



Meeting Highlights

November 20, 2018

1. **Phase 1 Benefit Cost Analysis Framework (BCA)** – The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) Managers approved by resolution, the BCA Framework document. An updated resolution was provided to the Managers, who also indicated that the document should be shared with watershed districts working on watershed projects through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. The BCA document will also be placed on the RRWMB website soon.
2. **River Watch Program** – Representatives from the International Water Institute (IWI) were in attendance to discuss the River Watch and River of Dreams Programs. IWI staff discussed their interactions the past few months with the Minnesota Clean Water Council regarding funding requests and the possibility to move the River of Dreams Program statewide. The RRWMB Managers discussed continuing to be the fiscal agent for the Programs and there was consensus that this should continue regardless as long as the activity does not affect RRWMB staff workloads.
3. **Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP)** – Representatives from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) presented information on the MAWQCP and activities of the MDA regarding this program in the Red River Basin (RRB). The MDA will continue to promote this MAWQCP in Northwest Minnesota and approximately 30 farmers have enrolled into the program located in the RRB. The MDA will continue to interact with agricultural stakeholder groups in the RRB on the MAWQCP to develop new partnerships.
4. **Regulatory Issues** – The Managers discussed a comment letter recently sent by the RRWMB to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency regarding Tiered Aquatic Life Use rule-making. In addition, the Managers directed staff to begin working on a draft letter to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) regarding environmental review rule-making. The deadline to comment on the EQB rules is January 7, 2018 and the RRWMB will review a draft letter at the December 2018 regular meeting.
5. **Legislative Update** – The RRWMB Managers discussed results of the 2019 elections and preparations for the 2019 Minnesota legislative session. The RRWMB will be inviting area legislators to the December 18, 2018 regular meeting in Ada. Legislators that attend will be able to hear updates about RRWMB and partner activities. Meeting attendees will be able to listen to area legislators as they discuss legislative priorities. The RRWMB will also hold a Legislative Committee meeting on December 17, 2018 to further discuss and recommend 2019 legislative priorities to the RRWMB Managers.
6. **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Technical Committee** – An update was provided to the Managers about participation on the State Technical Committee (STC) by the RRWMB, which recently met this fall. Local Work Groups met in 2018 to discuss and set local conservation priorities to determine funding needs at the local level. Conservation needs in Northwest Minnesota will primarily focus on soil degradation, soil loss, soil organic matter, and wind erosion in 2019.
7. **Agency and Partner Updates** – Several updates were provided by the Red River Retention Authority, NRCS, and the MDA.
8. **Upcoming Meetings:**
 - Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts annual conference at the Arrowwood Hotel and Conference Center in Alexandria from November 29 to December 1, 2018.
 - Next RRWMB Meeting – Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at the Ada Area Event Center (former VFW) at 9:30 AM.