

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
ORIGINATING AT THE OFFICE OF THE
TRAILL COUNTY WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
HILLSBORO, NORTH DAKOTA
FEBRUARY 7, 2018 ~ 9:00AM**

The Red River Joint Water Resource District held a special meeting on February 7, 2018 at 9:00am commencing at the office of the Traill County Water Resource District, ND.

Those present were: Managers Gary Thompson, Ben Varnson, Josh Ihry, Robert Rostad, and by phone were: Lance Yohe, Larry Tanke and Scott Olerud; Attorney Sean Fredricks; Randy Gjestvang, SWC; Keith Weston, RRRRA; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Treasurer (by phone), and Nettie Johnson, Secretary.

Legislative Advocacy Proposal

The Executive Committee met this morning to revisit discussion on employing a legislative advocate to be involved and assist in developing strategies at future legislative sessions on a regular basis on behalf of ND WRD's.

Since our last meeting, Lance Gaebe joined Mike Dwyer and will be working on water issues and legislative efforts. Mr. Gaebe spent time working with Governor Hoeven as policy advisor and as ND Land Commissioner. He has an excellent reputation in Bismarck and will be significant for water topics and WRD legislative endeavors.

The Executive Committee reviewed a written proposal submitted by Mike Dwyer containing items of cost-share to cover expenses of employing Lance Gaebe.

After further discussion, Lance Yohe moved to approve the request to fund Lance Gaebe's position for \$23,000.00 for the 2018-2019 legislative years and \$10,000.00 for 2018-2019 non-legislative years. Larry Tanke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The Red River Joint Board, Devils Lake Joint Board, Souris River Joint Board, and the Upper Sheyenne Joint Board are all considered to assist in funding this position.

Mr. Dwyer added that both he and Sean Fredricks would step in when necessary to ensure matters are being done accordingly.

2019-2021 Water Development Plan

Keith Weston, RRRRA, requested assistance in insuring Red River flood retention and flood damage reduction (FDR) projects that are being entered into the ND State Water Commission's project database. He would like our assistance in providing and updating him with project information.

In addition he would like to have information on other flood retention and/or flood damage reduction (FDR) projects that WRD's are working on. Having and consolidating the WRD retention and FDR information will serve as a good source of information for both the Red River Joint Water Resource District (RRJWRD) and Red River Retention Authority (RRRA) to show a need to decision-makers, future funding agencies and potential partners.

SWC Cost-Share Policies

Randy Gjestvang provided information on potential projects that may be requesting cost-share in the near future. Also provided was a *SWC Project Prioritization Guidance Form* which Randy explained. Projects submitted during the project planning inventory process that meet SWC cost-share eligibility requirements will be considered for prioritization. In the interest of strategically investing in the state's highest water development priorities, the Water Commission will give funding preference to projects designated as higher priorities for the first 12 months of each budget cycle.

Discussion was shared on the ND SWC Project Funding Policy, Procedure, and General Requirements. The Executive Committee directed Attorney Sean Fredricks to work with Chad Engels, Moore Engineering, Inc. on possible modifications to the SWC Cost-Share policies and present it to the Committee when prepared. A letter from Mike Dwyer will also be sent to the SWC to let them know the ND WRD Association and the ND Water Users plan to submit detailed comments and proposed revisions.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:50am without objection.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Gary Thompson, Chairman

Nettie Johnson, Secretary