

Red River Watershed Management Board

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Board of Managers

John Finney-Humboldt Farrell Erickson-Badger Harley Younggren, Secretary-Hallock Ron Osowski, Chairman-Oslo Vernon Johnson-Clearbrook Daniel Wilkens, Treasurer-Fertile Robert Wright-Felton Curtis Nelson-Barnesville Jerome Deal-Wheaton Don Ogaard, Executive Director-Ada

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

January 13, 1999

Doublewood Inn in Fargo, ND

held jointly with the

Red River Joint Water Resource Board.

The RRWMB met on Wednesday, January 13, 1999, at the Doublewood Inn in Fargo, North Dakota.

Chairman Ron Osowski called the meeting to order.

Members present were: Daniel Wilkens Curtis Nelson
Farrell Erickson Jerome Deal
John Finney Robert Wright
Harley Younggren

Others present were: Don Ogaard, Executive Director
Naomi Jagol, Administrative Assistant, Sand Hill River WD
Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator
Ron Adrian, Engineer, Middle River-Snake River WD
Rick St. Germain, Engineer, Houston Engineering
Charlie Anderson, Engineer, JOR Engineering
Jon Roeschlein, Administrator, Bois de Sioux WD
Brent Johnson, Engineer, Houston Engineering
Nolan Baratono, MPCA-Basin Coordinator
Jerry Bennett, Administrator, Wild Rice WD
Maynard Pick, Congressman Peterson's office
Jim Azure, City of Wahpeton
Rudy Andersen, Two Rivers WD
Julie Goehring, Assistant Program Manager, Red River Basin Board
Janeen Stenso, Administrative Assistant, Red River Basin Board
Jerome Potucek, Middle River-Snake River WD
Richard Kuzel, Middle River-Snake River WD
Jim Johnson, Middle River-Snake River WD
Bob Merritt, Department of Natural Resources
Gale Meyer, Department of Natural Resources

Additional items were added to the agenda. Curtis Nelson stated that the Buffalo-Red River WD would be submitting a funding proposal agenda item #6-District Reports. Brent Johnson requested to update the board on the 1997 Flood Report prepared in conjunction with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Rick St. Germain requested to discuss a proposal for a flood insurance restudy with the board.

The Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the December 15, 1998 meeting. **Motion** to approve the minutes as written by Manager Deal, **Seconded** by Manager Nelson, **Carried**.

The Treasurer's report was presented and it was approved as read. Manager Wilkens requested the managers to visit with their respective boards about the timely submittal of funds levied by the individual districts to the RRWMB. Wilkens stated that these funds should be remitted on a monthly basis. **Motion** by Manager Erickson, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Ogaard reviewed the monthly bills received. A **Motion** to approve and pay bills by Manager Finney, **Seconded** by Manager Younggren, **Carried**. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report.

Annual Organization

Annual Organization of the Board was held. President Osowski turned the meeting over to Vice President Finney who asked for nominations for President of the Board. Manager Wilkens nominated Manager Osowski for President. Nominations were called for three times by Manager Finney. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Ron Osowski for President by Manager Nelson, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**. Manager Finney returned the chair to President Osowski.

Manager Osowski asked for nominations for Vice President of the Board. Manager Nelson nominated Manager Finney for Vice President. Nominations were called for three times by Manager Osowski. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for John Finney for Vice President by Manager Wilkens, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**.

Manager Osowski asked for nominations for Secretary of the Board. Manager Finney nominated Manager Younggren for Secretary. Nominations were called for three times by Manager Osowski. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Harley Younggren for Secretary by Manager Deal, **Seconded** by Manager Wright, **Carried**.

Manager Osowski asked for nominations for Treasurer of the Board. Manager Erickson nominated Manager Wilkens for Treasurer. Nominations were called for three times by Manager Osowski. No further nominations were made. **Motion** to cease nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Daniel Wilkens for Treasurer by Manager Finney, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Resolution Authorizing the Regular Monthly Meeting Date and Time

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the designation of the regular monthly meeting date and time at the regular board meeting held in Fargo, ND, on Wednesday, January 13, 1999.

