

**MEETING MINUTES  
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
ORIGINATING AT THE OFFICE OF TRAILL COUNTY WRD  
HILLSBORO, NORTH DAKOTA  
MARCH 7, 2018 ~ 9:30AM**

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Thompson on March 7, 2018 at 9:30am in Hillsboro, ND. Those present were: Chairman Gary Thompson; Managers: Ben Varnson, Robert Rostad, Lance Yohe, and Larry Tanke. Also present were: Sean Fredricks, Attorney for the Board; Nettie Johnson, Secretary; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Treasurer; Randy Gjestvang, SWC; Mike Opat, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Keith Weston, Red River Retention Authority; and Leah Thvedt, Red River Basin Commission.

**ORDER OF AGENDA**

Lance Yohe moved to approve the order of the agenda as presented. Larry Tanke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**MEETING MINUTES**

Robert Rostad moved to approve the January 10th, 2018 and February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Executive Committee meeting minutes as presented. 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 Committee to review. Larry Tanke moved to approve the report as presented. Lance Yohe seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Lance Yohe moved to approve payment of check numbers 3607 - 3618 along with the electronic funds transfers. Ben Varnson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**2019 BUDGET**

Sean Fredricks described the proposed budget for 2019 which include funds necessary for the Joint Board's operations and cost-share to member districts and other projects. This draft Resolution recommends 2 mill levies. The Executive Committee must adopt a recommended budget for 2019 for consideration by the full Joint Board. Upon further discussion, Lance Yohe moved to submit the draft Resolution to the full Joint Board recommending 2 mill levies for 2019. Ben Varnson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**STATEWIDE INTERDISTRICT SIGNIFICANT PERMITS**

*Helendale Private Drain, LLC (Richland County)* ~ Sean Fredricks stated that there are no new updates as they are still awaiting a decision from the State Engineer's Office.

*Bernard & Brian Vculek (Sargent County)* ~ Mr. Fredricks informed the Committee that he has sent a letter to the State Engineer's Office on behalf of the Sargent County WRD to

request an extension on Bernard Vculek's "statewide significance" application. He will keep us posted on any updates.

### **LEGISLATION**

Mike and Jack Dwyer and Lance Gaebe met with the Committee this morning to discuss proposed revisions to the SWC cost-share policies. A working group, comprised of members of the Water Users Board and the ND WRD Association Board, including Gary Thompson, Mike and Jack Dwyer, Lance Gaebe, Chad Engels, and Sean Fredricks, has been working on the following proposed revisions to the cost-share policies:

1. A memo from Mike D. with a basic outline of our primary focus in terms of proposed modifications to the cost-share policies.
2. A draft Prioritization Guide that would separate the SWC's prioritization process into three separate categories: a) water supply; b) flood control; and c) general water management/irrigation. The idea is most of our WRD projects would fall into the General Water Management category, and those projects would only have to compete against each other in terms of priority (instead of having to compete with water supply and large flood control, like Minot and Fargo).
3. Redline markups with our recommended revisions to the SWC cost-share policies.

The group plans to meet with the State Engineer and his staff in the coming weeks to discuss their recommendations. A final draft can then be submitted to the SWC at their meeting on April 12.

### **RANDY GJESTVANG REPORTS & UPDATES**

Mr. Gjestvang provided information on the meetings and inspections he has been involved with from January 10<sup>th</sup> through March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Discussion was held on State Water Commission issues to include:

- A draft report and fillable form was provided in February for Economic Analysis Guidelines and Process Development
- Updates to the 2019 – 2021 State Water Development Plan
- Updates on the Border Dike Lawsuit – Pembina County WRD has presented a request for local representation to Task Team
- Red River Basin wide Feasibility Study; HEC-WAT workshop at the end of the study
- Devils Lake Outlet Management Advisory Committee will meet on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm

### **RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY**

Keith Weston, Executive Director for the RRRRA, reported on several meetings and activities he has been involved with since January 10<sup>th</sup> to include the following:

- Participated in a Benefit Cost Analysis meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Recommendations from the committee on how to best proceed with benefit

cost analysis for main stem benefits will be prepared for a presentation at the RRWMB March meeting.

- Participated in a Forest River watershed meeting in regards to the Michigan Spillway, Enterprise Drain and Matejcek Dam. There remains a need to develop a new O&M plan for these watershed features.
- Has been in discussions with Rob Sip and RRWMB staff about helping sponsor the 2018 RRWMB/FDRWG March Conference on March 21-22 and getting soil health and drainage water management speakers for the conference.
- NRCS has announced an RFP for Conservation Collaboration Grants or Agreements for FY 2018. The purpose is to leverage NRCS resources, address local natural resource issues, encourage collaboration and develop state and community level conservation leadership.
- Worked with NRCS staff in developing soil health fact sheets about agricultural producers farming heavy Red River valley soils. The fact sheets will highlight some of the successes and challenges of improving water management and increasing organic matter content in these soils while maintaining profitability.

#### **RED RIVER BASIN COMMISSION**

Leah Thvedt, Outreach Coordinator, was here to provide updates on the Natural Resources Framework Plan (NRFP), watershed management activities, and several other issues pertaining to the Red River Basin Watershed.

Discussion was held on the Red River Basin Watershed Feasibility Study (RRBWFS). The RRBC is seeking support to keep this study open and the second is to have the USACE dedicate funding to the modeling effort until additional needs are met. After further discussion, Lance Yohe moved to support a letter to the USACE to keep the RRBWFS open with the Red River Joint Board able to approve expenditures going forward upon the RRBC supplying a list. Ben Varnson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business to be considered by the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:40p.m.without objection.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

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Gary Thompson, Chairman

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Nettie Johnson, Secretary