



## ***Board of Managers***

**John Finney, President** - Humboldt  
**Jason Braaten, Treasurer** - Roseau  
**LeRoy Ose** - Thief River Falls

**Greg Holmvik, Vice President** - Ada  
**Dan Money** - Hallock

**Jerome Deal, Secretary** - Wheaton  
**Roger Mischel** - Warren

**Robert L. Sip, Executive Director**  
**Nikki Swenson, Executive Assistant**

### **APPROVED MEETING MINUTES** **RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING** **December 18, 2018 Meeting Minutes** **Ada Area Event Center| Ada, Minnesota**

- 1. Call to Order:** The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) met on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at the Ada Area Event Center, Ada, Minnesota. President John Finney called the meeting to order. Members present were: LeRoy Ose, Greg Holmvik, Dan Money, Jason Braaten, Roger Mischel, and Jerome Deal.

Others present included:

- Rodger Hemphill, Interim Red River Basin Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Jeppe Kjaersgaard, Research Scientist, Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)
- Blake Carlson, Engineer, Widseth, Smith and Nolting (WSN) Engineering, Inc.
- Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD)
- Ted Preister, Executive Director, Red River Basin Commission (RRBC)
- Kevin Ruud, Administrator, Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD)
- Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering Incorporated
- Rob Sip, Executive Director, RRWMB
- Nikki Swenson, Executive Assistant, RRWMB
- Morrie Lanning, Staff, Barr Engineering
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering
- Keith Weston, Executive Director, Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)
- Debra Walchuk, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Henry Van Offelen, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
- LeRoy Stumpf, Staff, Congressman Collin Petersons Office
- Tracy Halstenggaard, Administrator, Roseau River Watershed District (RRWD)
- Allen Wold, Manager, Bois de Sioux Watershed District (BdSWD)
- Chuck Fritz, Executive Director, International Water Institute (IWI)
- Terry Sorenson, Manager, RLWD
- Lisa Frenette, Legislative Liaison, RRWMB
- April Swenby, Administrative Assistant, Sand Hill River Watershed District (SHRWD)



- Roger Hanson, Manager, SHRWD
- Rita Albrecht, Regional Director, Minnesota DNR
- Kerry Ross, Regional Planner, Minnesota DNR
- Kent Eken, State Senator, District 4
- Jim Ziegler, Regional Manager, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
- Chris Laveau, United States Geological Survey (USGS)
- Terresa Ebbenga, Assistant Regional Manager, MN DNR
- Duane Erickson, Manager, WRWD
- Bill Ingebrigtsen, State Senator, District 8

2. **Meeting Additions and Adoption of Agenda:** Mr. Sip asked that the discussion with legislators in attendance be included with the Legislative Report and that the agenda accommodate legislators and their schedules. A **Motion** to approve the Agenda with the modification by Mr. Sip was made by Mr. Braaten and **Seconded** by Mr. Ose. **Carried.**

3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes: Motion** by Mr. Mischel to dispense with the reading of the minutes for November 2018, **Seconded** by Mr. Deal. **Carried.** A **Motion** by Mr. Ose to approve the November 2018 meeting minutes, **Seconded** by Mr. Holmvik. **Carried.**

4. **Financial Reporting:**

A. **Treasurer’s Report:** Mr. Mischel made a **Motion** to dispense with the reading of the Treasurer’s Report, **Seconded** by Mr. Ose. **Carried.** **Motion** to approve the Treasurer’s Report by Mr. Money, **Seconded** by Mr. Deal. **Carried.**

B. **Review and Approve Bills & Managers Vouchers:** The bills presented for approval as of December 18, 2018, were as follows:

