

**MEETING MINUTES
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
FULL BOARD MEETING
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, ND
APRIL 11, 2018 ~ 9:30AM**

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

ROLL CALL

Water Resource Districts present were: Richland, Walsh, Grand Forks, Traill, North Cass, Southeast Cass, Rush River, Nelson, and Steele. Member counties absent were: Maple River, Ransom, Barnes, 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

Dave Middleton moved to approve the order of the agenda. Larry Tanke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES

Lance Yohe moved to approve the full Board's January 10, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Larry Tanke 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. Robert Rostad moved to approve the financial report as presented. Lance Yohe seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2019 BUDGET

Sean Fredricks presented a Resolution for the proposed budget for 2019 which include funds necessary for the Joint Board's operations and cost-share to member districts and other projects. The Joint Board's member districts may annually levy (via their respective county commissioners) up to two 2 mills as payment of their membership fees to the Joint Board, separate from and in addition to the four maximum mills members districts may levy for purposes of operating their own water resource districts. Discussion was held on increasing the mills from 1.5 mills to 2 mills for 2019. Randy Gjestvang expressed the importance of having funding available for future projects and studies and then described the RRJWRD expenses projected for 2019-2022. Dave Middleton, Grand Forks WRD, explained the meeting held with their county commissioners who are adamant with funding over 1.5 mills for water projects. Josh Ihry suggested taking a deeper look into the RRJWRD spending. Several other members offered options to keeping the budget in check and working well for all districts. Upon a recommendation by the RRJWRD Executive Committee on March 7, 2018, Dave Middleton moved that the Joint Board adopt a 2019 budget equivalent to 1.5 mills (or the pro rata equivalent of 1.5 mills for those member districts where the contributing watershed into the Red River Basin is less than 100 percent) from each member district, and that the Joint Board sets 2019 membership fees at the rate of 1.5 mills or equivalent pro rata share. Wes Ecker seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Sean Fredricks gave updates on legislative issues and a forum that he is trying to coordinate with each WRD to discuss priorities such as snagging and clearing, tile bills, and funding issues. He will be contacting WRD offices to assist with setting up these forums and to meet with legislators for the purpose of getting to know them better.

Chad Engels talked about Barnes County WRD snagging and clearing on the Sheyenne River and the usage of drone imaging to show the necessity and importance of removing debris from the river. All agreed that snagging and clearing is crucial when it comes to maintaining and keeping bridges from being compromised.

RRJWRD WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REPORT

Discussion was held on updating the current water management strategy report and the additions or changes that the full Board would like to see. This matter will be discussed further at the next full Board meeting on June 13, 2018.

Melissa Maertens, Cass County WRD, asked for any suggestions in updating the RRJWRD website and described the changes that have been made recently. The full Board would like to see links added for drone imaging and for the website to reflect projects that the RRJWRD has funded and any that are coming up in the future.

RANDY GJESTVANG REPORTS & UPDATES

Mr. Randy Gjestvang provided a report on meetings and inspections that he has been involved with from January 10 through April 10, 2018.

SWC Cost-share:

- Draft Policy and Prioritization Guidance has been completed and provided to the Water Users and NDWRDA for comments. Reviews and comments are available on the website. The deadline for comments is April 12, 2018.

State Water Plan 2019-2021 Water Development Report:

- The RRRRA has requested a copy of all retention type projects.

State Water Commission Meetings

- The SWC will hold regional meetings this summer to discuss proposed projects, cost-share policy, and economic analysis guidelines.

RRJWRD Potential Projects

- This is necessary to continue to be updated, but will not include potential detention projects submitted for the 2019-2021 biennium.

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. The appeal was denied. The issue of the cost of the appeal is being discussed. Pembina County WRD has presented a request for local representation to the Task Team.

Red River Basin-wide Feasibility Study:

- Updates were given regarding the Regional Detention Analysis, remaining scope of work, and interaction with consultants and Corps efforts.
- The Red River Basin Commission is requesting to include an analysis of 200 year and 500 year events.

