

**MEETING MINUTES
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
ORIGINATING AT THE OFFICE OF THE TRAILL COUNTY WRD
HILLSBORO, NORTH DAKOTA
JULY 17, 2019 ~ 9:30AM**

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Thompson on July 17, 2019 at 9:30am in Hillsboro, ND. Those present were: Chairman Gary Thompson; Managers: Ben Varnson (by phone), Larry Tanke, Robert Rostad, and Josh Ihry. Also present were: Sean Fredricks, Attorney for the Board; Nettie Johnson, Secretary; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Treasurer; Randy Gjestvang, SWC; Curt Lysne, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Zach Herrmann, Houston Engineering, Inc.; Keith Weston, RRRRA; Ted Preister, RRBC; Asher Kingery and Danni Halvorson, IWI; and Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering, Inc.

ORDER OF AGENDA

Ben Varnson moved to approve the order of the agenda. Robert Rostad seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES

Larry Tanke moved to approve the May 8th, June 3, and June 12, 2019 Executive Committee meeting minutes as presented. Robert Rostad 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. Josh Ihry moved to approve the report as presented. Ben Varnson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Josh Ihry moved to approve payment of check numbers 3701 - 3711 along with the electronic funds transfers. Robert Rostad seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Larry Tanke moved to approve the 2018 Audit Report as presented. Robert Rostad seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Robert Rostad 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 June 14, 2019	
Goose River Bank (Bank of North Dakota)	\$1,195,000.00
Sargent County Bank – Forman	\$115,000.00

Josh Ihry seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

MEETING PROCEDURES

Discussion was held on ways to help streamline meeting topics so that it will make discussion more effective and to allow for positive interaction between all board managers.

LEGISLATION

Sean Fredricks informed the Committee that the State Water Commission Appropriation's Bill has been capped at \$8M. It was anticipated that WRD's would have \$48M available in the 'general water management' bucket, but now it appears that it has been reduced for all 'water conveyance' projects (drainage and snagging & clearing projects). Sean has spoken to Lance Gaebe & Jack Dwyer about this who has indicated that they will be working with Garland Eberle and Jim Schmidt on receiving additional funding. If WRD's do not get extra funding, projects will again be on hold until the bill can be revisited at the next biennium.

INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE

Asher Kingery and Danni Halvorson approached the Committee this morning with a request for the RRJWRD to continue to support funding for the River Watch and River of Dreams programs. Mr. Halvorson stated that the ND SWC has committed to funding one more year, along with the Department of Environmental Quality contributing some "left over" funds. The number of ND River Watch schools would expand from 5 to 13 through August of 2020. After further discussion, Josh Ihry moved to recommend to the full Board to approve up to \$53,840.00 to the River Watch Program and up to \$17,200.00 to the River of Dreams Program, for one year. Ben Varnson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Harbeke Lewis and Secretary Johnson left the meeting at 11:00am. Sean Fredricks presided as acting secretary for the remainder of the meeting.

RANDY GJESTVANG REPORTS AND UPDATES

Randy Gjestvang discussed the upcoming State Water Commission meeting, pending SWC cost-share requests, and funding issues generally.

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY

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

Mr. Weston reported on the RCPP process. Kevin Farmer, NRCS National Watershed Operations Program Manager, and Doris Washington, NRCS National Water Management Center Director, recently visited to discuss ongoing RCPP plans. They participated in a tour of several areas where RCPP plans are ongoing. They discussed the b/c process and offered a possible alternative option for plans that do not meet a 1:0 b/c ratio. In addition, they indicated there is a possibility of a wetland mitigation bank. Keith will continue to investigate that possibility, and will otherwise remain engaged with NRCS regarding RCPP planning.

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 discussed the Basin Commission’s ongoing “Comprehensive Sub-watershed Plan” in the Rush River WRD district. Ted is engaging landowners to determine interest in participating.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to be considered by the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:30p.m.without objection.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Gary Thompson, Chairman

Nettie Johnson, Secretary

Sean Fredricks, Acting Secretary