

**MEETING MINUTES
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
FULL BOARD MEETING
RAMKOTA HOTEL
BISMARCK, ND
DECEMBER 6, 2018 ~ 12:00PM**

Vice-Chairman Varnson called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

ROLL CALL

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

Larry Tanke moved to approve agenda as amended. Rich Axvig seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES

Lance Yohe moved to approve the full Board's October 10, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Dave Middleton seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

COST-SHARE REQUESTS

2019 USGS Monitoring Program

Chris Laveau, Hydrologist with the USGS, described 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 and a recommendation by the Executive Committee, Josh Ihry moved to approve the request for cost-share for the USGS Monitoring Program in the amount of \$137,500.00 for FY 2019. Andy Naset seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Randy Gjestvang informed the full Board about a request the Sargent County WRD submitted for a feasibility study of the Silver Lake Dam. The dam is owned by the Sargent County Park District. The Park District and the Sargent County WRD have entered into an agreement to jointly study the dam. The dam has served as a source of public recreation and flood protection for properties along the Wild Rice River. In 2015 the ND State Water Commission conducted an inspection of the dam and documented seepage through the dam embankment. The Park District and the Sargent County WRD have continued to monitor the dam embankment. The purpose of the Study is to determine options for repair or replacement of the existing dam embankment and to further investigate potential alternatives to repair or relocate the structure and bring the dam into compliance with current standards.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Carol Harbeke Lewis presented the RRJWRD financial report for the full Board to review. Dave Middleton moved to approve the financial report as presented. Joel Halvorson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Sean Fredricks reiterated two proposed bills he is urging the Red River Joint Water Resource District to support:

- 1) HB 1374, a water policy bill that included provisions that prohibits the State Water Commission from providing cost-share for snagging and clearing projects.
- 2) HB 1374 which also contains an economic analysis requirement for flood control and “water conveyance” projects. Under this provision, the State Water Commission cannot consider cost-share for flood protection and drainage projects until reviewing the economic analysis for those projects. Mr. Fredricks encourages water managers to convince area legislators to co-sponsor these two bills during the legislative session.

RRJWRD 2018-2022 WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REPORT

Treasurer Carol Harbeke Lewis distributed finalized copies of this Report. Additional copies are available through Carol’s office for county commissioners, et al.

FARGO-MOORHEAD DIVERSION PROJECT

Mary Scherling, Cass County Commissioner, reported on the status of the FM Diversion Project.

Ms. Scherling described estimated project costs and continues to work on updating its financial plans. The Diversion Board of Authority accepted a new cost estimate and adjusted funding plans for the project and endorsed the proposed funding approach. Project costs including Plan B are expected to be \$2.75 billion.

The Minnesota DNR issued a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the FM Flood Risk Management Project in November. The review of Plan B is ongoing.

RANDY GJESTVANG REPORTS & UPDATES

Mr. Randy Gjestvang provided a report on meetings and inspections that he has been involved with from October 10th through December 5th, 2018.

Mr. Gjestvang described the items for discussion that will be held at the State Water Commission meeting tomorrow to include:

- USGS Stream Gages
- Baumann Drain in Bottineau County
- Richland County Drain No. 7 (with these 2 projects, SWC obligated \$1.2 million this biennium for conveyance projects)
- 2019-21 Agency Strategy Plan
- 2019 State Water Development Plan
- Red River Valley Water Supply Project Update

Updates were given on LiDAR collect in the Red River Watershed, Red River Basin wide Feasibility Study, and the Comprehensive Watershed Management Study.

Mr. Gjestvang provided PTMApp hydrology information on the Maple River watershed and the Rush River watershed. He is working with the IWI to use time as in-kind match.

Devils Lake is currently standing at 1448.2 msl. Outlets were shut down on October 31, 2018.

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY

Keith Weston, Executive Director for the RRRRA, reported on several meetings and activities he has been involved with since November 7th to include the following;

- Attended a soil health summit “Regenerating Soil with Diversity” at the National Energy Center of Excellence in Bismarck. The summit had several key speakers and leaders in soil health from multiple states and provinces. Soil health principles may have great potential as an ancillary practice in the basin.
- Provided an RRRRA update to the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) on November 20th in Crookston.
- Participated in the Ag BMP Conference Planning Committee teleconference on November 21st.
- Participated in the MN Flood Damage Reduction Work Group Strategic Planning Subcommittee meeting in Detroit Lakes.
- Participated in the RRBC Drainage Integration Workgroup meeting on December 3rd at Moore Engineering.
- Currently working on completing the RRRRA 6 month Progress Report to USDA, NRCS for reporting period no. 7.

NRCS UPDATES

Keith Weston provided updates on behalf of Debra Walchuk, Red River Basin Coordinator, on her recent meetings, programmatic updates, and accomplishments to include:

- Currently operating under a continuing resolution and they have no farm bill. The continuing resolution expires December 7th.
- Waiting to learn of provisions contained in the pending farm bill for the RCPP, and for the timeline to be announced for the 2019 NRCS programs.
- Reviewed and certified Fiscal Year 2018, 4th quarter payments for RRB-RCPP agreements.
- Sent letters to RCPP partners to clarify the statutory requirements and agreements policy for nationwide RCPP reporting and payments
- Submitted RCPP partner financial and programmatic progress reports to the national RCPP Team for compilation into one agency report.

RED RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Leah Thvedt provided information on the RRBC annual Red River Basin Land and Water International Summit Conference scheduled for January 15-17, 2019 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks. Keynote speaker will be Paul Douglas, American Meteorology Society (AMS) who focuses on media, corporate briefings, and forensic Meteorology.

Lance Yohe spoke of precipitation gaging the SE Cass WRD, RRBC and the Weather Service are working on and will continue to keep us informed of this venture.

OTHER BUSINESS

Secretary Johnson presented the 2019 Red River Joint WRD full Board and Executive Committee meeting schedule for the board to review. Hearing no comments, Robert Rostad moved to approve the schedule as presented. Rich Axvig seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm without objection.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Ben Varnson, Vice-Chair

Nettie Johnson, Secretary

