



Red River Watershed Management Board

POLICY MANUAL

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FOREWARD

On June 15, 1993 at a regular board meeting of the Red River Watershed Management Board, a motion was made to form a committee (hereafter, called the Policy Manual Committee) to create a policy and general guidance manual. The committee was to consist of three board members, one engineer, one technician, and one administrator. The three board members selected were Gerhard Ross, Dan Wilkens, and Curtis Nelson, who in turn selected Rick St. Germain of Houston Engineering of Fargo, North Dakota as Engineer, Jerry Bennett, Houston Engineering as Technician and Ron Adrian of the Middle River-Snake River Watershed District as Administrator.

On June 17, 2003 at a regular board meeting, the Board of Managers appointed a committee (hereafter, called the Transition Team) to address the revisions needed to the Governing Documents publication. The committee was to consist of the following board members: Jerome Deal, Farrell Erickson, Vernon Johnson, and Daniel Wilkens.

On September 21, 2010 at a regular board meeting, President Finney appointed Manager Holmvik to fill a vacated position on the Transition Team (hereafter, called the Governing Documents Committee). The committee was to consist of the following board members: Jerome Deal, Ron Osowski, Dan Money, and Greg Holmvik.

PREFACE

This policy manual was prepared to provide interested parties and watershed managers of the Red River Minnesota Basin with a description of the overall mission of the Red River Watershed Management Board and specific objectives for accomplishing this mission. The Policy Manual Committee recommended that this initial volume of the Policy Manual be updated and revised in 1997 and every five years thereafter.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The committee wishes to thank Dr. Lawrence Woodbury, Professor at the North Dakota State University and Consultant to Houston Engineering of Fargo, North Dakota for writing the original draft from an outline prepared by the Policy Manual Committee. The committee also acknowledges, with thanks, suggested revisions and comments by Dr. Bernard Youngquist, St. Paul, Minnesota; Mark Deutschman of HDR Engineering, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Mary McConnell of Lindquist and Vennum, Attorneys at Law, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Red River Watershed Management Board members: Sanford Moen, Wild Rice Watershed District; Ron Osowski, Middle River-Snake River Watershed District; Harley Younggren, Two Rivers Watershed District; Farrell Erickson, Roseau River Watershed District; John Finney, Joe River Watershed District; and Don Ogaard, RRWMB Executive Director.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Red River Watershed Management Board is to institute, coordinate, and finance projects and programs to alleviate flooding and assure the beneficial use of water in the watershed of the Red River of the North and its tributaries.

B. HISTORY

The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) is an organization initially created to address chronic flooding problems and other water management issues within the drainage basin of the Red River of the North. It is widely recognized that flooding occurs frequently along the mainstem of the Red River and its tributaries. Flooding has been and is the principal water problem in the Red River of the North Basin.¹ The basin is particularly susceptible to severe flooding for two reasons; its flat topography, and the northward flow of the Red River. Spring thaws generally begin in the southern reaches, sending water to a river, restricted with ice in its northern reaches.

The majority of recorded and observed flood events originate from spring runoff. However, major summer flooding does occur with basin-wide impact (i.e., 1950, 1975 and 1993). Large historic floods were recorded in the basin in 1826, 1852, 1861, 1882, and 1897. Floods in 1950, 1966, 1969, 1975, 1978, 1979, 1985, 1989, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2001, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2013 have caused enormous economic and environmental disruptions. Major basin-wide flooding causes extensive and costly damage to crop land, roads, bridges, towns, cities, and farmsteads along and adjacent to the mainstem and its tributaries. Various types of organizations have been created to address the flooding problems of the valley, however, most of these entities had only local jurisdiction. Until 1976, no Minnesota water management organization existed with a Red River basin-wide perspective.

The Lower Red River Watershed Management Board (LRRWMB), later renamed the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB), was created by an act of the Minnesota legislature in 1976 to provide an organization with a basin-wide perspective concerning flooding. Historically, the activities of the RRWMB have centered on flood control. Previous efforts in dealing with the flooding problem within the Red River Basin consisted of single projects within a localized area, planned with primary regard to local benefits. The RRWMB actively promotes a basin-wide perspective for water management.

To date, the RRWMB has participated in 43 floodwater retention projects in the Red River Basin. Several more projects are under consideration by the RRWMB for financial

¹ Volume 3, Flood Damage and Drainage, Souris, Red Rainy River Basins Comprehensive Study: 1972.

support. Hydrologic water management studies have been undertaken by the RRWMB and others to provide an understanding of the characteristic flooding mechanisms of the basin, and to serve as a management tool for the purpose of assisting in making wise funding decisions. In 1980, the RRWMB commissioned a study that would ultimately have great impact on the Board's policy with respect to prioritizing flood control projects for financial support. This study,² completed in 1984, established the concept of flood wave timing as a unique characteristic of Red River Basin floods. The premise of this concept is that the severity of flooding on the Red River mainstem is directly related to the time of travel of flood waves within the headwaters of individual contributing tributaries to the mainstem. The timing concept is used by the RRWMB to establish priorities in financing flood control projects with the most local and mainstem flood reduction benefits. The RRWMB policy for evaluating flood control projects was first articulated in its *Project Evaluation Manual*, dated November 16, 1976. This document was later updated under the title *Application Procedures for Funding Flood Damage Reduction Projects and Related Programs*, and adopted by the RRWMB on January 15, 1991. This manual provides the main criteria for RRWMB financial support of proposed flood control projects. A copy of this document is included in this manual as Section 4.

