

**MEETING MINUTES
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
ORIGINATING AT THE OFFICE OF THE TRAILL COUNTY WRD
HILLSBORO, NORTH DAKOTA
AUGUST 9, 2017 ~ 9:30AM**

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Thompson on August 9, 2017 at 9:30am in Hillsboro, ND. Those present were: Chairman Gary Thompson; Managers: Ben Varnson, Robert Rostad, Lance Yohe, Josh Ihry, Larry Tanke, and Scott Olerud. Also present were: Nettie Johnson, Secretary; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Treasurer; Randy Gjestvang, SWC; Keith Weston, RRRRA; Morrie Lanning, Lanning Consulting; Mike Bassingthwaite, Interstate Engineering; Mike Opat, Moore Engineering; Leah Tvidt, RRBC; Rodger Olson, Cass County Joint WRD; and Cam Leedahl, Richland County.

ORDER OF AGENDA

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

MEETING MINUTES

Ben Varnson moved to approve the July 12th, 2017 Executive Committee meeting minutes as amended. Lance Yohe seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Carol Harbeke Lewis presented a RRJWRD financial report for the Committee to review. Robert Rostad moved to approve the report as presented. Josh Ihry seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Ben Varnson moved to approve payment of check numbers 3565 – 3573 along with the electronic funds transfers. Larry Tanke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

STATEWIDE INTERDISTRICT SIGNIFICANT PERMITS

Helendale Private Drain, LLC

Cam Leedahl presented two options by their engineer for allowing a 48 cfs flow into the drain. The first option demonstrates how the planned gated structures could be altered. The second option would be a culvert alongside the gate. Chad Engels and Randy Gjestvang have worked with the information recently submitted by Cam Leedahl and developed proposed permit conditions that seem satisfactory for all parties. After further discussion, Ben Varnson moved to approve the draft *Resolution Recommending Approval of Application to Drain No. 4390* regarding the Helendale Private Drain Project. Lance Yohe seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Randy or Chad will forward the final conditions to Attorney Fredricks to include in the *Resolution*.

LEGISLATION

Gary Thompson described the formation of several committees willing to strategize in possibly reversing the State's decision on subsurface drainage and quick-take issues. Mr. Thompson stressed the importance of having several WRD members be willing to represent this committee. He added that prioritization is key to finding answers.

Lance Yohe feels it's necessary to target our state legislators and consider possibly finding a representative for the eastern part of the state.

RANDY GJESTVANG REPORTS & UPDATES

Mr. Gjestvang provided information on the meetings and inspections he has been involved with from July 12 through August 8, 2017.

Discussion was held on SWC cost-share issues to include:

- a. Incursion of rural flood control projects and detention projects as part of "flood control funds" rather than "general funds" was discussed at the Water Topics meeting.
- b. Economics Analysis Guidelines and Process Development.

Randy continues to ask for comments from WRD's and engineering consultants on RRJWRD potential projects.

An application for "leave to appeal" has been submitted to the Canadian Supreme Court. A Memorandum of Argument was included. The Manitoba respondents have 30 days to file their own submission in response.

The next SWC meeting is scheduled for August 23rd, October 12th and December 8th, 2017.

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY (RRRA)

Keith Weston, Executive Director for the RRRA, reported on several meetings and activities he has been involved with since July 12th to include the following:

A report was given to the RRWMB on July 18th. He has reviewed a RRRA/NRCS RCPP fact sheet for the Red River Basin Initiative and will send a copy to the legislators. He feels that it may be beneficial.

Provided assistance in conducting the RRWMB/RRJWRD meeting and tour on July 19th and is also assisting with the RRBC Drainage Water Management Tour scheduled for September 6th.

Participated in the Red River Basin Ag BMP Workshop planning team on July 21st to discuss topics for an upcoming 2018 workshop.

Working with ND NRCS on best procedures to terminate a RCPP watershed agreement so the NRCS can avoid sending the remaining funds in the agreement back to the Treasury.

Assisting in setting up a display at the RRRR booth for Big Iron Days September 12-14.

Working on developing a banner stand and graphics for table top display. RRRR information was sent in for a free editorial listing by Farm and Ranch Guide.

INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE (IWI)

The Committee revisited an issue pertaining to the funding of the migration of the RRBDIN site to another server and for annual maintenance. Chuck Fritz will be asked to provide a presentation at the RRJWRD full board scheduled on September 27th to reflect comparisons with the State Water Commission's LIDAR services and tools.

RED RIVER BASIN COMMISSION (RRBC)

Lance Yohe, Interim Coordinator, provided the Committee with RRBC updates.

Discussion was held on the Water Quality Basin-Wide report. They are currently regrouping on drainage, soil health, etc. issues and will continue to work on them throughout the year. There will be a workshop including these topics at the Annual Convention in Winnipeg in January 2018.

Leah Tvidt, Outreach Coordinator, is working with the RRRR on similar visions and issues.

A September 6, 2017 drainage tour is being planned for the Fargo/Moorhead area. Information regarding this tour will be sent out in the near future.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rodger Olson, Cass County Joint WRD, joined the meeting this morning to provide updates to the FM Diversion Project to include:

- Will be breaking ground on the first project structure, the Diversion Inlet and Control Structure
- Continued work on building flood protection in Oxbow
- Near completion of the floodwalls and in-town levees
- Releasing a Request for Proposal for interested firms competing to be the private partner in the project
- Land acquisition issues

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