Discussion was held on a sub-committee meeting attended by Gary Thompson, Chad Engels and others regarding North Dakota Guidance for Economic Analysis of Flood Control and Water Conveyance Projects. A workshop for the economic analysis that was developed by the ND SWC is scheduled for June 21st in Bismarck. After further discussion, Ben Varnson directed Engineer Chad Engels to draft a letter on behalf of the Red River Joint Board requesting another Cost Benefit Committee meeting be held prior to presenting the Analysis to the public. Josh Ihry seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY

Mr. Keith Weston provided a report of the activities and meetings he has been involved with since March 7, 2018. Several of those meetings and activities are listed below:

Participated in Rush River RCPP watershed protection team meeting on March 8th in West Fargo. Participants were shown potential alternatives to reduce the City of Amenia flood concerns.

Provided a RCPP watershed presentation to ND 319 Watershed Coordinators, ND Forest Services employees and ND Soil Conservation District employees at the NDCDEA, NDFS & NDDoH Trees and Watershed workshop held on March 14th in Bismarck.

Working with NRCS staff in developing soil health fact sheets about agricultural producers farming heavy Red River valley soils.

Attended ND NRCS State Technical Committee meeting on March 28th in Bismarck. Discussion was on the NRCS's Conservation Collaboration Grants or Agreements for 2018, EQIP and WRE funding.

Working on drafting a Conservation Collaboration Grants or Agreements application for the RRRRA. This application is due to the NRCS by April 13, 2018. This application would continue the NRCS and RRRRA partnership in completing RCPP watershed planning, promote watershed land treatment needs in RCPP watersheds and provide soil health outreach and education opportunities.

Attended Grand Forks WRD meeting on April 4th and provided a brief report to the WRD Board and two GF County Commissioners on RCPP watershed planning activities to include an outlook report on the anticipated RRJWRD financial assistance that may be requested to design and implement RCPP watershed plans.

INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE

Chuck Fritz, IWI Executive Director, provided updates on the IWI Map Portal which allows users to access, display, and create hard copy maps of available geospatial data in the Red River

of the North Basin. Site is maintained by IWI with funding from the MN Red River Watershed management Board and the ND Red River Joint Water Resource District.

The PTMAApp for ND Red River Basin Hydro-conditioning continues.

The final presentation for the March RRWMB Main-stem Flood Damage estimate has been postponed until April 16th prior to the strategic planning session.

BTSAC Tile Drainage Briefing papers 1 & 2 with presentation have been sent to the RRRRA with hopes of it being included as part of their outreach efforts.

Asher Kingery, Project Specialist, gave updates on the ND River Watch Program which involves five schools that are currently participating. The River Watch teams created a plan for a service project focusing on stewardship of a local waterway. All teams crafted a project proposal which included: (1) clear project description, (2) benefits the project will provide a local waterway, and (3) a plan of action to ensure it is completed. Mr. Kingery and Mr. Fritz requested financial support for this program from the RRJWRD in the amount of \$46,550.00 for one year which is needed to provide ROD watershed education opportunities to 4th – 7th grade students in the entire ND Red River Basin. After further discussion, Lance Yohe moved to fund one year for the ROD Program in the amount of \$46,550.00 contingent on the State Water Commission funding 50% with the opportunity of the IWI coming back to the RRJWRD if the SWC denies funding the program. Mr. Kingery and Mr. Fritz will also be approaching the NRCS for possibly cost-sharing the program. Ben Varnson seconded the motion. Roll call taken: Richland-yea; Walsh-yea, Grand Forks-yea, Traill-yea, North Cass-yea, Southeast Cass-yea, Rush River-yea, Nelson-yea, Steele-yea. Motion carried.

RED RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

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

Mr. Preister stated that they are finalizing a water quality plan for retention projects and updating policies with long term flood solutions.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:40pm without objection.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Gary Thompson, Chair

Nettie Johnson, Secretary

