

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

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Thompson on November 7, 2018 at 9:30am in Hillsboro, ND. Those present were: Chairman Gary Thompson; Managers: Ben Varnson, Larry Tanke, Robert Rostad (by phone), Lance Yohe and Josh Ihry (by phone). 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 Melissa Maertens, Cass County WRD (by phone).

ORDER OF AGENDA

Ben Varnson moved to approve the order of the agenda as amended. Larry Tanke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES

Lance Yohe moved to approve the August 8th and October 10th, 2018 Executive Committee meeting minutes as presented. Larry Tanke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

COST-SHARE REQUESTS

2019 USGS Monitoring Program

Chris Laveau, Hydrologist with the USGS, met with the Committee today to describe the 2019 Cooperative Monitoring Program. Upon review and discussion of the Joint Funding Agreement for the continued USGS cooperative streamflow monitoring programs with the RRJWRD for FY 2019, Ben Varnson moved to recommend to the RRJWRD Full Board to pay up to a maximum of \$137,500.00 for FY 2019. Lance Yohe seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Laveau indicated that they are currently in the process of updating their datum at their sites which will aid and benefit engineers in their surveying practices.

Mr. Laveau asked the committee if they would have any interest in the future for stream gage monitoring of the Grafton Diversion. He then described the estimated costs for this potential effort. This topic will be discussed further at future meetings.

Lance Yohe spoke of precipitation gaging the SE Cass WRD, RRBC and the Weather Service are working on. At this time they are looking for guidance on the best direction to take and will continue to keep us informed on this venture.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Carol Harbeke Lewis presented the RRJWRD financial report for the Committee to review. Ben Varnson moved to approve the report as presented. Larry Tanke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Lance Yohe moved to approve payment of check numbers 3644 - 3652 along with the electronic funds transfers. Robert Rostad seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Larry Tanke moved to authorize the Treasurer to make any minor year-end transfers to balance the RRJWRD 2018 budget; to authorize Treasurer to make transfers to/from obligated funds if necessary; and to amend the RRJWRD 2018 budget. Lance Yohe seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

WATER STRATEGY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Randy Gjestvang described the changes to the report since it was last presented at the full Board meeting in October. After further review and discussion, Lance Yohe moved to finalize and approve the report as presented. Larry Tanke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Copies will be presented to the full Board in December for them to distribute to their water managers and county commissioners.

Lance Yohe moved to accept Knight Printing's proposal of \$1,208.60 which includes the printing of 250 copies of the report. Ben Varnson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

LEGISLATION

Sean Fredricks reiterated the status of the two proposed bills that he urges the RRJWRD to support: HB 1374, a water policy bill that included provisions that prohibits the State Water Commission from providing cost-share for snagging and clearing projects, and, HB 1374 which contains an economic analysis requirement for flood control and water conveyance projects. He strongly suggests that water managers convince area legislators to co-sponsor these two bills during the legislative session now that the mid-term elections are over.

RANDY GJESTVANG REPORTS & UPDATES

Mr. Gjestvang provided information on the meetings and inspections he has been involved with from October 10 – November 6, 2018.

State Water Commission:

- A subcommittee meeting will be held November 8th to discuss:
 - USGS Stream Gages
 - 2019-2021 Strategic Planning
 - Flood Control & General Water Bucket
 - Richland County Drain No. 7
 - Dam Rehabilitation Funding

Randy will be calling in to the meeting and then relay a list of items to the Executive Committee that were discussed by the Flood Control and General Water Subcommittee.

- 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 (Remaining Steps):

- Fine tune “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
- Report results to local technical team
- Local technical team to provide storage alternative in HMS
- Corps to run storage alternatives with HEC-WAT
- Finalize document

Comprehensive Watershed Management Study

- Approved by the Corps Headquarters on October 17th.

Border Dike near Lower Pembina River Area:

- RRBC will have an update on status of Task Team

Devils Lake:

- Currently at 1448.2 msl. Both outlets shut down on October 31st.

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY

Keith Weston, Executive Director for the RRRA, reported on several meetings and activities he has been involved with since October 10th to include the following:

- Communicated with Justin Parks, Watershed Coordinator of the Grand Forks County SCD about the 2019 soil health workshop which includes talk of promoting soil health.
- Signed a joint letter by the RRRA, RRWMB, IWI, and the RRBC on October 11th regarding federal assistance for completing a LiDAR collection for the entire Red River Basin.
- Attended a RRWMB meeting in Roseau and then took a tour of the Whitney Lake RCPP watershed area reflecting the water resource problems plaguing the watershed there.
- Met with Greg Burd, 1200 The Flag Radio station to discuss doing outreach on the radio network regarding the RRRA’s retention efforts in the basin.
- Received an email from ND NRCS regarding RCPP agreements. All RCPP agreements include progress reporting requirements. Cooperative agreements also have financial reporting requirements. All requirements must be met to maintain agreement compliance and support the NRCS RCPP agreement management responsibilities.

- Attended and participated in the RRWMB’s Flood Damage Reduction Work Group meeting in Thief River Falls, MN. They are working on a new strategic plan update.

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.

Below is a list of projects that Mr. Preister has been involved in:

- Long Term Flood Solutions (LTFS) between Cass County, MPCA, the Buffalo Red and Wild Rice Watershed districts. The US Army Corp of Engineers has agreed to participate with matching \$325K for work on modeling and hydrology.
- Integrated Drainage – Continued work on the project. Over the last several weeks an agreement was made with NDSU to initiate baseline water quality sampling in the proposed study area.
- Netly Libau March Restoration – The Science Committee has sent a request for proposals to multiple engineering firms on the project.
- LiDAR – Multiple projects are in the works. One surrounding and north of the city of Winnipeg and one around Morris. Requests for Proposals (RFP) are being drafted and should be released next month.
- One Basin One Governance – Planning continues to move forward for a conference in September 2019. Funding has been secured from the Canadian Federal Government.
- Water Supply – The Red River Valley Supply project is proceeding in N.D. The Technical Specification working group met in September and had a good discussion and understanding of project concerns and variables.
- Pembina Task Team – Met with Governor Burgum’s Natural Resources Policy advisor in October. Gave an overview of what the RRBC does and what projects are active in N.D.

INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE

On behalf of Executive Director Charles Fritz, Gary Thompson gave an update on outreach efforts and River Watch activities that are currently underway with classrooms in N.D.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to be considered by the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:10p.m.without objection.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Gary Thompson, Chairman

Nettie Johnson, Secretary