Name	Date	Memo	Amount
Arvig	12/10/2018	November Office Phone Bill	238.44
Arvig	12/17/2018	January 2019 Rent	625.00
Bois de Sioux Watershed District	12/17/2018	FY19 Q1 PT Reimbursement	4,071.94
Cardmember Services	12/10/2018	December 2018 Statement	1,018.07
Daniel Wilkens	12/17/2018	Service to RRWMB	150.00
Dot.Com Connection	12/10/2018	November Web Services	375.00
HDR Engineering, Inc.	12/10/2018	FDRWG Meeting TAC-10/28-11/24/18	607.00
LeRoy Carriere	12/17/2018	Service to RRWMB	150.00
Logo 2 Promo	12/11/2018	Plaques for Wilkens and Carriere	69.88
Madison National Life Ins Co, Inc.	11/27/2018	2 months worth	398.58
Marco Technologies LLC	12/17/2018	Toner	175.51
Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD	12/17/2018	FY19 Q1 PT Reimbursement	15,000.00
MN PEIP	12/07/2018	01/01/19-01/31/19 Coverage	1,663.10



Northwest Beverage	11/22/2018	Water for Office	22.75
Office Supplies Plus	12/13/2018	Document holders,paper, first aid kit, bulbs	645.18
Ralph's Food Pride	12/10/2018	conference planning meeting	18.27
Red Lake Watershed District	12/17/2018	FY19 Q1 PT Reimbursement	15,000.00
Rinke Noonan Law Firm	12/03/2018	Drainage & Water Conference	95.00
Sand Hill River Watershed District	12/17/2018	FY19 Q1 PT Reimbursement	7,042.19
Smith Partners PLLP	12/07/2018	November Services	981.00
Verizon	12/10/2018	November services	72.55
Wild Rice Watershed District	12/10/2018	December Shared Services	176.41
Wild Rice Watershed District	12/17/2018	FY19 Q1 PT Reimbursement	15,000.00
Wild Rice Watershed District	12/17/2018	Lease Extension Payment	60,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 123,595.87</b>

**Motion** to approve and pay bills along with manager vouchers presented by Mr. Money, **Seconded** by Mr. Deal. **Carried.** For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer's Report as Exhibit A.

**C. Update on Ring Dike Funds:** Mr. Sip updated the board on the Rural and Farmstead Ring Dike Grant and he indicated that there is \$125,179.06 currently available for building and or repairing of dikes. Mr. Sip said that the grant expires on June 30, 2019. There was discussion by the Managers about the remaining funds and Mr. Finney asked Mr. Sip to follow-up with he Minnesota DNR to see if the funds could be used for urban levees and related projects. Mr. Sip responded stating that the DNR would be contacted and that the RRWMB could conduct some additional outreach with the member watershed districts on this matter.

**D. Funding Commitments Spreadsheet:** An updated funding commitments spreadsheet was distributed by Mr. Sip and reviewed by the Managers. Myron Jesme indicated that the Black River Impoundment Project was not included. Mr. Sip indicated that this would be added to the Spreadsheet and that Mrs. Swenson would make the changes and bring the updated version to the January 2019 regular RRWMB meeting.

**E. Medical Flex Spending Account:** Mr. Sip presented information on a Medical Flex Spending Account (MFSA) to the Managers. Mr. Sip explained that this is a benefit that would be fully funded by staff with a service fee of \$4.30 monthly/person or \$103.20 annually that staff is requesting be paid by the RRWMB. It was noted by Mr. Sip that the \$103.20 annual fee would be a new allocation of funds. Mr. Sip also requested that the Managers authorize the President to sign all documents and agreements for the MFSA with the Further Company that administers the MFSA. A **Motion** was made by **Mr. Holmvik** to approve paying the annual fee for the MFSA and authorizing the President to sign all MFSA documents and agreements, **Seconded** by **Mr. Ose**. **Carried.**

