

**MEETING MINUTES  
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT  
FULL BOARD MEETING  
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
WEST FARGO, ND  
JANUARY 10, 2018 ~ 9:30AM**

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

**ROLL CALL**

Water Resource Districts present were: Richland, Ransom, Walsh, Maple River, Grand Forks (by phone), Traill, Barnes, North Cass, Southeast Cass, Rush River, Nelson, and Steele. Member counties absent were: Sargent & Pembina. 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**

Rodger Olson 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 December 7, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. Scott Olerud seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**2018 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

The following is a list of the elections the Red River Joint Water Resource District conducted for 2018 at our meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>:

**I. Executive Committee Elections**

In accordance with Article XIII, Section 1, of the By-Laws, at its meeting on January 10th, the full Joint Board elected the following Managers to serve on the Executive Committee for 2018:

1. Gary Thompson
2. Robert Rostad
3. Josh Ihry (Alternate)

Scott Olerud will act as senior alternate in 2018.

Scott Olerud moved to approve the Executive Committee Elections for 2018. Lance Yohe 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. Rodger Olson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

## **LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

Mr. Fredricks reminded those in attendance of an important State Water Commission Cost-Share Policy meeting that is scheduled for tomorrow, January 11<sup>th</sup>. Many items related to cost-share are listed on the State Water Commission agenda. Randy Gjestvang distributed copies of the agenda and additional contents for the Board to review. He added that for those who are interested, there will be a conference line available to call in and listen to the meeting.

## **RRJWRD COORDINATOR POSITION**

Discussion was revisited regarding the necessity of having a good advocate in this position to represent WRD's. Gary Thompson mentioned that he has been reaching out to a good prospect who has served in the legislature and who appears to be possibly interested in pursuing this position. Mr. Thompson stated however, that this person may be concerned about the amount of time he may have to commit to this venture.

## **F-M DIVERSION**

Rodger Olson provided updates on the Fargo-Moorhead Diversion Project.

At this time the judge issued an injunction to stop the project. He is asking Minnesota and North Dakota to get together and come up with constructive solutions to their differences.

The Governor's Task Force established by North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum and Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton have been working together to find solutions to move forward to protect Fargo and Moorhead from flooding. A report should be available by the Task Force next week.

## **RANDY GJESTVANG REPORTS & UPDATES**

Mr. Randy Gjestvang provided a report on meetings and inspections that he has been involved with from December 7, 2017 through January 9, 2018.

SWC Cost-share:

- Updates were given on the Economic Analysis Guidelines and Process Development. The SWC will be provided a draft for review. Workshop attendees will be provided a chance to review the draft by early February and provide comments by late February.

State Water Plan 2019-2021 Water Development Report:

- A letter requesting information from project sponsors will be sent out this week

Border Dike Lawsuit:

- An application for "leave to appeal" over a federal ruling was referred to a panel of 3 judges of the Supreme Court regarding the Border Dike lawsuit. They dismissed the leave application with a decision announced on December 21, 2017. Issues of costs must go back before the trial judge. The Governor and Premiere reconvened the Task Team to attempt to develop solutions and determine where they go from here.

Red River Basinwide Feasibility Study:

- Updates were given regarding the Regional Detention Analysis, remaining scope of work, and interaction with consultants and Corps efforts.

## **RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY**

Mr. Keith Weston provided a report of the activities and meetings he has been involved with since December 7, 2017. Several of those meetings and activities are listed below:

Participated in a NRCS teleconference in regard to development of soil health fact sheets about Red River valley producers farming heavy clay valley soils.

Attended MN Flood Damage reduction Work Group (FDRWG) meeting in Grand Forks.

NRCS provided an update report on the RCPP watershed planning status. Watersheds in general are still running behind schedule and have not utilized as many RCPP funds as would be expected at this point in the planning process. Several of the ND watersheds projects have completion dates of 9-30-18. Several appear to be able to make this schedule, but others will need to accelerate planning or provide NRCS with rationale for requesting an extension on their RCPP contribution agreement time line. Extensions are a NRCS decision and are not automatically guaranteed.

Sent a letter of support on December 18<sup>th</sup> for the RRRRA to Mary Podoll, State Conservationist requesting her approval to terminate a RCPP watershed agreement.

Participated in December 21<sup>st</sup> Red River Basin Agricultural BMP Workshop planning Team teleconference and a Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) Committee meeting.

Discussion was held concerning a request for the RRRRA to be a sponsor of the 2018 FDR/RRWMB conference being held in March in Moorhead, MN. In 2017 the RRRRA was able to help fund part of the FDRWG/RRWMB conference program through the NRCS RCPP outreach cooperative agreement. Based on the conference topics Keith believes they may be able to do something similar again in 2018. The request for a sponsorship is slightly different than funding certain conference topics (speakers, meeting rooms etc.) and is in addition to the reimbursable items that may be covered under the RRRRA/NRCS RCPP outreach agreement. They are asking for a \$1,000 sponsorship from the RRRRA. This essentially means \$500 from RRJWRD and \$500 from RRWMB. Scott Olerud moved to approve the request and donate \$500.00 on behalf of the RRRRA sponsorship. Lance Yohe seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

## **INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE**

Randy Gjestvang reported on behalf of Chuck Fritz and stated that the LIDAR viewer is available again on the IWI website although it may not be 100% complete at this time.

You can access LIDAR/Elevation and other GIS information for the Red River of the North Basin (ND and MN) here: <https://gisapps.rrbdin.org>

In the coming weeks/months, they will be adding additional GIS layers/mapping features to this service.

**RED RIVER BASIN COMMISSION**

Executive Director Ted Preister reported on his latest involvement with the Red River Basin Commission.

He commented that he is currently working on stabilizing funding and working with several entities on different projects at this time.

Mr. Preister 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”. Transportation will be available for the Drainage Summit Conference in Winnipeg and the information can be found on their website.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:00am without objection.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

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Gary Thompson, Chair

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Nettie Johnson, Secretary