In 1991, (Section 2) legislation changed the name from Lower Red River Watershed Management Board to Red River Watershed Management Board and expanded its authority to include projects and programs of benefit to the Red River Basin. Some of these RRWMB initiatives have included the promotion of basin planning, water quality studies, groundwater studies, data acquisition and educational programs. Examples are:

- developing a functional Geographic Information System (GIS) for the Red River Basin to use as a tool for basin planning;
- developing programs and materials intended to inform the public about natural resource management within the Red River Basin;
- funding and promoting planning on a watershed and basin-wide basis;
- funding water quality studies with the intent of understanding the relationship between land use and water quality;
- cost sharing with the United States Geological Survey in the maintenance and operation of stream gaging stations;
- assisting other units of local government with an inventory of possible wetland restoration locations;
- water supply;
- funding for the initial development of the Red River Basin Board (RRBB);

² Water Resources Engineering/Planning Program for the Red River of the North Basin in Minnesota. McCombs-Knutson Associates, Inc., 12800 Industrial Park Boulevard, Plymouth, MN 55441.

- funding and promotion of the River Watch program in conjunction with schools throughout the Red River Basin;
- supporting the mediation process; and
- developing broad-based LiDAR tools including the Project Planning Tool (PPT).

The RRWMB continues to provide a basin-wide perspective to water management in the Red River Basin.

C. AUTHORITY UNDER LAW

In 1976, the Minnesota legislature passed legislation which enabled existing watershed districts within the Minnesota portion of the Red River Basin to join together in a common effort under a Joint Powers Agreement to form the Lower Red River Watershed Management Board (LRRWMB). This organization was created for the purpose of instituting, coordinating, and financing projects and programs to alleviate flooding and to assure the beneficial use of water in the watershed of the Red River of the North and its tributaries. The 1976 legislation gave the LRRWMB authority for "construction and maintenance of projects of common benefit," and also allowed member watershed districts to levy up to two mills ad valorem tax to be utilized for flood water retention projects. One-half of the tax collected is retained by the individual member watershed district for projects within the district while the other half is transferred to the LRRWMB. Additional 1991 legislation changed the name of the LRRWMB to the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) and redefined the authority of the Board to "...development, construction, and maintenance of projects and programs of benefit to the Red River Basin." To conform with Minnesota Statutes Section 471.59 as amended in 1992, the current levy limitation is .04836 percent of the taxable market value of all property within the district. A copy of the authorizing legislation is included herein as Section 2.

As originally formed in 1976, the LRRWMB consisted of seven member watershed districts (WD): Joe River WD, The Two Rivers WD, Roseau River WD, Middle River-Snake River WD, Red Lake WD, Sand Hill River WD, and the Wild Rice WD. In 1980, the Buffalo-Red River WD joined. In 1994, the Bois de Sioux Watershed in the southern end of the Red River Basin joined bringing the number of member districts to nine. The jurisdiction of the renamed RRWMB is limited to that of its member districts. However, the RRWMB does have the power to cooperate with authorities in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Manitoba and to enter into "contracts, compacts and agreements which may be necessary to ensure integration of its projects." The RRWMB presently holds quarterly meetings with the Red River Retention Authority (RRRA). The RRRA was formed on May 26, 2010 through a Joint Powers Agreement and is comprised of members of the Red River Joint Water Resource District, a North Dakota political subdivision, and the Red River Watershed Management Board, a Minnesota political subdivision. The primary objective of the RRRA is to ensure joint, comprehensive, and strategic coordination of retention projects in the Red River of the North watershed and facilitating implementation and construction of retention in the Red River Valley. The RRWMB also participates in activities of the RRBB.

The RRBB was formed in 1997 by local, regional, and state/provincial interests in North Dakota, Minnesota, Manitoba, and South Dakota to develop a comprehensive plan for the Basin. In 2002, the RRBB joined with The International Coalition (TIC) and the Red River Water Resources Council (RRWRC) to form the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC). The mission of the RRBC is: To develop a Red River Basin integrated natural resources framework plan; to achieve commitment to implement the framework plan; and to work toward a unified voice for the Red River Basin.

CHAPTER II DESCRIPTION OF THE RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD

A. GEOGRAPHICAL WATERSHED - LOCATION AND SIZE

The Red River of the North Basin is located at approximately the geographic center of North America. The confluence of the Otter Tail and Bois de Sioux Rivers at Breckenridge, Minnesota, and Wahpeton, North Dakota marks the beginning of the Red River of the North. The mainstem of the river meanders northward through the Red River Valley along the common boundary between Minnesota and North Dakota, then continues through Canada to its eventual outlet into Hudson Bay. Within the United States, the river drains approximately 35,000 square miles: 16,620 square miles in North Dakota, 17,806 square miles in Minnesota, and 574 square miles in South Dakota. The Red River Basin in the United States is approximately 250 miles long and 300 miles wide at its widest point.³

The geologic history of the Red River Basin helps to explain its unique characteristics. As the late Wisconsin glacier of the great Pleistocene Ice Age retreated to the north, a glacial lake was formed, known as Lake Agassiz. Upon the drainage of Lake Agassiz, the Red River Basin was exposed. The Red River Basin in North Dakota is characterized by a gentle and almost uniform slope upward until the drainage divide is reached. In Minnesota, the terrain is very undulating in the upland areas, with a large number of lakes in the upper portion of the drainage area.