## 5. Funding Requests:



- A. Project Step Process Reports and Applications:** Mr. Sip indicated to the Managers that no new Step reports or applications were submitted this month.
- B. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Recommendations:** Mr. Sip indicated to the Managers that there were no new TAC recommendations this month.
- C. Other Requests for funding:**
- **Flood Control Levee Improvement Project - City of Halstad:** Jerry Bents presented on behalf of the WRWD and he updated the Managers on work that needs to be completed for the City of Halstad for this project. Mr. Bents stated that the Minnesota Department of Transportation (DOT) is doing road work in 2019 to US Highway 75, so now would be the best time for all partners to work together with current funds that have been allocated to the project. Ms. Frenette and Senator Eken spoke about state funding availability in 2019 since it is not a bonding year. The WRWD is requesting \$1,000,000 from the RRWMB to secure moving forward with the DOT. It was also stated that this is not a retention project and the Step Process does not apply. Mr. Finney inquired with RRWMB staff and the TAC engineers about the Step Process applying to this project and similar projects. The TAC engineers and RRWMB staff indicated that the Step Process does not apply based on similar projects submitted in prior months in 2018. The Managers indicated that the project must still be reviewed by the TAC. **Motion** to accept the project and send it to the TAC to review by Mr. Money, **Seconded** by Mr. Ose. **Carried.**
  - **United States Geological Survey (USGS):** Chris Laveau from USGS was in attendance and provided an update to the Managers about the previous year stream flow monitoring activities and funding and to make a request for the 2019 contract. Mr. Laveau stated that the \$120,327 request currently includes the monitoring site near Climax in the SHRWD. Mr. Finney said that since we are not receiving funds from the SHRWD and that they are not a member of the RRWMB, that the RRWMB will not be funding that site. Mr. Laveau further discussed how the local funds and match provide USGS the ability to purchase updated equipment and to continue updating the datum. Mr. Laveau stated that there is approximately 75 years of data collected at the SHRWD site but that he would need to find another funding partner for that site to continue collecting data.

Mr. Ose inquired about the Buffalo River and was wondering how much data was collected from that site. Mr. Laveau told the Managers that the Buffalo Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) provides funding for the Buffalo River stream flow monitoring site since the BRRWD is not a member of the RRWMB. Mr. Ose stated that he believes that all the sites have value, are worth trying to keep within the monitoring program, and that he was in favor of including the SHRWD site in the contract with the USGS. **Motion** to approve the USGS Contract excluding the SHRWD by Mr. Money, **Seconded** by Mr. Mischel. Mr. Ose opposed and stated that he would like to keep the SHRWD for one more year to provide continuity. **Carried.**

- **Red River Basin Commission (RRBC):** Mr. Sip gave an overview of the materials in the



meeting packet regarding RRBCs annual funding request of \$90,000. Mr. Sip stated that the materials include a workplan, resolution, and funding agreement. Mr. Preister discussed the workplan and that the RRBC Executive Committee would be reviewing the documents later in the week. Mr. Finney asked if the RRBC has agreements and workplans similar to materials provided in the RRWMB meeting packet with other funding partners. Mr. Preister responded that it is something he would like to have going forward with other partners. Mr. Finney stated that the workplan, resolution, and funding agreement are well laid out, important, and is something that he has been wanting to implement for some time. It was consensus of the Managers to have the RRBC Executive Committee review the documents first, and to review the matter at the January 2019 regular RRWMB meeting.

**6. Annual Conference and March RRWMB Regular Meeting:** Mr. Sip gave an update on planning for the annual conference and stated that the RRRA will likely have a regular meeting the morning of Wednesday, March 20, 2019 prior to the RRWMB meeting. Mr. Sip stated that BWSR is also interested in holding a meeting prior to or during the RRWMB meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 for watershed district managers or Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) staff and managers. Mr. Sip also discussed the following matters with the Managers:

- A. RRWMB March 2019 Meeting Date:** Mr. Sip requested to move the regular monthly meeting of the RRWMB to March 20, 2019, which would allow area SWCDs to participate fully in the joint annual conference since their meeting will be held in Detroit Lakes on March 19, 2019. The Managers indicated that there would be no issue with holding the RRWMB regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2019.
- B. Meeting Date for Joint Annual Conference:** The Managers agreed to hold the Joint Annual Conference starting the afternoon of Wednesday, March 20, 2019 and ending the afternoon of Thursday, March 21, 2019 at the Marriot Hotel and Convention Center in Moorhead, MN.
- C. Red River Basin Drainage Conference, Venue, and Registration Fee:** Mr. Sip proposed that since March 19, 2019 is still reserved at the Marriott, that a Red River Basin Drainage Conference be held. Mr. Sip mentioned that RRWMB legal counsel Smith Partners and the Rinke Noonan law firm have been contacted to determine their interest to develop a drainage conference focused specifically on Red River Basin drainage issues in Minnesota. Mr. Finney asked that the Red River Joint Water Resource District and their attorney be contacted as well during the planning of the event and Mr. Sip indicated he would make contact. Mr. Money asked what topics would be included and Mr. Sip also stated that watershed districts and drainage engineers will be asked for their input. Mr. Sip discussed the need for a fee to offset some of the expenses for hosting and mentioned that a \$95 fee is required for the Rinke Noonan event. Mr. Sip said that an appropriate fee would be implemented to help cover the costs for the event.
- D. Use of Legal Counsel for Drainage Conference:** Mr. Sip discussed fees for legal counsel from Smith Partners and Rinke Noonan and stated that it would likely cost \$4,000 for these firms to assist in developing the agenda, participate in the event, conduct training, and to provide legal and case law updates.

