

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
VIRTUAL/PHONE CONFERENCE  
ORIGINATING AT THE CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA  
JANUARY 13, 2021 ~ 11:30AM**

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Thompson on January 13, 2021 at 11:30am. Those present were: Chairman Gary Thompson; Managers: Ben Varnson, Dan Jacobson, Arv Burvee, Josh Ihry, and Tom Perdue. Also present were Sean Fredricks, Attorney for the Board; Nettie Johnson, Secretary; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Treasurer; and, Randy Gjestvang, SWC.

**ORDER OF AGENDA**

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

Josh Ihry moved to approve the November 18, 2020 Executive Committee meeting minutes as presented. Ben Varnson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**2021 ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

The following is a list of the various elections and appointments the Red River Joint Water Resource District must conduct for 2021 at our meetings on January 13, 2021:

**I. Executive Committee Elections**

In accordance with Article XIII, Section 1, of the By-Laws, at its meeting on January 13, 2021, the full Joint Board elected the following Managers to serve on the Executive Committee for 2021:

1. Ben Varnson
2. Larry Tanke
3. Josh Ihry
4. Alternate Position - Tom Perdue elected

Arv Burvee will act as senior alternate in 2021.

On January 13, 2021, the full Board elected Gary Thompson and Dan Jacobson for full-time positions on the Executive Committee, and Jim Haugen as an alternate. Jim Haugen recently retired and the Richland County WRD appointed Arv Burvee as their Red River Joint WRD representative. In light of Jim's retirement mid-way through his term, Chairman Thompson appointed Arv Burvee as Jim's replacement for the remainder of Jim's term, in accordance with the By-Laws (Art. VII, Sec. 8).

The full-time position seats held by Gary Thompson and Dan Jacobson will be up for election in 2022, along with the alternate position currently held by Arv Burvee.

## **II. Officer Elections**

In accordance with Article VII, Section 2, of the By-Laws, the Executive Committee must elect officers at its first meeting following the full Joint Board's first meeting of the year: "...At the first meeting of the Executive Committee . . . held after the first regular meeting of the Joint Board of Directors every year . . . ." At its meeting on January 13, the Executive Committee elected the following officers for 2021:

1. Chair: Gary Thompson
2. Vice-Chair: Ben Varnson
3. Secretary: Nettie Johnson
4. Treasurer: Carol Harbeke Lewis

Ben Varnson moved to nominate Gary Thompson as Chair for 2021. Dan Jacobson seconded the motion. Josh Ihry moved to cease nominations. Ben Varnson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Dan Jacobson moved to nominate Ben Varnson as Vice-Chair for 2021. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Dan Jacobson moved to elect Nettie Johnson as Secretary and Carol Harbeke Lewis as Treasurer for 2021. Josh Ihry seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Officers serve as Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer for both the Executive Committee *and* for the full Joint Board until the Executive Committee meeting following the first full Joint Board meeting in 2022.

## **III. Other Appointments**

In addition, the Executive Committee made the following appointments at our meeting on January 13, 2021:

1. North Dakota Water Coalition:
  - Voting Member: Gary Thompson
  - Alternate: Dan Jacobson
2. North Dakota Water Coalition, Funding Subcommittee
  - Voting Member: Gary Thompson
  - Alternate: Dan Jacobson
3. State Water Commission Cost-Share Committee and Funding Sub-Committee
  - Gary Thompson and Josh Ihry

4. Red River Retention Authority:
  - Three Voting Members: Gary Thompson, Ben Varnson, and Rodger Olson
  - Alternates: Dan Jacobson, Josh Ihry, and Larry Tanke
  
5. Red River Basin Commission:
  - Two Voting Members: Dan Jacobson and Ben Varnson
  - Alternates: Gary Thompson and Josh Ihry
  
6. International Water Institute Board of Directors:
  - Josh Ihry
  
7. BTSAC - Basin Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee:
  - Randy Gjestvang, Mike Opat, Mike Bassingthwaite, and Kurt Lysne
  
8. Red River Watershed Feasibility Study - Advisory/Technical Committee:
  - Larry Tanke, Dan Jacobson, Randy Gjestvang, Zach Herrmann, and Mike Bassingthwaite
  
9. North Dakota Water Resource Districts Association:
  - Gary Thompson and Dan Jacobson
  
10. North Dakota Water Users Board of Directors
  - Sean M. Fredricks and Kurt Lysne
  
11. North Dakota Water Users Board of Directors and Executive Committee
  - Arv Burvee
  
12. North Dakota NRCS Technical Committee:
  - Josh Ihry and Ben Varnson
  
13. Ag Coalition
  - Gary Thompson
  - Alternate: Ben Varnson
  
14. Legal Counsel
  - Sean M. Fredricks
  
15. Additional Engineering Consultants
  - Moore Engineering, Inc.
  - Interstate Engineering, Inc.
  - Houston Engineering, Inc.

Josh Ihry moved to approve all Officer Elections as listed above for 2021. Dan Jacobson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion was held on the ND Ag Coalition matters who is a federation of organizations representing specific agricultural commodities with an interest in agriculture. Mr. Gary

Thompson indicated that he would be interested in applying for a membership with the Coalition. Bylaws require that each potential member be sponsored for consideration by at least three current ND Ag Coalition members, one of which must be livestock, row crop, or cereal crop entity. After further discussion, Arv Burvee moved to have an application for membership submitted to the Ag Coalition on behalf of Gary Thompson and the Red River Joint WRD. Ben Varnson will serve as alternate. Ben Varnson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Dan Jacobson moved to approve the depositories of RRJWRD public funds and RRJWRD pledges of assets listed below and, the wire transfers for bills. Ben Varnson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Depositories of RRJWRD Public Funds

- The Goose River Bank (Bank of North Dakota)
- Bremer Bank, N.A. - Fargo
- Bremer Bank, N.A. - Lisbon
- Bell Bank
- Alerus Financial
- Dakota Heritage Bank - Hillsboro
- Stock Growers Bank – Forman
- Choice Bank – Grafton
- United Valley Bank - Cavalier

RRJWRD Pledges of Assets

Alerus Financial	As per agreement executed April 20, 2012
Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines (Bremer)	Letter of Credit dated December 13, 2019
Dakota Heritage Bank	\$1,100,000.00
The Goose River Bank (Bank of North Dakota)	\$5,270,000.00
Sargent County Bank – Forman	\$115,000.00
Choice Bank – Grafton	As per agreement dated April 8, 2019

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business to be considered by the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:05p.m.without objection.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

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Gary Thompson, Chairman

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Nettie Johnson, Secretary