The topography of the lake plain area through which the Red River flows is generally flat with numerous tributaries joining the main channel. The flow of water has been affected by the construction of roads, bridges, towns, railroads, and other infrastructure. The removal of excess water through the construction of drainage systems has allowed for development and increased agricultural productivity of the land. These systems outlet into tributaries of the Red River, or the mainstem itself. There have not been any significant improvements made within the main channel of the Red River. However, many levees and ring dikes around farmsteads and municipalities have been constructed in recent years in response to frequent flooding.

Seventy-four percent of the land in the Red River Basin is agricultural. Sixty-six percent is cropland and eight percent is pasture and rangeland.⁴ Much of the land is devoted to the raising of small grains, edible beans, corn, soybeans, sunflowers, potatoes, canola, and sugarbeets, with interest in vegetable production increasing.

³ Volume 3, Souris Red Rainy River Basin Comprehensive Study: 1972, pp. 37-D.

⁴ Souris Red Rainy River Basins Comprehensive Study, 1972.

The climate is generally described as temperate and continental having cold winters and warm summers. Temperatures of 85 to 95 degrees Fahrenheit are common in the summer and 25 to 35 degrees Fahrenheit below zero are common in the winter. The annual normal precipitation in the basin ranges from 19 to 25 inches. Most of the precipitation consists of spring and summer rains, with the remaining being snowfall.

B. MEMBER DISTRICTS

A map showing the location and size of the Red River Watershed Management Board jurisdiction and its member watershed districts is included herein as Figure 1, page 8. Section 6 of this manual consists of a directory of member watershed districts and their points of contact. A description of local watershed district projects and their status is provided in the RRWMB Annual Reports.

JOE RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT. The district was established January 31, 1958, and is located in the extreme northwest corner of Minnesota in Kittson County. The district subbasin has an area of 118 square miles.

TWO RIVERS WATERSHED DISTRICT. This district was first established on October 30, 1957. The district subbasin has an area of 1,454 square miles located in Kittson and Roseau counties. The mainstem of the Two Rivers is only a few miles long. Three principal branches - the North Branch, the Middle Branch, and the South Branch - comprise the river system.

ROSEAU RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT. Established as Roseau River Drainage and Conservancy District in 1920, it was authorized to function as a watershed district in 1963. Located in the extreme northeastern corner of the Red River of the North basin, the district subbasin has an area of 1,128 square miles in the counties of Roseau, Kittson, Beltrami, Lake of the Woods, and Marshall. After leaving the United States, the Roseau River drains an additional 929 square miles within Canada. The Roseau River follows a general northwesterly course over its entire length of approximately 180 miles. It crosses the international border at the midpoint of its course and enters the Red River approximately 15 miles downstream from the border.

MIDDLE-RIVER SNAKE-RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT. The district was established on August 28, 1970. The Snake River subbasin occupies an area of approximately 750 square miles. The Middle River, which is a tributary of the Snake River, is a long thin subbasin with an area of 295 square miles between the Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge on the east and the Snake River on the west. The area of the district includes 1,045 square miles of territory in the counties of Marshall, Polk, and Pennington. It is bordered by the Tamarac River subbasin on the north and the Red Lake Watershed District on the south and east.

In July of 2002, a hearing on the petition of the Marshall County Board of Commissioners to enlarge the district by adding the Tamarac watershed area; to change the Board of Managers from 5 to 7, and to change the name to the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District was conducted in Stephen, MN. The Board of Water and Soil

Resources granted the petition in August of 2003, which increased the district by approximately 44% (440 square miles).

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT. Established as the Red Lake Drainage and Conservancy District in 1920, it was authorized to function as a watershed district in 1969. The Red Lake subbasin is the largest subbasin in Minnesota with a total drainage area of 5,990 square miles. The major stream is the Red Lake River which has its source in Lower Red Lake. Other major tributaries include Thief River, Clearwater River, Lost River, and Poplar River. The territory of the district includes all or portions of the counties of Red Lake, Pennington, Clearwater, Beltrami, Marshall, Koochiching, Itasca, Mahnomen, Roseau and Polk.

SAND HILL RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT. Established as the Sand Hill River Drainage and Conservancy District in 1949, it was authorized to function as a watershed district in 1974. Located in the central part of the Minnesota portion of the Red River of the North basin, the Sand Hill River subbasin is a rectangle about eight miles wide and 55 miles long, covering an area of 484 square miles in Polk County and small portions of Norman and Mahnomen counties.

WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT. Established as the Wild Rice-Marsh River Drainage and Conservancy District in 1949, it was authorized to function as a watershed district in 1968. The Wild Rice Watershed District includes approximately 2,080 square miles with territory in Norman, Becker, Clay, Mahnomen, Clearwater, and Polk counties. In addition to its major watercourse, the Wild Rice River, the other major waterway is the Marsh River and its tributaries.

BOIS DE SIOUX WATERSHED DISTRICT. The Bois de Sioux Watershed District was established on May 11, 1988 by order of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). The district represents an area of approximately 1,430 square miles and includes Traverse County (38%), Grant County (27%), Wilkin County (14%), Stevens County (10%), Big Stone County (7%), and Otter Tail County (4%). The district constitutes the drainage basins of Lake Traverse and Bois de Sioux within the state of Minnesota. The major tributaries are the Mustinka River and numerous creeks in the south and east and the Rabbit River to the north.

C. BOARD DESCRIPTION AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Red River Watershed Management Board consists of one representative from each of the participating Watershed Districts. A participating watershed district is defined as one who has signed the Joint Powers Agreement. A copy of the current Joint Powers Agreement is included in this manual as Section 3. Figure 2, page 19 shows the present organizational structure of the RRWMB.

Representatives are appointed by each individual watershed district's Board of Managers to serve a three-year, rotating term of office. The representative shall be a current member of the appointing watershed district's board of managers. Each appointing board also appoints an alternate member who serves and is entitled to vote in the regular member's absence; such alternates may be persons other than current

managers, provided that only current managers may vote on the RRWMB's annual budget and levy. Any vacancies on the RRWMB are filled for the unexpired term by the appointing watershed district's Board of Managers. It is noted that Chapter 103D.311, Subd. 2 of the Minnesota Statutes provides for the appointment of individual watershed district's Board of Managers by the County Boards of Commissioners in the district.

The RRWMB may establish committees, standing and special, and advisory bodies to assist the Board in performing its duties, e.g. the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Such committees or advisory bodies may include persons who are not Board members, provided that no member of a committee other than a Board member may offer a motion or vote on a matter put before the Board.

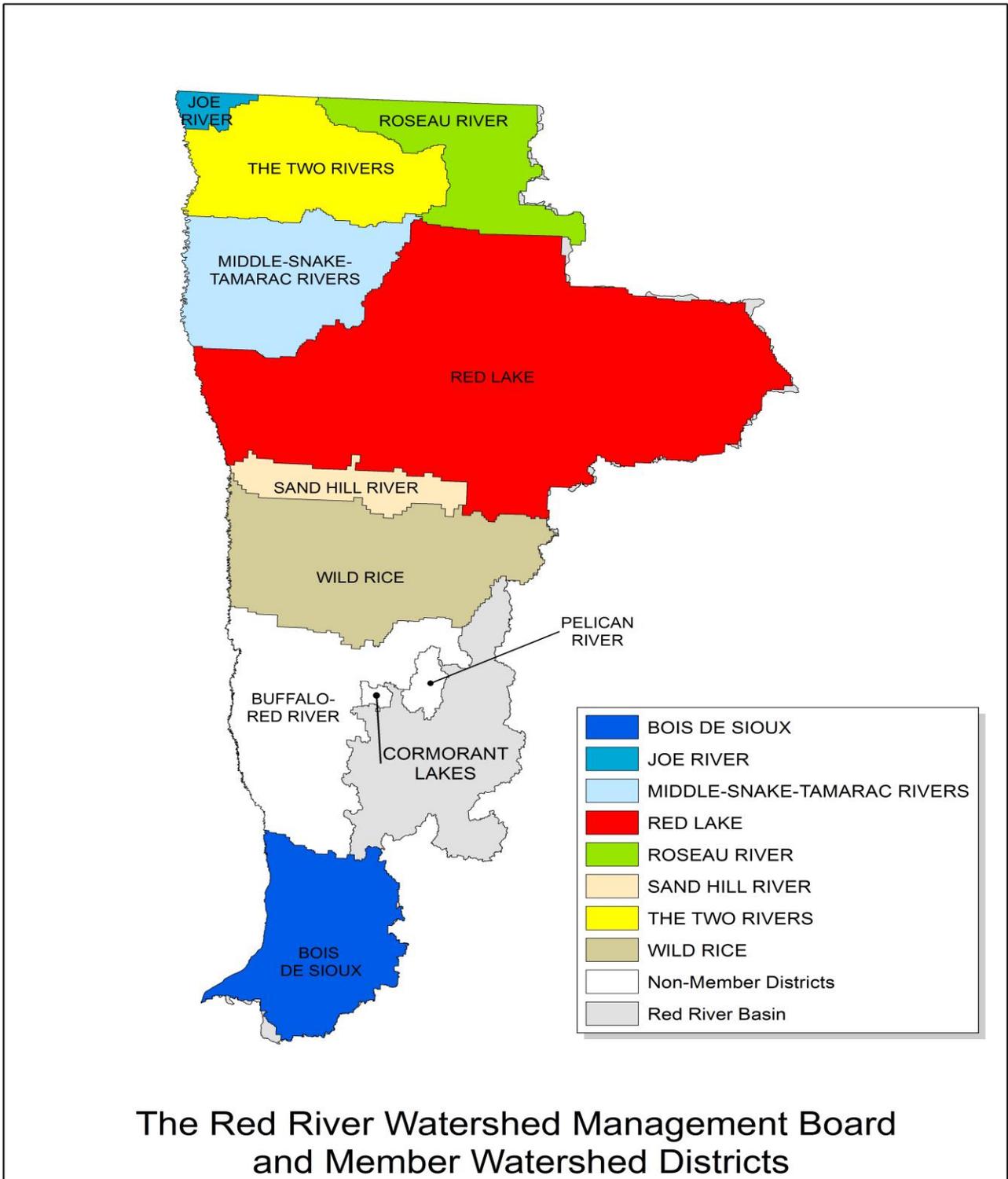


Figure 1

D. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING

Assistance is available to member districts for the implementation of water management related projects and natural resource initiatives. Member watershed district costs which are eligible for RRWMB cost sharing include:

- concept development;
- preliminary engineering studies;
- environmental planning;
- preparation of environmental review documents;
- final engineering design;
- preparation of construction plans and specifications;
- construction engineering and administration;
- right-of-way and easement acquisition; and
- construction costs.

Funding assistance provided by the RRWMB to member watershed districts for water management related projects and programs is dependent upon the approval of the Board after proper consideration of all factors involved. If the funding request is for a flood damage reduction project, it must meet the criteria outlined in Section 4.

The project and/or program review may include:

1. consideration of comments contained in the "Director's Advisory Report" provided by the Director, Division of Waters, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, in accordance with Chapter 103D.711, Subd. 5 of the Minnesota Statutes;
2. consideration of comments contained in the "Board's Advisory Report" provided by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, in accordance with Chapter 103D.711, Subd. 5 of the Minnesota Statutes;
3. comments and concerns expressed during project planning and coordination meetings between the member watershed district and local, state, and federal permitting agencies;
4. consideration of comments received from the Environmental Quality Board during completion of its environmental review of the project in accordance with the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (Chapter 116D of the Minnesota Statutes);
5. consideration of the overall educational and informational benefit to residents of the Red River Basin;
6. consideration of the watershed district's mediation project teams' recommendations;
7. comments or review by the board's TAC; and

8. consideration of priorities of the RRRRA.

Typical member watershed district projects can be initiated and completed within three to six years if all qualifying factors are achieved. A seven to twelve year planning and development timeframe is common for more complex projects. The RRWMB also participates in programs and projects initiated by other institutions, universities, local, state or federal agencies, when the activity is deemed in the interest of the member watershed districts.

E. PROJECT RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBER DISTRICTS

The individual member watershed districts are responsible for the development of water management related projects and other initiatives. Member watershed districts present flood water management related projects for funding consideration by the RRWMB by submitting written documentation in the form of a Step I - Initial Submittal, as specified in Section 4. Consideration for the funding of other programs begins after the submittal of a proposal to the RRWMB by an individual member watershed district.

Chapter 103D.701 of the Minnesota Statutes provides for the initiation of projects by watershed districts that are to be paid for by the assessment of the benefitted properties. These methods can be broadly classified as:

1. by project petition filed with the Watershed District Board of Managers; or
2. by unanimous resolution by the Watershed District Board of Managers.

Additional authority in Chapter 103D.601, Subd. 1 of the Minnesota Statutes contains another provision for project establishment if the project is funded at least in part by outside grants. The Watershed District Board of Managers may initiate a project by resolution of at least a majority of the managers if:

1. the project is financed by grants totaling at least 50 percent of the estimated project cost;
2. the engineer's estimate of costs to parties affected by the watershed district, including assessments against benefitted properties but excluding state, federal, or other grants, is not more than \$750,000 for the project; and
3. the project must not have drainage as its essential nature and purpose.

Chapter 103D also requires the watershed district to develop an Engineer's Report, obtain appraisals for the affected lands, determine the benefits and damages associated with the proposed project, determine the benefitted property, and hold public hearings on the proposed project.

The RRWMB considers that watershed district property tax levies or assessments are subject to the \$750,000 limitation, and considers funding sources from the RRWMB levy to be sources that are not subject to the \$750,000 limitation.

CHAPTER III
WATER MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND BOARD POLICIES

A. PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF THE RRWMB

The principal objective of the Red River Watershed Management Board is to assist member Watershed Districts with the implementation of water related projects and programs. The purpose of these projects and programs is the reduction of local and mainstem flood damages, and also to enhance environmental and water resource management. Projects and programs must be of benefit to the Red River Basin and its member watershed districts in order to qualify for RRWMB funding.

The principal objective of the RRWMB, as stated above, is derived from legislation passed in 1976 and 1991. This objective is also in direct support of the RRWMB's Mission Statement. In addition to the RRWMB's principle objective, the Board has adopted several supporting objectives. Taken as a whole, the principal and supporting objectives form an overall policy for the Red River Watershed Management Board. These adopted supporting objectives are stated in the following section of this policy manual.

B. SUPPORTING OBJECTIVES OF THE RRWMB (not prioritized)

1. COORDINATION

It is a supporting objective of the RRWMB to provide leadership for the coordination of projects and programs related to water management.

Governmental agencies involved in projects at the federal level include: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture; at the state level, the Department of Natural Resources, the Pollution Control Agency, the Board of Water and Soil Resources, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Transportation; at the local level, Watershed Districts, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, county government, townships, and municipalities. Tribal interests may also be involved. It is apparent that some centralized leadership is necessary to coordinate and direct the development of projects in an optimum manner.

The RRWMB accepts this leadership role as a matter of policy.

2. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

It is a supporting objective of the RRWMB to participate in funding initiatives which include projects and related programs that encourage consideration of mainstem benefits, and enhance environmental and water resources. Projects, programs and initiatives must be of benefit to the Red River Basin and its member watershed districts in order to qualify for RRWMB assistance.

Incentives are provided in order to influence watershed districts to include design considerations for both local and mainstem benefits. It is an intent of the 1976 legislation

that this incentive be in the form of financial assistance.

It is the current policy of the RRWMB to participate in the funding of member watershed district initiated projects meeting RRWMB established criteria for financial support and other initiatives beneficial to the basin.

3. BASIN PLANNING

The RRWMB assists private, local, state, interstate, federal, or international water management and natural resource activities within the Red River Basin, through coordination and assistance with implementation.

The RRWMB is frequently put into the position of coordinating basin-wide planning efforts. Projects of this nature have included the development of coordinated county water management plans, basin-wide assessment of flooding, basin-wide environmental assessments, coordination of data collection, the development of a functional basin-wide Geographic Information System (GIS), LiDAR, and wetland mitigation development strategies. The RRWMB assists planning efforts at all levels within the Red River Basin.

The RRWMB is committed to supporting basin planning efforts as a matter of Board policy.

4. WATER QUANTITY

The RRWMB supports projects and programs for the alleviation of damage by floodwater, with an additional emphasis on maintaining low flow conditions for the aquatic environment and providing water supply for public use.

The RRWMB actively supports projects that not only reduce flood damages, but also contribute to water conservation objectives. Initiatives, which support these objectives, include multi-purpose detention projects, wetland enhancement, restoration of wetlands, and water control structures.

It is Board policy to support flood control and water conservation projects.

5. WATER QUALITY

It is a supporting objective of the RRWMB to provide assistance for studies, programs, initiatives and projects to improve water quality.

The RRWMB recognizes that water quantity and quality issues are interdependent and must be addressed within the context of total water management. Therefore, data collection programs and studies relating to water resource information should have both a quantity and a quality aspect. Ongoing studies and data collection programs conducted by federal agencies such as the U.S. Geological Survey, the Corps of Engineers, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service as well as state and local programs of the Department of Natural Resources, Pollution Control Agency, and local watershed districts are valuable for the protection and enhancement of the water resources of the basin. The

Red River Basin Decision Information Network (www.rrbdin.org) is an internet-based decision support system for the Red River Basin which includes information such as databases, references, technical tools, communication tools and GIS data (i.e. International Water Institute and River Watch).

It is a policy of the RRWMB to support ongoing studies, initiatives, and programs for the improvement of water quality.

6. EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION

It is a supporting objective of the RRWMB to provide assistance for studies, programs, and initiatives, including cooperative efforts with other agencies, to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation.

The RRWMB recognizes that erosion and sedimentation issues are interdependent and must be addressed within the context of total resource management. Wind and water erosion is a depletion of a valuable natural resource, and leads to sedimentation of lakes, rivers, and other waterways.

It is a policy of the RRWMB to support studies, programs, and initiatives conducted by federal, state and local agencies for the reduction of soil erosion.

7. EDUCATION

It is a supporting objective of the RRWMB to support development of informational and educational programs related to water and natural resource management concerns.

The RRWMB will continue to be active in educational efforts relating to the conservation of water and soil. The RRWMB views its educational role from a broad perspective. This role is both interstate and international. The RRWMB views education as a tool to enhance the public's understanding of water and natural resource management.

It is a policy of the RRWMB to utilize education as a tool to inform the public on issues related to the conservation of water, soil, and the preservation and enhancement of natural resources in the basin.

8. RESEARCH

It is a supporting objective of the RRWMB to provide assistance for basic and applied research related to natural resource management within the Red River Basin.

The RRWMB has participated in innovative water resource projects. There are questions yet to be resolved. Research will benefit the RRWMB in its operations. The research institutions include universities, private organizations, and governmental agencies. The RRWMB is committed to an administrative and financial role in supporting and sponsoring relevant research.

It is a policy of the RRWMB to commit to an administrative and financial role in supporting and sponsoring relevant research related to water and natural resource management within the Red River Basin.

9. PUBLIC INFORMATION

It is a supporting objective of the RRWMB to inform the public of water management activities and concerns.

The operations and project initiatives sponsored by the RRWMB need an informed public. The RRWMB has focused on informing the public that water systems in the Red River Basin, both natural and artificial, should be viewed as a valuable resource. The RRWMB also needs to raise public awareness of water quality and water quantity as significant issues in the Red River Basin. The RRWMB will assist member districts and other local entities in this effort.

It is a policy of the RRWMB to promote a strong public information program to educate the public regarding its operations and initiatives.

10. CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The RRWMB shall work toward the resolution of conflicts regarding water management.

The RRWMB is committed to the resolution of conflicts. Conflict resolution methods include, but are not limited to, negotiation, mediation, arbitration, or legal action. The successful application of conflict resolution will keep projects and initiatives on schedule.

It is a policy of the RRWMB to commit itself to the speedy and efficient resolution of any conflicts related to managing the basin's water resources.

11. POLICIES, RULES AND REGULATIONS OF OTHER ENTITIES

The RRWMB will comply with the policies and regulations of other governmental entities. Where inconsistencies in policies and regulations exist, the RRWMB will cooperate with the appropriate governmental entities in resolving the inconsistencies.

Coordination and cooperation with other governmental units is necessary in water resources management. Coordination between the RRWMB and permitting agencies such as the Corps of Engineers, Department of Natural Resources, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, are mandated through legislative and permit requirements. Cooperation and coordination between the RRWMB, the Red River Basin Commission, the Roseau River International Watershed, the North Dakota Red River Joint Water Resources Board, and the Red River Retention Authority are a necessity in consideration of shared basin responsibilities.

It is a policy of the RRWMB to adopt policies and regulations which are consistent with policies and regulations of other governmental entities, and to comply with the regulatory programs of these agencies.

C. POLICIES OF THE RRWMB

1. BOARD MEMBER PER DIEM AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES

Note: These policies are intended to follow the "Board Member Per Diem and Expenses Policy" of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (January 1, 2008) except where noted below by asterisk.

A. PER DIEM (\$75/day*): Per diem is authorized for Board members for the following:

1. One per diem for regular monthly Board meetings, meetings of committees to which members are assigned, and special meetings called by the Board President or Administrator*. This does not apply to meetings of organizations, groups and local governments that are the primary responsibility of RRWMB staff*.
2. One per diem for four or more hours spent in preparation time for each Board meeting, each committee meeting or each special meeting of the Board. Preparation time in excess of four hours for a meeting cannot be banked.
3. One per diem is authorized for the day prior *and* the day after for travel by Board members for a regular meeting, special meeting of the Board or committee meeting where Board members travel more than 200 miles each way using vehicular transportation.
4. One per diem is authorized for the day prior *or* the day after for travel by a Board member for a regular meeting, special meeting of the Board, or committee meeting where Board members travel more than 100 miles each way using vehicular transportation.
5. Per diem incurred at other meetings of other pertinent affiliated organizations such as the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD)* conventions or tours under the conditions defined in items A.1 through A.4 if authorized by the Board, or the President of the Board, or the Administrator*.
6. Full-time employees of the State or one of its political subdivisions are not eligible to receive a per diem payment, unless so authorized by their employer.
7. In *no* instances will more than one per diem payment* per day be permitted under this policy.
8. Participation in regular monthly Board meetings, meetings of committees to which members are assigned, and special meetings called by the Board President via conference call, videoconferencing, internet technology or other similar means as permitted by the Open Meeting Law is considered the same as participation in-

person for per diem or expense purposes.

B. EXPENSES: Expenses are authorized for Board members according to the following criteria:

1. Expenses incurred by Board members for attendance at meetings and events as described in items A.1 - A.5 will be reimbursed consistent with the terms of this Section C.

Reimbursable expenses may include, but are not limited to, the following: Commercial transportation (air, taxi, rental car, etc.); Meals including tax and a reasonable gratuity; Hotel and motel accommodations; Parking fees and toll charges.

Board members who use their personal office equipment, supplies and services in part for the purpose of receiving and generating telephone, fax, e-mail or other electronic messages related to Board activities, are eligible for a reimbursement for such equipment, supplies and services up to an amount not to exceed \$50 per month.

2. Child care expenses incurred, and that would not otherwise have been incurred, as a result of monthly Board meetings, special or committee meetings of the Board shall be compensated.
3. Vehicle travel will be reimbursed at the standard Federal IRS mileage rate in effect at the time of travel.
4. Board members who are employees of the State or one of its political subdivisions may receive payment for their expenses incurred in performing their board member activities, unless those expenses are reimbursed by another source.
5. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires business expenses to be submitted for reimbursement within 60 days after the expense is incurred or the trip ends. If not submitted within 60 days, the reimbursement becomes taxable for federal, state, FICA and Medicare; and withholding tax must be taken.

C. MEETING COORDINATION: The Board directs committee members and staff to schedule committee meetings in conjunction with monthly board meetings whenever possible.

- * Meal Allowances. If the Board member is on assignment away from the member's home station in a travel status, the member is reimbursed for actual cost of meals (up to the maximum reimbursement) including gratuity. Employees are also reimbursed for meals which are an integral part of conferences and meetings which have been approved in advance.

Maximum reimbursements for meals, including tax and gratuity, are:

Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
\$12.00	\$18.00	\$25.00

A member who is in travel status for two or more meals is reimbursed for the actual cost of the meals up to the combined maximum amount per day for the reimbursable meals.

Breakfast reimbursement may be claimed only if the member is on assignment away from his/her home station in travel status overnight or departs from home in an assigned travel status before 6:00 a.m. Dinner reimbursement may be claimed only if the member is away from his/her home station in a travel status overnight or is required to remain in a travel status until after 7:00 p.m.

* Note: Differs from BWSR policy.

2. BASIN WIDE FLOOD FLOW REDUCTION STRATEGY

To assist in the flow reduction allocation process, the Red River Basin Commission developed a Red River Mainstem model to simulate the mainstem response to reduced flows from tributary areas.

This strategy reduces flows on the mainstem by altering the hydrology of the contributing watersheds as a basin wide effort. The benefits of reduced flooding would be distributed along the entire length of the Red River, not just to targeted communities. Equally important, the benefits would extend far upstream into the tributary watersheds. Implementing this strategy requires allocating the necessary flow reductions to each contributing watershed.

As a preliminary exercise, the tributary flows were reduced in the model to meet a flow reduction goal of 20% along the entire length of the Red River mainstem. A factor in selecting 20% reduction as an initial goal was the effect it would have had at Grand Forks in 1997. That amount would have reduced the flood to a level that the (then existing) levees would have been expected to withstand.

The amount of constructed storage required to achieve a 20% reduction would likely be greater than 885,000 acre-feet depending on the quality (efficiency) of storage provided.

On June 15, 2010 the Board of Managers adopted the Basin Wide Flood Flow Reduction Strategy to support efforts to achieve a 20% flow reduction on the mainstem of the Red River of the North.

CHAPTER IV BOARD STRUCTURE AND OPERATION

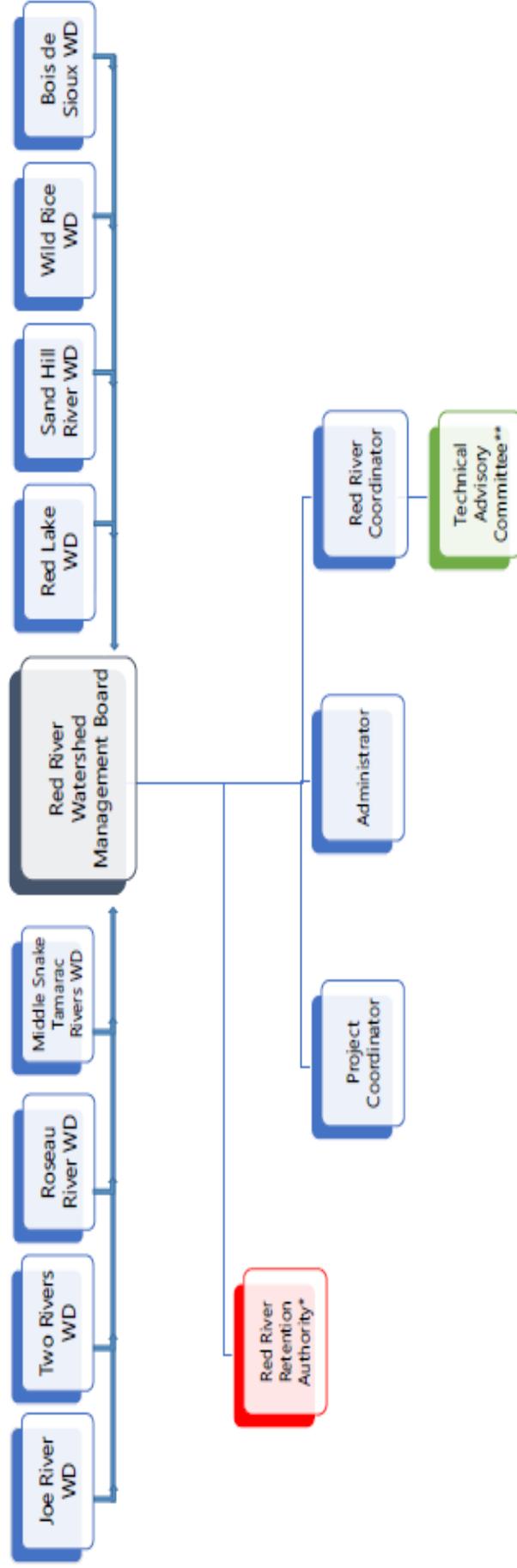
The RRWMB will continue to evolve in its organizational structure and operation to meet the future needs of its member watershed districts.

In order to enhance the implementation of its adopted policies and objectives over the next several years, the RRWMB may investigate the following as the need arises:

- the establishment of a permanent headquarters and office facilities (August 1, 2001);
- the establishment of staff positions to conduct the day to day operations of the RRWMB, including but not limited to;
 - Administrator
 - Project Coordinator
 - Red River Coordinator
 - Public Information Officer
- retaining a law firm;
- retaining an accounting firm; and
- the development of an annual administrative budget by the President, Treasurer, Administrator, and Project Coordinator submitted at the June board meeting.

It is a policy of the RRWMB to modify its organizational structure and operations in the future to meet the needs of its member watershed districts.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



* On May 26, 2010 the RRWMB signed a Joint Powers Agreement with the Red River Joint Water Resource District to form the RRRRA (Section 11).

** The TAC, chaired by the Red River Coordinator, develops recommendations to the Board for proposed projects based on procedures listed in Section 4.

Figure 2
Adopted January 2000,
Revised 2004 and 2015.