

**MEETING MINUTES  
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
ORIGINATING AT THE OFFICE OF TRAILL COUNTY WRD  
HILLSBORO, NORTH DAKOTA  
AUGUST 8, 2018 ~ 9:30AM**

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Thompson on August 8, 2018 at 9:30am in Hillsboro, ND. Those present were: Chairman Gary Thompson; Managers: Ben Varnson, Robert Rostad, Lance Yohe and Josh Ihry. Also present were: Sean Fredricks, Attorney for the Board; Nettie Johnson, Secretary; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Treasurer; Randy Gjestvang, SWC; Chris Gross, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Keith Weston, Red River Retention Authority; Ted Preister, Red River Basin Commission; Morrie Lanning, Lanning Consulting; and Chuck Fritz, International Water Institute.

**ORDER OF AGENDA**

Lance Yohe 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 May 9th, 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. Lance Yohe moved to approve the report as presented. Robert Rostad seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Josh Ihry moved to approve payment of check numbers 3628 - 3643 along with the electronic funds transfers. Ben Varnson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Josh Ihry moved to approve the 2017 Audit Report as presented. Robert Rostad seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Lance Yohe moved to approve the *Pledges of Assets* as presented below:

Alerus	As per agreement executed April 20, 2012
Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines (Bremer)	Letter of Credit dated March 15, 2018
Dakota Heritage Bank – Hillsboro	\$168,000.00
Goose River Bank (Bank of North Dakota)	\$1,020,000.00
Sargent County Bank – Milnor	\$115,000.00

Ben Varnson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

## **STATEWIDE INTERDISTRICT SIGNIFICANT PERMIT ISSUES**

Randy Gjestvang updated the Committee on the status of the Helendale Private Drain, Richland County, ND. He said that the Regulatory Section had questions about the permit among other questions. Easement issues were talked about.

## **WATER STRATEGY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Several changes were asked to be made to the report by the Committee to include the quality of maps showing completed projects, etc. They asked that a new draft report with the changes be available for review by the next full Board RRJWRD meeting.

## **LEGISLATION**

Attorney Fredricks conveyed that tile discussion with the legislators should be held to get a better sense of their stance with this topic along with funding initiatives.

Water topic issues were talked about. A bus tour of the Red River flood control project, presentations and committee discussions regarding the Red River flood control project, Garrison Diversion Authority projects, water supply regionalization, and State Water Commission activities, and other presentations and committee discussion relating to the committee's assigned studies and duties will be held on September 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>.

Lance Yohe said he would like to scope a document on a concept on efforts on how to manage resources on a larger scale and would like to investigate soil absorption rates to see if it would be beneficial and also how it would affect quality/quantity productivity with farming practices. He expects many entities to be involved with this strategy.

## **RANDY GJESTVANG REPORTS & UPDATES**

Mr. Gjestvang provided information on the meetings and inspections he has been involved with from June 27 through August 7, 2018.

State Water Commission:

- Cost-share applications should be provided to the SWC at least 45 days prior to the meeting.
- Water managers will be asked to describe their projects with an opportunity of their engineers to give a short presentation if needed and for technical questions.

Red River Basin-wide Feasibility Study:

- Regional detention analysis is near completion
- All HEC-HMS models have been received (1997 and existing conditions)
- Phase 1 and 2 of HEC-RAS models running
- Phase 1 HEC-WAT running with original “thaw progression” for 100 year
- Developing strategy to link Phase 1 and 2 WAT models
- Balanced hydrographs completed

RRJWRD Website: <http://www.redriverjointwrdr.org/>

- Obtained information from sponsors and engineering firms for several of the completed projects.
- Melissa Maertens has put funded projects and featured projects on website.

- Matejcek Dam (Walsh County):
- Constructed through the NRCS PL 566 Program; Federal funding has been approved for a Rehab project. Cost-share from the RRJWRD will be requested in the near future.

Information was provided by Chuck Fritz, IWI, regarding a possible LiDAR collect in the Red River watershed.

Canadian Dike Lawsuit:

- Discussion on who pays for the lawsuit costs. The Committee directed Attorney Fredricks to communicate with Pembina County Attorney Rod Fleming on the status of the RRJWRD commitment.

Devils Lake:

- Currently at 1449.4 msl. Both outlets running at 250 cfs

### **RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY**

Keith Weston, Executive Director for the RRRA, reported on several meetings and activities he has been involved with since June 27<sup>th</sup> to include the following:

- Worked with the NRCS to develop RCPP fact sheets for each of the Red River Basin's RCPP watersheds.
- The RRRA Board of Directors met and discussed the NRCS grants and agreements, 2019 budget, office sub-lease agreement, RCPP watershed updates, and RRBC Sub-watershed Planning Pilot project.
- Developed and sent letter of support to MN and ND Congressmen and Senators informing them of the continued need for flood control and water retention projects in the Red River Basin.
- Received 2018 official Big Iron Farm Show Guide information. The RRRA will have a booth again this year September 11 – 13.
- Received MN NRCS information on proposals for FY19 Readiness Phase of the NWQI and MRBI or Source Water Protection Readiness Phase Pilot for NWQI.
- Participated in July 12<sup>th</sup> Red River Basin Agricultural BMP Workshop planning team teleconference.
- Continue to spend considerable time discussing one-year extensions to RCPP watershed contribution agreements as well as the potential to extend the NRCS agreement beyond May 20, 2020. Five watersheds requested NRCS to extend their RCPP agreement for one year. NRCS grants and agreement's staff are working on these amendments.
- Next RRRA board meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2018 at 10:00am at the Cass County Highway Department.

**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 seeking funding support for the RRBC’s Long Term Flood Solutions (LTFS) project. This project represents what is known about potential reductions of damages across the basin. Many of the recommendations within the plan have been adopted and acted upon. Those actions have changed the river’s overall hydrology in places as technology has advanced. After further discussion, Ben Varnson moved to approve funding the Red River Basin Commission LTFS project in the amount of \$12,500.00 for year 2018 with \$5,000.00 of that being paid by September 15, 2018 and to recommend to the Red River Joint WRD full Board to approve up to and not to exceed \$100,000.00 for 2 years if necessary and if no other funding is provided by another funding source. Lance Yohe seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE**

Executive Director Charles Fritz was in attendance to update the Committee on FDR, Condition, Watershed, and SWAG Projects, the River Watch Program, RRWMB Main stem Flood Damage, and PTMapp issues.

Mr. Fritz reiterated information on the LiDAR collect within the Red River Watershed. Lance Yohe moved to authorize Randy Gjestvang to assist the IWI with the ND Red River PTMApp hydroconditioning effort by conducting (when necessary) field verification/ identification of local drainage features. 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 12:15p.m.without objection.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

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Gary Thompson, Chairman

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Nettie Johnson, Secretary