

**MEETING MINUTES
RED RIVER JOINT WATER RESOURCE DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
ORIGINATING AT THE OFFICE OF THE TRAILL COUNTY WRD
HILLSBORO, NORTH DAKOTA
NOVEMBER 8, 2017 ~ 9:30AM**

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Thompson on November 8, 2017 at 9:30am in Hillsboro, ND. Those present were: Chairman Gary Thompson; Managers: Ben Varnson, Robert Rostad, Lance Yohe, Larry Tanke, and Scott Olerud. Josh Ihry was absent. Also present were: Nettie Johnson, Secretary; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Treasurer; Randy Gjestvang, SWC; Keith Weston, RRRRA; Chad Engels, Engineering; Zach Herrmann, Houston Engineering; and Chuck Fritz, International Water Institute.

ORDER OF AGENDA

Ben Varnson moved to approve the order of the agenda as amended. Larry Tanke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES

Lance Yohe moved to approve the August 9th and October 30th, 2017 Executive Committee meeting minutes as presented. Robert Rostad seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

COST-SHARE REQUESTS

2017 USGS Monitoring Program

Chris Laveau, Hydrologist with the USGS, met with the Committee today to describe the 2018 Cooperative Monitoring Program. Upon review and discussion of the Joint Funding Agreement for the continued USGS cooperative streamflow monitoring programs with the RRJWRD for FY 2018, Lance Yohe moved to recommend to the RRJWRD Full Board to pay up to a maximum of \$137,500.00 for FY 2018. Ben Varnson seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Lance Yohe moved to approve payment of check numbers 3574 – 3586 along with the electronic funds transfers. Larry Tanke seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Ben Varnson moved to authorize the Treasurer to make any minor year-end transfers to balance the RRJWRD 2017 budget; to authorize Treasurer to make transfers to/from obligated funds if necessary; and to amend the RRJWRD 2017 budget. Robert Rostad seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

STATEWIDE INTERDISTRICT SIGNIFICANT PERMITS

Helendale Private Drain, LLLC

Sean Fredricks stated that there are no new updates as they are still awaiting a decision from the State Engineer's Office.

LEGISLATION MATTERS

Discussion was revisited from last month regarding the hiring for a position to work on behalf of all water resource districts due to the problems that arose at the last legislative session. This will be discussed further at our upcoming meetings.

INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE (IWI)

Chuck Fritz was in attendance and informed the Committee that his office is working on updating the PTMapp at this time. He is hopeful that the LIDAR viewer will be available by the end of November. When this becomes available Mr. Fritz offered his assistance to go through and help us become familiar with the updates.

RESOLUTIONS

Discussion was held on possible resolutions and goals to offer at the Annual Convention next month. The following are some proposed resolutions and one 'goal' to offer based on what we discussed at our meeting:

GOALS

To promote and encourage meaningful and frequent communication between the North Dakota Legislature, the State Water Commission, the North Dakota Water Users Association, and the North Dakota Water Resource Districts Association.

RESOLUTIONS AND POSITIONS

We support appropriation of funds by the Legislature to enable the State Water Commission to provide cost-share funding for snagging and clearing projects.

We support a reasonable and efficient economic analysis process regarding the implementation or application of an economic analysis process for "water conveyance projects and flood-related projects," as mandated by 2017 House Bill No. 1374, § 12, but oppose the incorporation of federal benefit-cost analysis principles.

We support Water Resource Districts' rights to regulate tile or subsurface drainage in a reasonable manner to ensure responsible watershed management and to protect downstream communities, landowners, and infrastructure.

We support inclusion of a separate line-item specific to Water Resource District watershed improvement projects in the Legislature's State Water Commission budget appropriation bills, for purposes of funding retention, flood protection, snagging and clearing, and rural flood control projects.

We support modification of the State Engineer's one-tenth of an inch standard regarding property rights requirements for applications for dams, dikes, or other devices.

RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY (RRRA)

Keith Weston, Executive Director for the RRRA, reported on several meetings and activities he has been involved with since September 27th to include the following:

Attended USACE Red River Technical Advisory Committee meeting in Fargo in October. The Red River Watershed Feasibility Study is projected to be completed by the end of March 2018.

Attended a Joint meeting of the ND Water Users Association and ND Water Resource Districts Association in Bismarck. Also attended the ND Water Users Association and the ND Rural Water Systems Association social for water leaders at the ND Heritage Center in Bismarck. Newly appointed SWC members and legislators from the Water Topics Overview Committee were present.

Participated in the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group meeting in Thief River Falls, Mn.

Currently working on having the RRRA present at the MAWD, NDWUA and RRBC annual meetings and conferences.

Participated in the Red River Basin Agricultural BMP workshop planning team teleconferences. The workshop planning team has developed a purpose statement and themes for the workshop.

Working with the ND NRCS and Cass County JWWD on drafting a letter of support to terminate the RCPP watershed agreement. This letter will explain why termination of the agreement will not impact the ability of the RRRA to deliver on the objectives outlined in the MOU for the overall project.

Met with ND Representative James Schmidt and representatives from the RRJWWD to discuss Red River basin water management issues.

RANDY GJESTVANG REPORTS & UPDATES

Mr. Gjestvang provided information on the meetings and inspections he has been involved with from September 27 through November 7, 2017.

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

- Economics Analysis Guidelines and Process Development. The contract was awarded to HDR Engineering.
- A workshop was held on November 2nd. Good feedback was received.
- Efforts being made for economic analysis process.
- SWC will receive a draft for review in the next few weeks.
- Completion set for January 2018.

Updates were provided on the SWC Map-services. Randy indicated that the SWC will not be developing a “quick profile view” in the near future but a large number of data sets continue to be obtained for different levels of accuracy and various delivery formats. The profile viewer may not be using all data points.

Items pertaining to the Governor’s Task Force for the FM Diversion Authority were talked about.

Zach Herrmann informed the Committee that they have a proposed amendment to the preconstruction engineering for the Herzog Dam gate and catwalk retrofit that as previously approved by the RRJWRD. The additional work includes a geotechnical analysis on the dam in the vicinity of the riser structure. He found some concerns during the initial site visit and feels it needs to be addressed before moving forward with the project. Mr. Herrmann explained the additional costs that would be required and the remaining non-state eligible costs that would be added to the current cost share agreement. They have also been in contact with Dam Safety at the water commission about these concerns.

Discussion was held on the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan and the RRJWRD’s participation in developing it. Randy said the final document has been reviewed and suggests the Executive Committee write a letter to Nanette Bischoff at the Corps of Engineers offering our continued support of this Plan and in future basin-wide comprehensive integrated watershed management. Ben Varnson moved to move forward with writing a letter of support to Ms. Bischoff on the behalf of the RRJRWD. Lance Yohe seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

RED RIVER BASIN COMMISSION (RRBC)

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

Early policy discussion will be held by the Water Supply Task Force meeting on November 29th.

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.

Face-to face interviews for the RRBC Executive Director position will begin next Friday.

Mr. Yohe reminded the Committee of the Annual Red River Basin Commission convention that is to be held in Winnipeg January 23rd to 25th, 2018.

OTHER BUSINESS

The recipients of the 2017 Steamboat and Recognition awards at the upcoming annual convention in Bismarck were talked about.

ADJOURNMENT


Having no further business to be considered by the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:15p.m.without objection.

APPROVED:



Gary Thompson, Chairman

ATTEST:



Nettie Johnson, Secretary