

MINUTES OF VIRTUAL / CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT FULL BOARD
ORIGINATING AT THE CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
JUNE 9, 2021

A virtual / conference call meeting of the Red River Joint Water Resource District Full Board was held on June 9, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.

Present were Gary Thompson, Traill County Water Resource District; Bruce Anderson, Barnes County Water Resource District; Tom Perdue, Grand Forks County Water Resource District; Rodger Olson, Maple River Water Resource District; Ben Varnson, Nelson County Water Resource District; Don Kemp, Pembina County Water Resource District; Scott Olerud, Ransom County Water Resource District; Arv Burvee, Richland County Water Resource District; Michael Wyum, Sargent County Water Resource District; Dan Jacobson, Southeast Cass Water Resource District; Josh Ihry, Steele County Water Resource District; Nettie Johnson, Secretary; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Treasurer; Sean M. Fredricks, Ohnstad Twichell, P.C.; Randy Gjestvang, North Dakota State Water Commission; and those whose names appear on the attached roster. Rush River and Walsh County Water Resource Districts were absent.

Agenda

It was moved by Ben Varnson, seconded by Dan Jacobson and unanimously carried to approve the order of the agenda, as amended.

Minutes

It was moved by Tom Perdue, seconded by Michael Wyum and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2021, meeting.

Steele County Water Resource District - Golden Lake Complex Study - cost-share request

Discussion was held on the Golden Lake Complex Study cost-share request from Steele County Water Resource District. The request is for funding to complete a study of the Golden Lake complex to determine water quality benefits as well as the potential to add additional temporary flood water detention. Randy Gjestvang recommended approval of 65% cost-share of the non-federal, non-state share of the study, not to exceed \$44,687.50.

It was moved by Ben Varnson and seconded by Tom Perdue to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the *Cost-Share Agreement* with Steele County Water Resource District regarding the Golden Lake Complex Study for 65% cost-share of the non-federal,

non-state share, not to exceed \$44,687.50, contingent upon recommendation of approval of the request from the Executive Committee. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Maple River Water Resource District - Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – Upper Maple River Watershed Plan – additional cost-share request

Discussion was next held on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) - Upper Maple River Watershed Plan additional cost-share request from Maple River Water Resource District. Kurt Lysne indicated additional funds are needed to finish the Plan as the Natural Resources Conservation Service has requested the study be expanded to include environmental benefits to improve water quality. Randy Gjestvang recommended approval of 65% cost-share of the additional non-federal, non-state costs to complete the Plan, not to exceed \$21,125.

It was moved by Josh Ihry and seconded by Arv Burvee to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the *First Amendment to Cost-Share Agreement* with Maple River Water Resource District regarding the RCPP – Upper Maple River Watershed Plan for 65% cost-share of the non-federal, non-state share, not to exceed \$21,125, contingent upon recommendation of approval of the request from the Executive Committee. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Legislative updates

Dani Hanson reported on legislative updates regarding water resource districts. Discussion was held on the SB 2208 interim study. Ms. Hanson stated the annual Water Resource District Association summer meeting will be held in July in Grand Forks, North Dakota. The 2021 North Dakota Water Education Foundation Summer Water Tours begin next week in Devils Lake and Fargo, North Dakota.

Treasurer's report

It was moved by Dan Jacobson and seconded by Michael Wyum to approve the Financial Report, as presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

USGS Drought Risk Analysis Presentation

Rochelle Nustad presented on the USGS Drought Risk Analysis of the Red River basin. Ms. Nustad also discussed the *Joint Funding Agreement* with the USGS regarding the Dakota Water Science Center Water Resources Investigations project, the Red River low flow study, during the period of June 15, 2021, through 2022. The cost-share request for the project is for \$25,000 from the Red River Joint Water Resource District, with USGS contributing \$8,000.

A motion was made by Don Kemp and seconded by Ben Varnson to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the *Joint Funding Agreement* with the USGS in the amount of \$25,000 regarding the Dakota Water Science Center Water Resources Investigations project. Upon roll call vote the following member Water Resource Districts voted in favor:

Trails, Ransom, Richland, Sargent, Maple River, Branes, North Cass, Pembina, Southeast Cass, Nelson and Steele. Grand Forks County Water Resource District voted no. The motion passed.

Pilot projects

Sean Fredricks discussed legislation regarding appropriation of funds for water resource districts. The legislation includes \$1,000,000 in available funds. Mr. Fredricks stated he will work with the Water Topics Overview Committee on the matter and more information on the legislation will be brought to a future meeting.

Metro Flood Diversion Project report

Rodger Olson reported on recent activities regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Two bids have been received for the Public Private Partnership (P3) contract that will be responsible for constructing the Diversion Channel and Associated Infrastructure for the project. The bids are being reviewed by a technical group and the P3 contract will be awarded soon. Mr. Olson also reported on construction progress of the Diversion Inlet Structure, the Wild Rice River Control Structure, and the I-29 road raise components of the Metro Flood Diversion project. More information on the Metro Flood Diversion Project can be found at www.fmdiversion.gov.

International Water Institute report

Chuck Fritz reported on recent activities of the International Water Institute. The IWI continues to conduct water sampling throughout the region. Funding for River Watch and River of Dreams programs in 2022 and 2023 was secured from the state of Minnesota recently. Mr. Fritz noted all North Dakota data has been updated and is finalized regarding the PTMAApp.

Red River Basin Commission report

Lisa Eggert reported on recent activities and projects of the Red River Basin Commission. Work continues on the Lower Red River regional detention study with the Corps of Engineers. The September Ex Officio and Board meeting and tour is scheduled for September 1-2, 2021, in Moorhead, Minnesota.

Red River Retention Authority report

Keith Weston reported on recent meetings and activities of the Red River Retention Authority (RRRA). The RRRA continues to work on progressing watershed plans through the Natural Resources Conservation Service PL-566 program. Mr. Weston briefly discussed meetings with the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group Planning Committee regarding floodplain mapping and funding options for future water projects. The next RRRA meeting is June 10, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cass County Highway Department.

North Dakota State Water Commission report

Mr. Gjestvang reported on recent meetings and activities he has participated in. Mr. Gjestvang discussed the *Cost Share Agreement* for the Red River office of the State Water Commission, as well as the duties performed as part of the agreement. The Red River Joint Water Resource District 50% cost-share is \$152,000 for two years.

A motion was made by Ben Varnson and seconded by Dan Jacobson to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the *Cost Share Agreement* with the State Water Commission regarding the Red River office in the amount of \$152,000. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be considered by the Board, the meeting adjourned without objection.

APPROVED:

Gary Thompson
Chairman

ATTEST:

Carol Harbeke Lewis
Acting Secretary-Treasurer