**E. Use of legal counsel for Training at Joint Annual Conference:** Mr. Sip stated that Smith



Partners has agreed to provide a training session during the annual conference regarding conflict of interest, roles of boards, ethics, and related matters. **Motion** to approve items 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D, and 6E by Mr. Deal, **Seconded** by Mr. Ose. **Carried**.

7. **Long-term Flood Solutions (LTFS) Update:** Mr. Preister updated the Managers on the progress that has been made and referred to the materials included in the board packet. Mr. Preister stated that the RRBC LTFS officially started as of October 2018. Funding has been secured for the first year of the project and an additional effort is ongoing to secure the final \$67,500 prior to October 2019 for the second year of the project. In addition, Mr. Preister discussed the following:
  - A. **Project Costs:** The project will be two years and a total cost of \$650,000, with the RRBC contribution in-kind being \$325,000 over two years. The US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) funding is committed as of November 2018. To date, \$125,000 is committed from the North Dakota Cass County Commission from the Flood Tax fund. Clay County received a grant from the MPCA to assist communities in planning for climate change. Matching funds were contributed by the Buffalo Red River and the Wild Rice Watershed Districts for a total amount of \$40,000.
  - B. **Funding Partners:** The RRWMB and North Dakota Joint Water Resource District (NDJWRD) each committed \$12,500 for this year. The NDJWRD Executive Committee authorized funding up to \$67,500 total if State or other grant funding is not secured for the second year of the project. The initial meeting between the various groups occurred on December 2, 2018, with clarification of goals and prioritization of efforts.
  - C. **Primary Outcomes:** In the first year, an update is planned to basin-wide HEC/HMS hydrology analysis (200 and 500-year base hydrographs on the main stem) and detailed review of floodplain and stormwater regulations for consistency.
  - D. **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC):** The RRBC Board has authorized the establishment of a TAC, including representation of local engineering firms, the water management organizations in both Minnesota and North Dakota, as well as economists for reviewing the work of the update.
8. **Red River Basin Water Quality Strategic Plan (WQSP) Update:** Mr. Preister gave an update on the progress of the strategy and indicated that an update will be given every six months to the RRWMB Managers. Mr. Preister indicated that as of June 2018, the WQSP is complete and has been submitted to the Minnesota Legislature. The WQSP included a wide variety of recommendations for efforts from the local level through international governmental partnerships and several spin off or pilot projects are being advanced.

The wide varieties of recommendations in the strategy include seven major subheadings of Cornerstone, Connector, Building Block, Data and Tools, Pilot Projects Communication, and Individual Stakeholders. Mr. Preister stated that an annual update on progress under the overall strategy will be given at the RRBC annual conference each January. Mr. Preister also discussed the following illustration regarding progress with the strategies:



