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
JANUARY 25, 2023

A meeting of the Red River Joint Water Resource District (RRJWRD) Full Board was held on January 25, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

Present were Gary Thompson, Traill 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; Arv Burvee, Richland County Water Resource District; William A. Hejl, Rush River Water Resource District; Josh Ihry, Steele County Water Resource District; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer; Nina Stone, Accountant; Melissa Hinkemeyer, Administrative Assistant; Sean M. Fredricks, Ohnstad Twichell, P.C.; Randy Gjestvang, North Dakota Department of Water Resources (NDDWR); Jack Dwyer and Dani Quissell, North Dakota Water Users; Zach Herrmann and Mike Opat, Houston Engineering, Inc.; Kurt Lysne and Nathan Trosen, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering, Co.; Ted Preister, Red River Basin Commission Executive Director; Grit May, Danni Halvorson, Dave Kirkpatrick and David Kramar, International Water Institute (IWI). Barnes County, North Cass, Ransom County, Sargent County, Southeast Cass and Walsh County Water Resource Districts were absent.

Legislative updates
Sean Fredricks and Jack Dwyer reported on legislative updates regarding water resource districts.

Agenda
It was moved by Manager Ihry, seconded by Manager Perdue and unanimously carried to approve the agenda, as presented.

Minutes
It was moved by Manager Varnson, seconded by Manager Olson and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2022, meeting.

Treasurer's report
It was moved by Manager Ihry and seconded by Manager Perdue to approve the Financial Report, as presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2023 Executive Committee Elections

Mr. Fredricks stated the RRJWRD Executive Committee positions currently held by Ben Varnson, Josh Ihry and Larry Tanke are up for election this year. The alternate position on the RRJWRD Executive Committee currently held by Tom Perdue is also up for election.

Josh Ihry nominated Ben Varnson to serve on the RRJWRD Executive Committee for calendar year 2023. Hearing no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken and all Managers voted in favor.

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Ben Varnson nominated Don Kemp to serve on the RRJWRD Executive Committee for calendar year 2023. Hearing no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken and all Managers voted in favor.

Josh Ihry nominated Tom Perdue to serve as an alternate member on the RRJWRD Executive Committee for calendar year 2023. Hearing no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken and all Managers voted in favor, with the exception of Manager Perdue, who abstained. Motion carried.

Mr. Fredricks noted Arv Burvee will act as senior alternate on the RRJWRD Executive Committee for calendar year 2023 and Tom Perdue will act as senior alternate for calendar year 2024.

IWI Map Portal Tutorial

Grit May presented a tutorial on the IWI Map Portal. The Map Portal can be found at https://gisapps.iwinst.org/map-portal/ and has numerous data layers, including contour data, snow depth and drought information. Ms. May also demonstrated several tools in the Map Portal including the elevation profile and watershed delineation tools. The Map Portal is free to use and covers the Red River Basin. Ms. May also reported IWI staff continue to work on the updates to the LiDAR derived tools in the Red River Basin in North Dakota using the 2018/2019 NNDDWR LiDAR data that is cost-shared by the Red River Joint Water Resource District.

Pilot Project

Kurt Lysne updated the Board on the Pilot Project through the RRJWRD. Mr. Lysne presented testimony provided by Manager Weston to the North Dakota legislature requesting $12 million in funding through SB 2020 for a pilot project for North Dakota RCPP projects in the Red River Basin. The Board will be updated on the matter at a future meeting.

Sheyenne River Bank Stability Study

Mike Opat provided an update on the Sheyenne River Bank Stabilization Study downstream of Baldhill Dam to the confluence of the Red River. Barnes County Water Resource District gathered input from public and private property owners with infrastructure along the Sheyenne River to identify erosion and bank failure issues, with an emphasis on threats to public and private structures, utilities and other facilities. Information was collected through an online form and has been compiled with data collected from LiDAR and aerial photography. The data will be presented to Barnes County Water Resource District soon and at a future RRJWRD meeting.

Red River Retention Authority (RRRA) report

The RRRA is searching for a new Executive Director as Keith Weston is retiring from the position in mid-2023.

IWI report

The annual IWI River Watch Forum will be held March 1, 2023, in Grand Forks, ND. The Board was invited to attend the Forum.

RRBC report

Ted Preister reported on recent RRBC activities and projects. Mr. Preister noted the 40th Annual Red River Basin Land and Water International Summit Conference was held January 17-19, 2023, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The RRBC also continues to work on its ongoing projects, including coordinating the bathymetry data collection of the entire mainstem of the Red River from the South Dakota border to the Canadian border this year with the Corps of Engineers.

Metro Flood Diversion Project report

Rodger Olson reported on the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Construction is occurring on several components of the project. Project information and updates are available at www.fmdiversion.gov and by signing up for the project e-newsletter, the Diversion Current. The Metro Flood Diversion Project is scheduled to be completed in 2027.

NDDWR / State Water Commission report

Randy Gjestvang reported on recent meetings and activities he has participated in. Mr. Gjestvang updated the Board on the status of the Lower Red River Regional Detention Analysis Study, high hazard dam rehabilitation studies and IWI LiDAR tools development update. The NDDWR updated State Water Commission cost-share policy is now in place; however, discussion continues regarding snagging and clearing. Mr. Gjestvang also discussed the upcoming spring melt in the Red River Basin and reported on the USGS stream gage updates to the 1988 datum. Mr. Gjestvang reminded the individual member water resource districts to send updates on Board member changes for 2023 to the NDDWR for their records.

Upper Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource Board meeting

Manager Varnson reported the Upper Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource Board annual spring meeting in conjunction with various agencies and Boards will be held on March 15, 2023, in Valley City, North Dakota. The meeting agenda will be distributed soon.

Next meeting

The next RRJWRD Full Board meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

Adjournment

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

APPROVED:

_____
Josh Ihry
Chairman

ATTEST:

_____
Carol Harbeke Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer