

**MEETING MINUTES
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
ORIGINATING AT THE OFFICE OF THE TRAIL COUNTY WRD
HILLSBORO, NORTH DAKOTA
MARCH 13, 2019 ~ 9:30AM**

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Thompson on March 13, 2019 at 9:30am in Hillsboro, ND. Those present were: Chairman Gary Thompson; Managers: Ben Varnson (by phone), Larry Tanke, 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.; Zach Herrmann, Houston Engineering, Inc.; Keith Weston, RRRRA; Ted Preister, RRBC; Chuck Fritz, IWI; and Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering, Inc.

ORDER OF AGENDA

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

MEETING MINUTES

Josh Ihry moved to approve the January 9, 2019 and January 29, 2019 Executive Committee meeting minutes as presented. Ben Varnson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

COST SHARE REQUESTS

Mike Ell, ND Department of Health, Division of Water Quality, brought forth a request for the RRJWRD to help defray the costs of a Red River Basin/Cold Climate Agricultural Nutrients BMP Workshop they are conducting April 16-17, 2019 at the University of Crookston, MN. The primary purpose of the workshop is to reach consensus on BMP's that will work throughout the Red River Basin to reduce the delivery of nutrients. The amount of the request is \$2,500.00. After further discussion, Josh Ihry moved to approve the request. Ben Varnson seconded the motion. Roll call was taken: Ihry-yea, Varnson-yea, Tanke-nay, Thompson-yea. Motion carried.

Mike Opat, Moore Engineering, Inc. described a cost-share request submitted by the Maple-Steele Joint Water Resource District for the reconstruction of failed side slopes, removing unsuitable material, and riprapping the channel on the Upper Maple River Dam Outlet Channel. The estimated total cost is \$147,000.00 for the channel improvement. Ben Varnson moved to recommend to the RRJWRD full Board to approve 65% of the non-federal, non-state share of the cost of the project, not to exceed \$52,552.50. Larry Tanke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Zach Herrmann, Houston Engineering, Inc. described an emergency cost-share request submitted by the Pembina County WRD for the repairs to the Goschke Dam spillway gate retrofit located in the Tongue River. The District feels that the repair of the slide gate requires immediate attention. The dam is not able to function properly without the repair. The

total cost of the project is estimated at \$137,480.00. The total request to the RRJWRD is \$25,785.50. Because of the urgency of the situation, Larry Tanke moved to approve 65% cost-share of the non-federal, non-state share of the cost not to exceed \$16,250.00 for the gate replacement. Josh Ihry seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Ben Varnson moved to approve 65% cost-share of the non-federal, non-state share of the cost not to exceed \$9,535.50 for the catwalk replacement. Larry Tanke 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. Larry Tanke moved to approve the report as presented. Josh Ihry seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Josh Ihry moved to approve payment of check numbers 3669 - 3683 along with the electronic funds transfers. Larry Tanke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2020 BUDGET

Sean Fredricks described the proposed budget for 2020 which include funds necessary for the Joint Board's operations and cost-share to member districts and other projects. The Executive Committee must adopt a recommended budget for 2020 for consideration by the full Joint Board. Upon further discussion, Josh Ihry moved to submit a draft Resolution to the full Joint Board recommending 1.5 mill levies for 2020. Larry Tanke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

LEGISLATION

Sean Fredricks brought the Committee up to date on the status of several Senate and House bills that have been presented through the North Dakota Legislation session this year which include eminent domain, tile, funding and snagging and clearing. Mr. Fredricks will keep us informed of any legislative actions being taken in the future.

RANDY GJESTVANG REPORTS AND UPDATES

Randy Gjestvang provided a report on meetings and inspections that he has been involved with from January 9, 2019 through March 12, 2019.

Mr. Gjestvang described the items for discussion that will be held at the State Water Commission meetings in 2019 including SWC sub-committee meetings. Some of the items up for discussion tomorrow include:

- Economic analysis policy development
- Water supply, flood control, and general bucket discussion
- Valley City issues
- Goschke Dam (Pembina County)
- Upper Maple River Dam (Cass and Steele Counties)

Other topics of discussion included:

- 2019-2021 Legislation
- SWC Webpage

- LiDAR collect in the Red River Watershed
 - a. QL2 LiDAR being collected for the RR watershed in ND; also includes a 4 mile buffer strip in MN; FEMA & NRCS grants paying for all of it; Collection began in October 2018;
 - b. Does not include development of 1 foot contours;
 - c. Raw data will be available on the SWC website;
 - d. County could cost-share to get collect of entire county, if all is not in the RR watershed;

- Hydrological questions for PTMapp
 - a. Provided information on volume of pumped discharge from Devils Lake and average monthly flows on the Sheyenne River;

- Red River Basin Feasibility Study
 - a. Continuing work on the remaining steps;
 - b. Corps in finishing up HEC-RAS model;
 - c. Requesting an additional \$47,000 federal funds;
 - d. Expect final meeting near the end of April 2019;
 - e. RRJWRD has a cost-share contract with the SWC for detention analysis. Local consultants provide the information to the Corps and review the work. Would like to submit all costs to SWC prior to June 30, 2019.

