

**MEETING MINUTES
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
FULL BOARD MEETING
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, ND
JANUARY 9, 2019 ~ 9:30AM**

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

ROLL CALL

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

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

MEETING MINUTES

Ben Varnson moved to approve the full Board's December 6, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Robert Rostad seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2019 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The following is a list of the various appointments and elections the Red River Joint Water Resource conducted for 2019 at our meetings on January 9:

I. Executive Committee Elections

In accordance with Article XIII, Section 1, of the By-Laws, at its meeting on January 9, the full Joint Board elected the following Managers to serve on the Executive Committee for 2019:

1. Full-Time Position: Ben Varnson
2. Full-Time Position: Larry Tanke
3. Full-Time Position: Lance Yohe
4. Scott Olerud (Alternate)

Josh Ihry will act as senior alternate in 2019.

Bruce Anderson moved to approve the Executive Committee Elections for 2019. Rodger Olson 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. Larry Tanke moved to approve the financial report as presented. Dick Sundberg seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Sean Fredricks informed the full Board of the proposed bills that will be introduced this session in connection to WRD's abilities to construct, operate, and manage water infrastructure. Below is a list of the bills that will be presented:

- 1) SB 2139 - Snagging & Clearing
- 2) SB 2174 - Water Managers Elections
- 3) HB 1314 - WRD's Equal Pay to Legislators
- 4) HB 1184 - Eminent Domain to Eliminate Quick Take
- 5) HB 1087 - Dike and Dam Permitting
- 6) SB 2020 - Appropriations Bill (Buckets)
- 7) HB 1086 - Waters of North Dakota
- 8) SB 2220 - Drain Tile Permitting

Mr. Fredricks reiterated the necessity of water managers to be engaged with legislators by appearing to testify and contacting members of the various committees when necessary.

FARGO-MOORHEAD DIVERSION PROJECT

Rodger Olson updated the full Board on the status of the FM Diversion Project.

The Minnesota DNR has granted a Dam Safety and Public Waters Works Permit (Plan B).

The Diversion Board of Authority is moving forward on efforts to resolve ongoing litigation with the MN DNR & the Richland/Wilking JPA.

Continuing efforts on working with impacted property owners and easement issues and those affected from buyouts.

Met with agricultural bankers and presented mitigation plans to them. The Diversion Authority is awaiting their suggestions.

RANDY GJESTVANG REPORTS & UPDATES

Mr. Randy Gjestvang provided a report on meetings and inspections that he has been involved with from December 6th, 2018 through January 8, 2019.

Mr. Gjestvang gave a list of dates for meetings that will be held with the State Water Commission Subcommittee in 2019. The agenda and call-in information will be available on their website.

There was a State Engineer presentation to the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee on January 3rd regarding 2019-21 legislation. SB 2020 (Appropriations bill) hearing to be held on January 10th to discuss budget.

Updates were given on LiDAR collect in the Red River Watershed to include:

- QL2 Level LiDAR being collected for Red River watershed in ND. Includes a 4 mile buffer in MN. FEMA & NRCS grants paying for it all. Collection began in October 2018. Does not include development of one foot contours. Raw data will

be available on the SWC website. Note: County could cost-share to get collect of the entire county, if all is not in the Red River watershed.

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 to 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 low and high density;
- Corps to run storage alternatives with HEC-WAT;
- Finalize document and respond to quality control comments.

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 December 6th, 2018 to include the following:

- Participated in Richland County WRD board meeting and received update on the N. Branch Antelope Creek RCPP watershed. The sponsors and their consultants have made progress in watershed resource inventories but have considerable work to be done to meet the NRCS agreement deadlines of 9-30-19.
- Completed the RRRRA’s 6 month progress report to the USDA, NRCS for reporting period 7.
- Participated in the 2018 Prairie Grains Conference in December in Grand Forks. The RRRRA shared an exhibit space with the RRBC.
- Attended the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group Strategic Planning meeting in Ada, MN. This subcommittee is providing recommendations to the RRWMB as it relates to updating the 1998 FDR Mediation Agreement.
- Met with Houston Engineering staff in December to discuss timelines to request 1-year extensions on RCPP watershed planning agreements and to discuss the need for RRRRA to request a 1-year extension on MOU NRCS 14-C-ND-669. WRD’s need to determine, asap, if they are eligible and if so, to start the process.
- Working on setting up a joint meeting between MN and ND NRCS for January 16th, 2019 in Grand Forks to discuss RCPP watershed planning efforts and potential opportunities to enter into a new NRCS agreement to replace the expired agreement 68-6633-16-517.

RED RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Ted Preister, Executive Director, 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.

Updates were given on the ongoing long term solutions throughout the Red River basin. Mr. Preister reported on a tile project currently underway in Cass County.

The Pembina County Task Team appointed five new members to oversee the lower Pembina River and its issues.

INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE

Chuck Fritz, Executive Director, reported on annual highlights that are currently happening with watershed research, flood damage reduction, watershed pollutant load monitoring, and watershed education.

In the 18th year of operation, the IWI board and administration initiated a strategic planning effort that included revisiting the organization’s mission, staff and board transition planning, and identifying short and long term goals, and developing paths that will guide efforts in the coming years. IWI staff will be working to address the IWI’s strategic goals which include:

- Establish funding goal, rationale, and plan to leverage unrestricted net assets.
- Staff and board member transition planning.
- Outreach (mission and decision support tools)/Watershed Education Center.
- Manager/Adult Education workshops.
- Expand River Watch Programming.
- Expand River of Dreams.
- Continue environmental monitoring and training efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:25am without objection.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Gary Thompson, Chair

Nettie Johnson, Secretary