# Progress in Strategies

- **Basin Cornerstone Strategy**  
 1A International Red River Board (IRRB), 1B Red River Basin Commission (RRBC), 1C Basin Wide Dialogue And Cooperation
  - **Basin Connector Strategy**
  - **Basin Building Block Strategy**  
 3A Red River Basin, 3B Red River Mainstem, 3C Red River Tributaries, 3D Red River Sub-watersheds
  - **Basin Data and Tools Strategy**  
 4A Narrative And Numeric Nutrient Standards, 4B Monitoring, Modeling And Analysis, 4C Report/Analysis
  - **Basin Pilot Projects Strategy**  
 5A Nutrient Credit Trading, 5B Drainage Connectivity, 5C Seeding/Cover Crop Strategies, 5D Storm Water Runoff, 5E Rural Septic Fields
  - **Basin Communication Strategy**  
 6A Stakeholder Engagement (RRBC Activities, Partnership Activities, RRBC Basin Conference), 6B Plans, 6C Updates
  - **Basin Individual Stakeholder Strategy**  
 7A Targeted Workshops, 7B Tours
- No recent activity    
 ● Minor Activity    
 ● Significant activities



*Working together to achieve common goals for water protection and management within the Red River Basin.*

## 9. Legislative Issues:

**A. Legislative Report:** RRWMB Legislative Liaison Lisa Frenette introduced Senator Kent Eken and Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen to the Managers and audience members. Ms. Frenette, Mr. Sip, and the RRWMB Managers provided additional background about the RRWMB to the Senators. The RRWMB funding process was also discussed with the Senators and how projects are initiated including the Star Value, Project Evaluation Worksheet, Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, local project teams, RRWMB cost-share and funding commitment process. In addition, the requirements set forth in the RRWMB Governing Documents for local flood projects were briefly discussed as to provide general information to the Senators.



Mr. Finney provided the Senators with a history, background, functions of, and need for the RRRRA and how it works with water management entities on both sides of the Red River to address regional and basin-wide flood reduction. Senator Eken stated that there is a backlog of projects and deferred maintenance and the bonding bill has stayed at the same level since the late 1990s. Senator Eken mentioned that it may be feasible to have two separate bonding bills in the future for maintenance and new projects.

Discussion of area projects and funding needs was held, and Ms. Halstengard spoke about the RRWD Lake Bottom Project and funding needs of the project. Mr. Jesme talked about the RLWD Black River Impoundment Project, funding needs, and permitting issues and he stated that funding is needed now because with every delay, construction cost increase. Ms. Frenette and Kevin Ruud of the WRWD provided information about the WRWD project with the City of Hendrum. Discussion was also held regarding how these projects leverage funds from a variety of sources from the RRWMB, local funds, state funds, and other partners. Ms. Frenette also discussed the RRWMB process to develop legislative priorities with input from member watershed districts.

An overview was provided about the River Watch Program and River of Dreams by Ms. Frenette and Chuck Fritz of the IWI. Funding of these programs and interactions with the Clean Water Council and MPCA were also discussed with the Senators. Mr. Finney thanked the Senators for being in attendance and invited them to stay for lunch after the meeting was adjourned. There was also discussion of the Fargo-Moorhead Diversion project and permitting updates and Mrs. Albrecht provided the Managers and Senators with an overview of the current status of the project.

## 10.Reports:

### A. Internal RRWMB Committees:

- **Red River Basin Coordinator Report:** Rodger Hemphill of the DNR provided a written report, which was included in the meeting packet. Mr. Hemphill provided an overview of his report.
- **Legislative Committee:** Mr. Sip stated that the RRWMB Legislative Committee met on Monday, December 17, 2018 at the RLWD in Thief River Falls to finalize legislative priorities. Mr. Money, Ms. Frenette, and Mr. Sip gave an overview of the meeting and Mr. Sip distributed a document highlighting all the resolutions that were submitted from member watershed districts during the RRWMB legislative process the past few months. It was noted that there was a late resolution from the BdSWD regarding the BWSR Multipurpose Drainage Water Management Grant Program that was accepted. Also included in the document was a listing of resolutions approved by the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts in December 2018. The proposed 2019 legislative priorities being recommended by the RRWMB Legislative Committee include:



- **Resolutions:** The River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) will support resolutions 1 through 6 and 8 passed by the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) on November 30, 2018. The RRWMB will not be the lead on these resolutions at the 2019 Minnesota Legislative session.
- **Appropriations:**
  - Project Funding and Bonding - The RRWMB will work with the Association of Minnesota Counties, League of Minnesota Cities, Minnesota River Basin Projects Inc., MAWD, and others to secure funding in bonding years to support the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources project list for flood hazard mitigation grants. For the 2019 session, the RRWMB will use the following prioritization for lobbying efforts for flood retention projects proposed by member watershed districts:
    - Priority A – Projects in Step 2.
    - Priority B – Projects in Step 1.
  - Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (FDRWG) – The State of Minnesota allocates \$264,000 each year of the fiscal biennium to the FDRWG. The FDRWG is requesting an increase to the FDRWG of \$100,000 per year for the 2019/2020 biennium and the RRWMB supports this and will lobby on behalf of the FDRWG.
  - River Watch - \$250,000 was dedicated for each year of the 2017/2018 fiscal biennium. The International Water Institute (IWI) has requested \$250,000 from the Clean Water Council (CWC). The RRWMB will lobby for the River Watch Program.
- **Policy Actions Items:**
  - Runoff and Sediment Delivery Option (RSDO) – The RRWMB will remain neutral on this issue being discussed by the Drainage Work Group. The RRWMB will not be the lead on this issue.
  - Bois de Sioux Watershed District legislative initiative for market-based analysis on drainage system repairs (SF 3181). The RRWMB will not oppose this issue.
  - Bois de Sioux Watershed District resolution to increase BWSR Multipurpose Drainage Water Management Funding. The RRWMB will lobby for this issue.
  - Coordinated Watersheds Bill (HF 3908). The RRWMB will not lead and RRWMB is neutral.

Ms. Frenette stated that additional priorities may arise during the 2019 legislative session and the RRWMB will keep member watershed districts informed of developing issues. Ms. Frenette and Mr. Sip indicated that the drainage related priorities are draft at the current time and that the Drainage Work Group (DWG) would be meeting on Thursday, January 10, 2019 to discuss legislative priorities. Ms. Frenette stated that once the DWG meeting occurs, the RRWMB will be able to finalize 2019 legislative priorities on January 15, 2019.



The Managers indicated consensus of this approach and the draft priorities for 2019. **Motion** to approve the draft 2019 legislative priorities as final by Mr. Deal, **Seconded** by Mr. Ose. **Carried.** Ms. Frenette stated that if there were any decisions by the DWG at the next DWG meeting that differ from RRWMB priorities, that the issues would be brought to the RRWMB Managers at the January 2019 meeting.

#### **B. External Committees:**

- **Drainage Work Group (DWG):** Mr. Deal provided a brief update on DWG activities and stated that the DWG will likely finalize 2019 legislative priorities at the January 2019 meeting.
- **RRRA Meeting:** Mr. Finney reported that the RRRA met in December as part of the Prairie Grains Conference at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Mr. Ose, Mr. Mischel, and Mr. Sip were also in attendance. Mr. Finney provided an overview of the meeting to the Managers.

**C. Executive Director Report:** Mr. Sip updated the board on his activities and discussed the recent Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (FDRWG) meeting that was held in conjunction with the Prairie Grains Conference. Mr. Sip stated that there were 37 people in attendance and that many farm groups and organizations participated in the meeting. Mr. Deal and Mrs. Albrecht also provided additional comments about the meeting and stated that there was great interest of FDRWG activities by the groups. Mr. Sip also discussed the booth activity during the Prairie Grains Conference trade show that the RRWMB had a booth at. Mr. Sip briefly discussed his attendance and mentioned that he provided an update to the RRRA at their December 2018 regular meeting.

### **11. Agency and Partner Reports:**

#### **A. Member Watershed Districts:**

- **Wild Rice Watershed District:** A written report was shared at the meeting.
- **Two Rivers Watershed District:** Mr. Money discussed progress of the Klondike Project and shared information with the Senators regarding the various phases of the project, funding needs, and timelines. Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen indicated that he was in support of phased approaches to funding.
- **Red Lake Watershed District:** Mr. Jesme updated the Managers on their activities with the 1 Watershed 1 Plan (1W1P) process. Mr. Jesme also discussed drainage projects currently being worked on in the RLWD and that much construction activity will take place this spring. Mr. Jesme stated that the Pine Lake Project is still moving forward in the RCPP process but that the Four-Legged Lake project was pulled from the RCPP process as there was not enough benefit to justify the expense at the present time.



