of the “Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan” that was developed.

Working on the fifth RRRRA six-month report to the NRCS. This report highlights progress being made on the NRCS agreement as it relates to the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) watershed planning in the Basin.

Participated in December 1st Red River Basin Agricultural BMP Workshop planning team teleconference.

INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE

Asher Kingery provided an email that included a two-page handout reflecting highlights from the 2017 year and a map-based summary of one of their River Explorers trips.

RED RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Lance Yohe introduced the new Red River Basin Commission Executive Director Ted Preister.

Discussion was held on the dike history in Pembina and talk was held on whether it should be heard in the federal system or not. They are working on a report between North Dakota and Minnesota.

Leah Tvidt reminded the Board of their upcoming annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference in Winnipeg January 22-23, 2018 featuring: “Finding Balance:

Is There a New Normal in Water Management”. She also relayed that there will be transportation available for the Drainage Summit Conference in Winnipeg and the information can be found on their website.

OTHER BUSINESS

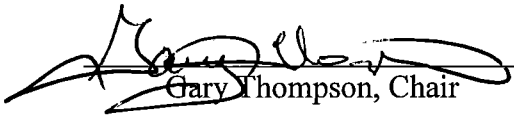
The 2018 RRJWRD full Board and Executive Committee meeting schedule was reviewed by the Board. Robert Rostad moved to approve the schedule. Dick Sundberg seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

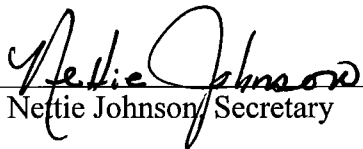
Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:15pm without objection.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Gary Thompson, Chair



Nettie Johnson, Secretary

12-7-17 Fall Board

Please Sign In

Name	County/Organization
Ben Vann	Rileys
John Jones	Troull
John Jones	Richard Tompkins
Sam M. FREDRICKS	RRWRD
Sandy Bjartvang	ND SWC
Bruce D. Anderson	BCWRD
Joel Halverson	TEWRD
Keith Weston	PRRA
James Hansen	RCWB
JARY BURKAE	RCWB
Jon Mattet	RCWRB
JERRY PRIBULA	GFCWRD
RICHARD AXVIG	GFCWRD
Randi ...	HFCWRD
Darrell NOTESTAD	GFCWRD
Carolee Tolstenson	SCWRD
Tasha K. Weyer	SCWRD
Chris Guss	MEI
Lyndon Reese	Moore Engineering
MANDAR NANGARE	BARE ENGINEERING CO.
Tom Bjorstrom	Steele Co WRD
Core Thylson	Steele County WRD
JOSH Thy	Steele County WRD
Stephane Williams	HDR
Ken Ven	City of Grand Forks
April Walker	A. Walker Consulting
Sharon Denton	Cass County
Leah Thvedt	RRBC
Justin Johnson	RCWRD
Gary Friskop	Richland Co. WRD
Robert ROSTAD	" " "
Henry Suhl	Deming County Waterboard
Charlene Varma	Nelson Co. WRD
Jeden Varner	Nelson Co. WRD
Scott Olerud	Ransom Co. WRD
Chris Odenhausen	Steele Water Commission
TED PRELSTER	RRBC
Curt Johannsen	RRBC
Rance York	SECARR

