

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
ORIGINATING AT THE EAGLES CLUB
EAST GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA
JULY 31, 2024

A special meeting of the Red River Joint Water Resource District (RRJWRD) Full Board was held on July 31, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Eagles Club, in East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

Present were Keith Weston, Southeast Cass Water Resource District; William A. Hejl and Richard Sundberg, Rush River Water Resource District; Clint Arndt, Richland County Water Resource District; Melissa Hinkemeyer, Secretary; Randy Gjestvang, North Dakota Department of Water Resources; and those whose names appear on the attached roster.

Red River Retention Authority Partner Summit

The Board attended the 2024 Red River Retention Authority (RRRA) Partner Summit. The RRJWRD is a partner of the RRRA.

Randy Gjestvang presented an update on the RRJWRD during the Summit. The RRJWRD provides cost-share to member districts for detention projects. Mr. Gjestvang said the RRJWRD has cost-shared over \$4,000,000 for over \$42,000,000 worth of studies, and over \$16,000,000 for over \$72,000,000 worth of construction projects. There are 57 retention dams in the Red River Basin in North Dakota. Currently, there are several dam rehabilitation studies ongoing as well as watershed planning through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP). Other current projects the RRJWRD is involved in include the rehabilitation of Elm River Dams Nos. 1, 2 and 3 that is in construction, as well as the Lower Red River Regional Detention Study.

Mr. Gjestvang then discussed current challenges the RRJWRD and its member districts are facing, including increased construction costs, difficulty in reaching benefit:cost ratios to secure cost-share funding for projects, project funding in general, right of way acquisition, the ability to maintain existing water storage sites as infrastructure ages, and permitting concerns.

Additional minutes regarding the 2024 RRRA Partner Summit can be found at <https://www.redriverretentionauthority.net/meeting-documents.html>.

Adjournment

There being no further business for the Board to consider, the meeting adjourned without objection.

APPROVED:

Josh Ihry
Chairman

ATTEST:

Melissa Hinkemeyer
Secretary