On a **motion** by Manager Erickson, **seconded** by Manager Wilkens, and on a vote of 8 for and 0 against, the motion passed to designate the third Tuesday of each month at 9:30 AM as the regular monthly meeting date and time for the Red River Watershed Management Board.

Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Per Diem/Mileage to Managers

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the authorization of payment of per diem/mileage to Managers at the regular board meeting held in Fargo, ND, on Wednesday, January 13, 1999.

On a **motion** by Manager Wilkens, **seconded** by Manager Nelson, and on a vote of 8 for and 0 against, the motion passed to allow the maximum per diem by state law which is currently \$55.00 per day and the maximum IRS limit for mileage which is currently .325 per mile unless a change occurs.

Resolution Authorizing Deposit/Investment of Funds

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the authorization of deposit/investment of funds at the regular board meeting held in Fargo, ND, on Wednesday, January 13, 1999.

On a **motion** by Manager Finney, **seconded** by Manager Nelson, and on a vote of 8 for and 0 against, the motion passed to authorize the Red River Watershed Management Board to reaffirm the adoption of the Treasurer's Manual originally adopted on 4/19/91 and amended on 8/08/95.

Resolution Authorizing Legal Counsel

The Red River Watershed Management Board considered the authorization of legal counsel at the regular board meeting held in Fargo, ND, on Wednesday, January 13, 1999.

On a **motion** by Manager Wilkens, **seconded** by Manager Finney, and on a vote of 8 for and 0 against, the motion passed to designate Dorsey & Whitney as the official legal counsel of the Red River Watershed Management Board.

District Reports

- The Roseau River WD reported that at the regular monthly meeting, a presentation was given by Don Ogaard regarding the mediation process. Members from the Flood Control Committee and the Citizens Advisory Committee were also in attendance. Following the presentation, the board met with the Advisory Committee to discuss the District's activities in 1998 and plans for the upcoming year.
- The Two Rivers WD reported that the development of an educational cooperative in the District is continuing. A River Watch meeting was conducted on January 12, 1999 with Wayne Goeken-Red River Valley River Watch Coordinator, Kittson SWCD, Kittson County North Schools, and Kittson Central Schools. Increasing interest continues in this program since it would provide valuable hands on learning for students and valuable data for resource professionals. Water quality data on the Two Rivers would be compared to data collected by other students within other watershed districts within the Red River Valley to determine similarities and differences. The District hopes to have the River Watch Program up and running by the spring of 1999.

- The Wild Rice WD reported that the Interagency Work Team Conclusion Document to deal with the complexity of water management and regulatory issues along natural waterways is nearing completion. The document describes the outcome of the Interagency Work Team (IWT) concerning possible alternatives for addressing water management issues along the Dalen Coulee that was used in the case study. Responsibilities of the IWT are to 1) Develop a public process using a watershed based approach for addressing natural waterway water management and natural resource issues using Dalen Coulee as an example. 2) Ensure that all alternatives are explored, including natural resources, economic and social implications. 3) Develop a concept design that could be implemented and 4) to prepare and sign a document, which describes conclusions of the IWT.

Design goals for the study include providing flood protection from runoff events equal to or less than the 10-year return period event with the intent to provide flood protection from frequent flooding, which causes repeated crop loss. A second design goal is to look at alternatives that provide for the enhancement of natural resources within the coulee by reducing soil erosion and improving water quality and habitat.

With the finalizing of the IWT conclusion document, the District plans to hold a final meeting to review the process and findings with the Norman and Clay County Water Planning Task Force that provided funding assistance for the study. A landowner meeting will follow to discuss the possible implementation of activities recommended to address water management issues along the coulee.

- The Buffalo-Red River WD reported that the following officers were elected at the District's annual meeting on January 11, 1999: Roger Ellefson-Chairman, Jerry VanAmburg-Vice Chairman, Curt Nelson-Treasurer, and Bill Steffl-Secretary.

The District also reported that an informational meeting was held with a number of citizens regarding the proposed Georgetown ring dike. A number of landowners are still reluctant to sign an easement for the project. A number of homes would like to be included in the protected area. Unless additional sources of funds are secured, these areas will not be included. The District will be looking for a cost sharing commitment from the RRWMB after additional estimates are completed.

- The Middle River-Snake River WD reported that the Natural Resources Conservation Service has prepared a "Draft" Environmental Impact Statement for the Snake River Watershed. The public meeting on the Draft plan is scheduled for January 20, 1999. The District and the City of Warren have agreed to work on an agreement with regards to the implementation of the proposed project.

Executive Director Report – Don Ogaard

Ogaard discussed the upcoming presentation on the mediation agreement scheduled for January 27, 1999 at the Northland Inn, Crookston, MN. He inquired whether individual board members had received notices or just the district offices. The board members responded that they were notified of the meeting by their respective offices.

Ogaard noted his concern over the late mailing of the meeting notices. He suggested that each district office send a notice to their county boards of commissioners.

Manager Deal added that the BdSWD had forwarded invitations to all individuals on their mailing and offered to provide bus transportation from Wheaton to Crookston.

Ogaard stated that the RRWMB had furnished a list of approximately 1,200 individuals to the DNR who had been designated to distribute the invitations for the upcoming meeting.

Gale Meyer, DNR, stated that the invitation list was formulated in St. Paul and was a compilation of several lists. He indicated that he would contact the St. Paul office to obtain a copy of the mailing list in order to determine what names were included.

Manager Deal noted that he is on the planning committee for the upcoming meeting and that a conference call is scheduled for January 14, 1999 to finalize the details.

Roeschlein inquired whether a registration fee was being charged for the meeting. Ogaard responded that he was not aware of an agreement to charge a registration fee but added that a motion had been passed by the RRWMB at the previous monthly meeting to withstand half of the cost associated with the meeting with the DNR.

Ogaard updated the board on the forum sponsored by the North Dakota Consensus Council regarding flood mitigation. He explained that a series of 15 meetings will be conducted over an 18-month period regarding measures that could be initiated by FEMA in order to assist flood damage reduction initiatives. He stated that the North Dakota Consensus Council had received a grant of \$195,000 from FEMA to assemble the forum and prepare a recommendation. He added that the next meeting is scheduled for January 29th at the Red River Inn, Moorhead, MN. He noted that he would update the RRWMB with progress reports.

Ogaard stated that a proposal was accepted from Dahl, Hatton, Muir & Reese Ltd. to perform an annual financial report for \$1,200 per year for three years to be conducted in the office of the treasurer, to be completed and returned within 45 days beginning in 1998. **Motion** by Manager Wilkens to authorize the Executive Director to continue his participation in the preparation of the annual report as has been conducted in previous years, **Seconded** by Manager Erickson, **Carried**.

Ogaard discussed the status of the state funding that was agreed to be pursued as a result of the mediation process. He stated that the DNR had indicated that the funding for natural resource enhancements must be included in their budget. He stated that the original budget for the DNR was estimated at \$9,000,000 and had been reduced to \$3,000,000. He added that he had visited with Ron Nargang, Deputy Commissioner-DNR, and Nargang had indicated that the \$3,000,000 budget estimate was for a two-year period. He noted that a letter should be prepared and forwarded to legislators in St. Paul regarding the funding initiative.

Roeschlein requested Ogaard to explain what the original \$9,000,000 was intended to fund. Ogaard explained that this amount was determined by the mediation panel to include natural resource enhancements and updating overall plans, with the balance to be used for flood damage reduction initiatives.

Manager Deal inquired whether the funding initiative would involve matching funds submitted by the project proposer as has been done historically. Ogaard indicated that matching funds would need to be provided.