- Comprehensive Watershed Management Study
 - a. De-authorization of two federal snagging and clearing projects not included in the WRDA bill; approved by the Corps on October 17, 2018;

- Summer Red River Basin Tour being discussed

- Spring flood outlook
 - a. Much of RR main stem at “major” flood risk;
 - b. Most of ND tributaries in “moderate” flood risk;
 - c. 2” to 5” water content;
 - d. Next outlook will be March 21st

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY

Keith Weston, Executive Director for the RRRRA, reported on several meetings and activities he has been involved with since January 9th to include the following:

- A joint meeting between MN and ND NRCS and Co-chairman Finney and Thompson was held on January 16th in Grand Forks to discuss RCPP watershed planning efforts and potential opportunities to enter into a new NRCS agreement to replace the expired agreement.

- Attended a meeting in January with Midwest Radio of Fargo-Moorhead to explore possible outreach opportunities regarding the RCPP watersheds in the Red River basin. More information will be forth coming.
- Participated in a Minnesota NRCS WebEx meeting regarding the Minnesota Conservation Collaboration Grants or Agreements FY 2019 for Program Funding. This year's call for grant applications is focused on NRCS getting technical assistance to implement Farm Bill Conservation programs.
- Participated in a WebEx meeting for Nutrient Reduction BMP Planning Team.
- Working on three outreach projects under the NRCS cooperative agreement. Currently working with ND Department of Health, Water Quality Division on the Ag BMP workshop in Crookston, and soil health workshops with the Grand Forks County SCD and Becker County SWCD.
- Participated in a teleconference with NRCS personnel from Minnesota State Office, National Water Management Center, and National Headquarters regarding a RCPP Benefit Cost Analysis and NED Benefits for plans being prepared under RCPP.
- Attended the Upper Sand Hill Watershed Project Team in Fertile, MN.
- Participated in Ag BMP teleconferences on March 11th to finalize speakers, budget, and logistics for the Red River Basin/Cold Climate Agricultural Nutrients BMP Workshop. The Workshop is scheduled for April 16th and 17th at the University of Crookston.

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.

The U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, is lowering its reservoir elevations within the Red River of the North Basin in anticipation of spring snow melt. Ted spoke of the elevations in different locations that will be lowered prior to this event. He talked about drawdown releases that may degrade river ice downstream of the reservoirs and that care should be taken for those recreating or working in those areas. Spring drawdowns are done in concurrence with snow surveys, which are nearing completion.

Mr. Preister described the Red River Basin Drainage Conference being held on March 19th and the 2019 RRWMB and MNFDRWG 21st Annual Joint Conference being held on March 20th – 21st both at the Marriott Hotel in Moorhead, MN. Also mentioned is the 11th Annual Fish Dinner Gala being held at the Sunova Centre in West St. Paul, MB on March 21st.

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.

Discussion was revisited on the River of Dreams Program which provides integrated classroom and outdoor experiences for elementary students that build awareness of river ecosystems and watershed connections; increases student capacity to make informal

decisions about their environment, and instills a sense of place about the historical, economic, and ecological uniqueness of their local watershed. Josh Ihry moved to recommend to the full Board to provide funding for two years to IWI for the River of Dreams Program. Mr. Fritz will present a new proposal for costs at the next full Board meeting in April. RRJWRD will provide incremental cost-share payments to IWI upon submission by IWI of a detailed statement of costs requested, including a description of IWI's activities and expenses incurred. RRJWRD will provide funding to IWI as reimbursement for labor, travel, and other expenses associated with the following Work Plan/Tasks. Larry Tanke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fritz gave updates on the ND River Watch Program which involves five schools that are currently participating. The River Watch teams have created plans for a service project focusing on stewardship of local waterways. Mr. Fritz is requesting financial support from the RRJWRD for this program. After further discussion, Josh Ihry moved to recommend to the full Board to provide funding for two years to the IWI for the River Watch Program. Mr. Fritz will present a new proposal for costs at the next full Board meeting in April and also approach the NRCS and the NDSWC for possible cost-sharing the program. Larry Tanke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Sean Fredricks informed the Committee that the Red River Joint WRD will sponsor water manager training on Friday, March 29, at his office in West Fargo (444 Sheyenne Street). The RRJWRD Executive Committee decided we should conduct the training on tile and tile permitting. Sean, Mike Opat, and Chris Gross will conduct the training.

The training session(s) will run from 10 a.m. to noon. This will satisfy the state-mandated water manager training requirement.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to be considered by the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:50a.m.without objection.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Gary Thompson, Chairman

Nettie Johnson, Secretary