- B. International Water Institute:** A written report was included in the packet and Mr. Fritz provided the Managers with a summary of his report. Mr. Fritz also talked about the upcoming River Watch Forum that will be held February 27, 2019 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, North Dakota and he invited all to attend the event.
- C. Red River Basin Commission:** Mr. Preister stated that the RRBC is continuing to finalize preparations for their annual conference in January 2019 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, North Dakota. It was also mentioned that the RRBC is moving forward with the tile drainage project that has been previously discussed at RRWMB meetings.
- D. Red River Retention Authority:** Keith Weston submitted a written report that was included in the meeting packet. Mr. Weston gave a brief summary of his report and he indicated that many meetings have been attended. Mr. Weston provided information on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) projects, with three agreements having recent reports being submitted. It was mentioned that on December 4, 2018, there was a teleconference regarding Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) for watershed districts working on RCPP projects and economic analysis. The end goal is to send a draft BCA document to federal economists at the National Water Management Center in Little Rock, Arkansas. Mr. Weston indicated that the RRRA 2019 meeting schedule is set and the first meeting in the new year will be March 20, 2019. A summer tour will be planned for June 2019 with regular meetings in September and December 2019.
- E. Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR):** Henry Van Offelen gave an update on current BWSR activities and said that there are six 1W1P projects at the current time in the Red River Basin and shared that there is one completed 1W1P, one almost finished, three new 1W1P in the beginning phases, and one in the middle of the 1W1P process. Mr. Van Offelen also invited the RRWMB to make comments on upcoming 1W1P processes.
- F. NRCS:** Debra Walchuk from NRCS submitted a written report included in the meeting packet and she discussed some of her activities with the Managers.
- G. Department of Agriculture (MDA):** Jeppe Kjaersgaard of the MDA discussed a proposed drainage demonstration project that will occur at two locations. The project will focus on phosphorus and nitrogen reduction and the proposal is to also work with international partners, which will include the University of Minnesota at Crookston and the University of Manitoba. Mr. Kjaersgaard stated that crop consultants will be a primary outreach target and a local advisory team will be established as part of the project. He stated that he would like to come back in January 2019 to request funding for \$25,000 to \$35,000 and it is intended to be a five-year project.



Mr. Kjaersgaard indicated that a project goal is to better tie information together from various research and demonstration sites. Mr. Zeigler stated that it would be very useful information. Mr. Money requested to have Mr. Kjaersgaard meet with the TAC and other water quality experts that are not engineers. It was suggested that Danni Halvorson of the IWI and Corey Hanson of the RLWD could be part of a review group with the TAC. Mr. Money stated that this should be done prior to coming to the RRWMB Managers in January 2019. Mr. Sip stated that a TAC meeting will be scheduled in early January 2019 with the individuals suggested.

**H. DNR:** Rita Albrecht spoke to the Managers and RRWMB staff and thanked them for all the work that they have done over the last year. Mrs. Albrecht also provided an updated on the Red River Basin Coordinator position description and the DNR is hoping to have it posted internally after January 1, 2019. She also stated that Mr. Sip will be asked to participate during the interview process and that he has given input on the position description.

**12. Advisory Comments:** There were no advisory comments presented. Mr. Finney asked for other reports or comments. Blake Carlson stated that Charlie Anderson has moved into retirement and that he was participating on the US ACOE Red River Basin Feasibility Study as a technical review member. The Managers asked Mr. Carlson and RRWMB staff to follow-up with Mr. Anderson about his interest in continuing to participate.

**13. Upcoming Meetings:** The next regular meeting will take place on January 15, 2019 and will be held at City Hall Room 101, 600 Demers Avenue, East Grand Forks, MN at 9:30 AM. Mr. Sip also referred the Managers and audience to the 2019 RRWMB calendar and indicated that there were many upcoming meetings.

**14. Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:09 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jerome Deal  
Secretary

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Nikki Swenson  
Executive Assistant