Maynard Pick encouraged the RRWMB to send a letter to the congressional office in order to further promote this initiative. He added that he would update Congressman Collin Peterson on the budget proposal.

Motion by Manager Wilkens to authorize a meeting with the legislators regarding the funding initiative, **Seconded** by Manager Deal, **Carried**.

Ogaard stated that appointments are due from the following watershed districts regarding manager appointments to the RRWMB: Middle River-Snake River WD, Roseau River WD, and the Buffalo-Red River WD.

District's Funding Requests:

1. Wild Rice WD / System Approach to Water Management – Jerry Bennett

Bennett explained that the objective of the systems approach is to develop comprehensive and innovative concepts for reducing flood damages within the watershed district. The concepts developed using the systems approach would be oriented towards achieving flood damage reduction and natural resource goals. The intent is to undertake a detailed technical review of various flood damage reduction alternatives and to evaluate how various alternatives can be used in combination to achieve a technical defensible concept necessary for a long-term solution to flooding in the Wild Rice Marsh River Basin.

The Wild Rice Watershed District requested funding assistance from the RRWMB in the amount of \$70,148 to assist with the implementation of this project. A breakdown of proposed project funding sources is as follows:

PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCE	AMOUNT
MN Board of Water & Soil Resources	\$ 61,000
Department of Natural Resources	66,000
RRWMB	70,148
Wild Rice WD	<u>70,148</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 267,297</u>

Bennett stated that discussion has occurred regarding how the systems approach relates to the initiatives agreed on in the mediation proceedings. He explained that this initiative involves reviewing where flood damages are occurring within the district as well as the natural resource goals of the district. The long-range goal of the plan is to provide a net natural resource gain. He stated that the proposed plan is estimated to be implemented within the next 5-10 years.

Bennett added that the District has been working with the DNR regarding this initiative and they have indicated their support of this approach. He noted that this approach overlaps with the goals identified in the mediation and could be used with policy makers to set priorities as well.

St. Germain added that he had discussed this proposal with the Technical Advisory Committee and they had indicated that this proposal could be used as a guideline for other watershed districts to follow regarding the goals outlined in the mediation process. He noted that the systems approach is designed to meet natural resource goals as well as flood damage reduction goals. He stated that the proposal submitted by the Wild Rice WD is similar to the goals outlined in the mediation agreement, and did not see any reason why this proposal should be delayed.

Wilkins stated that the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) agreed to budget \$400,000 to be used to update the overall plans for the watershed districts in the Red River valley. He added that modeling for each district would be included in this amount. He noted his concern regarding submitting funds to a watershed district for modeling efforts, prior to the initiation of the BWSR program.

Deal concurred with Wilkens regarding funding any modeling proposals. He added that funding is in the process of being appropriated and that the request by the Wild Rice WD may be premature.

Bennett explained that the systems approach was designed specifically for the Wild Rice WD. He added that although this approach could be used as a guide for each watershed district, revisions may be needed in order to meet the individual needs of each district. He noted that he had discussed the funding proposal with Ron Harnack, Executive Director of BWSR, and Harnack had stated that the overall plan updates would be funded on a matching basis between the local watershed district and BWSR.

Wilkens questioned the breakdown of funding sources and whether the TAC believed the proposal parallels the mediation process. Thul responded that the TAC had discussed the proposal and determined that a HEC 1 model would be developed for each district. Thul added that the mediation agreement is aimed at developing a comprehensive approach within the basin. Thul noted that the TAC is developing a funding proposal for the DNR and BWSR regarding overall plan updates. Thul stated that the TAC had reviewed the Wild Rice WD proposal and determined that it closely parallels the goals specified in the mediation agreement.

Deal stated that he would like to receive a proposal from BWSR regarding the overall plan updates prior to committing any funds from the RRWMB. Wilkens stated that after a proposal is developed by BWSR regarding the overall plan updates, the Wild Rice WD could submit a request to the RRWMB for any difference.

