

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

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Thompson on May 9, 2018 at 9:30am in Hillsboro, ND. Those present were: Chairman Gary Thompson; Managers: Ben Varnson, Robert Rostad, Scott Olerud and Josh Ihry. 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; Ted Preister, Red River Basin Commission; Morrie Lanning, Lanning Consulting; and Debra Walchuk, USDA/NRCS.

**ORDER OF AGENDA**

Josh Ihry moved to approve the order of the agenda as amended. Robert Rostad seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**MEETING MINUTES**

Ben Varnson moved to approve the March 7th, 2018 Executive Committee meeting minutes as presented. Robert Rostad seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**COST-SHARE REQUESTS**

Ben Varnson, Nelson County WRD, presented a request for cost-share for an Emergency Action Plan for the McVille Dam in Nelson County. The McVille Dam is a retention facility and is considered as a medium hazard dam. This dam will aid the Nelson County WRD and the City of McVille in the event of an unusual or emergency situation at the McVille Dam. The main purpose of the dam is recreation. A very minimal amount of temporary floodwater storage is available if the permanent pool is drawn down with the low-level pipe or through evaporation. During discussion, it was determined that this dam is solely owned and operated by the City of McVille with Nelson County WRD having no legal binds to it. The Executive Committee tabled this request until further notice. No action was taken.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Carol Harbeke Lewis presented the RRJWRD financial report for the Committee to review. Josh Ihry moved to approve the report as presented. Scott Olerud seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Ben Varnson moved to approve payment of check numbers 3619 - 3627 along with the electronic funds transfers. Robert Rostad seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Josh Ihry moved to direct Treasurer Harbeke Lewis to forward the Letter of Engagement to the Office of the State Auditor for 2017. Scott Olerud seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Josh Ihry moved to approve the official RRJWRD Resolution for the 2019 Budget. The full Joint Board approved the 2019 budget at 1.5 mills at their April 11, 2018 meeting. Robert Rostad seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

### **LEGISLATION**

Discussion was held on questions being asked by the Legislative Council regarding mill levy requirements of joint WRD's. Under N.D.C.C § 61-16.1-11 Joint exercise of powers it states that "the joint board shall be accountable for all funds and reports of all receipts and disbursements to the state water commission in a manner prescribed by the commission". Attorney Fredricks responded that he is aware of the provision and Carol's office has all of the financials we need in the event the SWC requests any of it. He added that he inquired about that many years ago at the SWC and nobody seemed to know anything about it. The statute does not create an affirmative obligation for Joint WRDs to report anything, it just says we are accountable. The Treasurer's office will provide a copy of the RRJWRD detailed budget to the SWC on an annual basis.

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

Mr. Gjestvang provided information on the meetings and inspections he has been involved with from April 11 – May 8, 2018.

Discussion was held on Red River Basin-wide Feasibility Study to include:

- Fine tuning "Thaw Progression" events to match balanced Hydrographs
- Compile phase 1 HEC-HMS models for adopted storage scenario
- Calibrate HEC-RAS model for Phase 2
- Run Phase 1, with adopted storage
  - a. Evaluate percent reduction of peak/volume at gages
- Report results to local technical team
- Local technical team to provide storage alternative in HMS to run
  - a. Low and high density
- Corps to run storage alternatives with HEC-WAT
- Finalize documents
  - a. Respond to quality control comments

Further discussion was held on the RRJWRD website. Requests for information on completed projects from several firms have been made with feedback from some. Moore Engineering will be providing information on 5 sites in the next few weeks.

Devils Lake is currently at 1449.9 msl. The western outlet will begin pumping today. The eastern outlet will start later this month. The committee discussed water quality issues.

## **RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY**

Keith Weston, Executive Director for the RRRRA, reported on several meetings and activities he has been involved with since April 11<sup>th</sup> to include the following:

- Assisted in drafting a Conservation Collaboration Grants or Agreements application for the RRRRA. This 1-year application if funded, would continue the NRCS and RRRRA partnership in completing Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) watershed planning, promote watershed land treatment needs in RCPP watersheds and provide soil health outreach and education opportunities.
- Sent an email on April 12<sup>th</sup> to North Branch Park River and North Branch Antelope Creek RCPP watershed sponsors and their consultants regarding the need to request a 1-year extension of their RCPP contribution agreements.
- Participated in April 24<sup>th</sup> Red River Basin Agricultural BMP Workshop planning team teleconferences. A workshop is not being proposed for April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Crookston, MN.
- Has contacted the Minnesota WD's with RCPP watersheds requesting to be on an upcoming board meeting agenda with Debra Walchuk, NRCS Red River Basin Coordinator, to get updates on the status of the RCPP watershed plans and to offer assistance in the plans completion. Mr. Weston and Ms. Walchuk plan to meet with all WD's by the first week of June.
- On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, provided a brief RCPP watershed update to US Senator Hoeven and ND Governor Burgum at the Fargo-Moorhead Chamber of Commerce Ag Committee meeting and expressed a need for future RCPP funding and PL83-566 Small Watershed Program funding in the next one to two years.

Mr. Weston introduced Debra Walchuk, NRCS-Red River Basin Coordinator. Ms. Walchuk presented and described a condensed fact sheet reflecting NRCS goals.

## **RED RIVER BASIN COMMISSION**

Ted Preister, Executive Director, was here to provide updates on the Natural Resources Framework Plan (NRFP), watershed management activities, long term flood solutions and several other issues pertaining to the Red River Basin Watershed.

Mr. Preister is currently working with the Cass County Joint Board on retention and water quality issues and the Corps and NDSU on tiling and hydrology issues. Funding grants are being allocated for these issues.

A Devils Lake watershed tour has been scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> which will include looking at USGS monitoring sites.

A new Pembina Task Team is being pursued for Border Dike issues.

Outreach activities are on-going.

**INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE**

Gary Thompson presented an IWI Activity Report for April – May 2018 on behalf of Executive Director Charles Fritz to include updates for FDR, Condition, Watershed, and SWAG Projects, the River Watch Program, RRWMB Main stem Flood Damage, and PTMapp issues. Gary mentioned that Mr. Fritz is in the process of updating LIDAR.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Josh Ihry reported that the newly constructed Maple River Dam has proved to be very beneficial with the high water levels this spring.

The Committee examined the current Water Management Strategy Report and determined that updates to the report are necessary. Everyone agreed that this report is necessary for the benefit and purpose of educating the legislators and county commissioners on water management initiatives in the Red River Valley. Josh Ihry moved to direct Randy Gjestvang, Keith Weston and others to work together on making the revisions to the report and present a draft copy to the RRJWRD in the near future. Scott Olerud 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 12:05p.m.without objection.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

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Gary Thompson, Chairman

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Nettie Johnson, Secretary