Wilkens suggested waiting to commit funds until following the mediation presentation scheduled for January 27, 1999. Bennett agreed to present the proposal at the next monthly meeting for further discussion.

2. **Buffalo-Red River WD / Georgetown Ring Dike** – Curtis Nelson

Manager Nelson referred to the Georgetown ring dike as discussed in the Buffalo-Red River WD's monthly report. He explained that a number of additional landowners that were not included in the original estimate would like to be included in the project. He stated that unless additional funding sources are obtained, these landowners would not be included in the project. He estimated that additional funding of approximately \$80,000-\$90,000 would be needed to include the additional landowners in the project.

Wilkens stated that he had been notified that additional funds would be made available for the upcoming year regarding ring dike requests. Osowski inquired whether the estimate discussed would provide protection for all the additional landowners. Nelson responded that this amount would include all the interested landowners.

Finney added that the RRWMB provided a cost share amount in a project constructed in the Alvarado area. Ron Adrian, Middle River-Snake River WD engineer, responded that the RRWMB did commit some funds for this project along with the local watershed district.

Nelson stated that once additional information was obtained, a funding request would be submitted to the RRWMB.

3. Buffalo-Red River WD / Flood Insurance Restudy of Southern Cass County, ND and Clay County, MN – Rick St. Germain

Rick St. Germain, Buffalo-Red River WD engineer, distributed a handout regarding a proposal for a FEMA Flood Insurance Restudy of Southern Cass County, ND and Clay County, MN. He explained that a FEMA contract was awarded to Houston Engineering, Inc. to develop a flood plain mapping for the Red River south of Fargo. He stated that tributaries of the Red River that would be included in the study are the Wild Rice River, Buffalo-Red River, Wolverton Coulee, and other problem areas. He stated that the FEMA contract would include flood plain mapping in order to update the hydraulics in the designated area, but would not provide for additional efforts requested by the community. The additional work would involve new survey or aerial mapping work in the overbank areas necessary to complete the hydraulic modeling and floodplain mapping portions of the Flood Insurance Restudy. He stated that state and local funds would be required to complete the restudy.

Price quotations for the aerial mapping work were obtained from EagleScan, a laser Terrain Mapping and Imaging Company based in Boulder, CO. The quotations are for providing 2-foot contour data and digital orthophotos for the preferred option, however, 1-foot contour data could be provided at no additional cost. The following table contains a cost breakdown for the preferred option. These amounts are in addition to the work included in the FEMA contract.

State and Local Contribution Cost Breakdown for Preferred Option

	ND	MN
Aerial Mapping (EagleScan)	\$ 84,745	\$ 53,585
Extend Wild Rice River Study	30,000	0
Extend Wolverton Creek Study	0	25,000
Detailed Sheyenne River/Wild Rice River Breakout Analysis	15,000	0
Extend Restudy to Moorhead City Limits	<u>4,500</u>	<u>4,500</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 134,245</u>	<u>\$ 83,085</u>

Wilkins inquired about the individuals who would benefit from the restudy. St. Germain responded that individuals involved with planning & zoning would receive the most benefit. Nelson added that the restudy would help to distinguish the flood plain and, therefore, assist in avoiding a buy-out situation.

Jim Azure, City of Wahpeton, stated that EagleScan provided some mapping for the cities of Wahpeton and Breckenridge and this information was very useful in the preparation of dikes and levees since it provided contour lines using the aerial photography.

Wilkins questioned whether this information might be developed as part of the modeling effort proposed by BWSR. St. Germain stated that the modeling referred to by BWSR would include the development of HEC 1 models which would determine the *quantity* of runoff, whereas the HEC 2 models referred to in the Flood Insurance Restudy would determine the *elevation* of runoff.

Thul stated that traditionally these types of studies are state and federally funded. St. Germain concurred but added that FEMA had indicated they do not have the funds to complete the entire study.

Bob Merritt, MnDNR, added that this study would provide for another flood damage reduction tool. He explained that it would provide valuable information regarding the flood plain areas which would assist in deterring people from residing in the flood plain.

Anderson added that there is potential for several restudies to be conducted throughout the Red River valley and noted that the RRWMB could be setting a precedent for locally funded programs rather than state or federal.

Thul noted that the International Joint Commission (IJC) is also conducting a similar effort and inquired whether the restudy could be coordinated with the IJC proposal. St. Germain responded that this restudy is a totally separate effort from the IJC but noted that funds would also be sought from the IJC for this effort.

St. Germain stated that the information presented to the RRWMB was for discussion purposes only. He noted that when more information is obtained, a formal funding request might be submitted for review.

Red River Coordinator/TAC Report – Dan Thul

Thul introduced Gale Meyer, MnDNR, who was recently hired to work in the Bemidji office. He stated that Meyer would be involved in the preparation of the presentation to discuss the mediation agreement scheduled for January 27, 1999.

Minutes of the TAC meeting conducted on November 17, 1998 were distributed.

Thul stated that the TAC had met briefly during the last hour and had discussed the proposal for the RRWMB to work cooperatively with BWSR and the DNR to update the overall plans of the watershed districts in the Red River valley. Thul noted that St. Germain developed a draft of the proposal for the TAC to review prior to presentation to the RRWMB. Thul recommended that the TAC will discuss the proposal with the modeling committee comprised of Ogaard, Wilkens, and Deal. Thul noted that the proposal is paralleling the objectives outlined in the Wild Rice WD systems approach.

Thul explained that the TAC discussed developing an umbrella plan for the RRWMB that would encompass the objectives of each participating watershed district. Anderson noted that intention of developing such a plan would be to provide a basin-wide strategy for flood damage reduction initiatives that would coincide with the individual watershed district's overall plans. Thul added that a rough draft of the comprehensive plan could be included as part of the proposal discussed earlier.

Ogaard requested Julie Goehring to comment on whether the development of a comprehensive plan for the RRWMB would overlap with the objectives of the Red River Basin Board's (RRBB) plan. Goehring responded that she did not believe the RRBB's plan would be as specific as the type of plan discussed by the TAC to develop for the RRWMB.

Thul noted that he has met with individuals from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding the modeling concepts discussed by the TAC. He explained that discussions occurred regarding the development of HEC 1 models for each of the watershed districts in the Red River valley and how routing ties could be developed to pull together information in the basin. He added that a desired outcome of the discussions between the TAC and the USACE would include an update of the USACE timing and analyses reports, along

with the development of a physically based routing model. He stated that Bob Engelstad, USACE, noted his interest to meet with the TAC to pursue a cooperative arrangement.

1997 Flood Report – Brent Johnson

Brent Johnson presented a slide presentation on the “Hydrologic Routing of the 1997 Red River Flood.” He explained that the TAC had many discussions regarding the preparation of the model. He stated that the TAC began by updating the McCombs-Knutson Study started in the 1980’s. The 1997 Flood Report begins with the Bois de Sioux WD and continues northward to Emerson. He added that a CD is included along with each report so that watershed districts could select the desired slides to be included in various presentations.

Wilkins inquired on the circulation size of the report. Johnson responded that 15 copies have been prepared for distribution to the RRWMB, but that a summary could be prepared of the information obtained if the board so desired for distribution to a larger audience. Ogaard noted that the preparation of a condensed report would be very beneficial.

USGS Wetland Proposal – Rick St. Germain

St. Germain stated that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is developing a wetland proposal in partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). He stated that Greg Wiche, USGS-Bismarck, had discussed the proposal and inquired whether any funds might be available from the RRWMB. St. Germain explained to Wiche that he would discuss the initiative with the RRWMB but that a formal request should be presented by the USGS for board review.

The next meeting will be on February 16, 1999, at 9:30 AM at the Sand Hill River Watershed District office, Fertile, Minnesota.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Harley Younggren
Secretary

Naomi L. Jagol
Administrative Assistant