



NEWS & VIEWS

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD

STORAGE CAPACITY OF IMPOUNDMENTS CAN FILL 60,000 OLYMPIC-SIZED SWIMMING POOLS OR 205 FARGODOMES

Dan Thul knows a lot about the storage capacity of all water storage impoundments funded jointly by the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) and its affiliated watershed districts. Thul is the RRWMB's Technical Advisory Committee coordinator and works closely with storage capacity numbers of completed and proposed impoundments. Specifically, he knows that to date, that 119,630 total acre-feet of storage capacity exists because of RRWMB cost-share funding.

"When I read recently that all the impoundments sponsored by the RRWMB and its affiliated districts only filled 38 Olympic-sized swimming pools, I knew something was wrong," Thul said.

A press release from the RRWMB Public Information Officer, Mark Meister included the wrong information. And the wrong information was reported in several local newspapers. "I take full responsibility for the mistake. I published the wrong information," said Meister. "Dan is never wrong when it comes to storage capacity calculations, he is much smarter than me," Meister added.

Thul was more than happy to provide the accurate information. He took a friendly jab at Meister's mistake. "Never trust the math of someone who specializes in communication," said Thul. To which Meister responded, "Dan is smarter than me, Dan is much smarter than me, Dan is my hero when it comes to storage capacity of impoundments."

Meister decided to challenge Dan's math skills further. The challenge? Figure out how many Fargodomes it would take to hold all the water stored by the impound-

ments built by the RRWMB and its affiliated watershed districts.

Thul consulted the Fargodomes website and learned that total volume of the structure is 25,500,000 cubic feet. He quickly used that number, compared it with the almost 120,000 total acre-feet of storage capacity, and definitively concluded, the water held by RRWMB and its affiliated watershed districts can fill 205 Fargodomes from floor to ceiling.

"That's a lot of water," says RRWMB member Jerome Deal of Wheaton. "And we

are working to secure funding so that more water can be held and controlled for flood damage reduction," adds Deal.

As for Meister, he learned an important lesson. "Never have someone other than Dan Thul do water storage calculations," says Meister. "He's right, I'm wrong. He's good with math, I'm not," adding that the major message for citizens to understand is "that's 205 Fargodomes worth of water that is held and reduces flooding," says Meister.

WATER EQUIVALENTS TABLE

1 cubic foot	7.48 gallons	62.4 pounds of water
1 acre-foot	43,560 cubic feet	325,900 gallons
An acre-foot covers 1 acre of land 1 foot deep		
1 cubic foot per second (cfs)		450 gallons per minute
1 cfs		646,320 gallons per day
	For 24 hours	1,983 acre-feet
	For 30 days	59.5 acre-feet
	For 1 year	724 acre-feet
1 million gallons		3.07 acre-feet
1 million gallons per day (mgd)		1,120 acre-feet per yr.
1,000 gallons per minute (gpm)		2.23 cfs.
1,000 gpm		4.42 acre-feet per day
An acre-foot supplies a family of 5 for 1 year		

RRWMB MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At its regularly scheduled October meeting, the RRWMB:

- *Received a report from Mark Meister, Public Information Officer and authorized him to proceed with the development of a yearly calendar beginning in 2010.*
- *Received a report from Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator.*
- *Authorized President Finney to appoint a Finance Committee of the Board.*
- *Received an update from Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, Red River Basin Commission (RRBC).*
- *Received a report from Naomi Erickson, Administrator.*
- *Cancelled the meeting of a sub-committee of the board consisting of John Finney, Dan Wilkens, Ron Osowski, Dan Thul and Ron Harnack to meet with a contingency of the North Dakota Red River Joint Water Resource Board following the board meeting and authorized rescheduling the meeting.*
- *Received a report from Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator.*

WATERSHED DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS

ROSEAU RIVER WD

The Roseau River WD reported on the Hay Creek/Norland Project. Phase 1 (set-back levees) and Phase 3 (connection channel) have started construction and will be almost completed by this fall. The Board of Managers awarded three outlet control structures for Phase 2 (Norland Impoundment), two to Wagner Construction and one to ICS Construction. Construction on the three sites will begin this fall with a completion scheduled of 07/30/10.

The District reported that the construction of one ring dike was completed this fall. An additional two ring dikes are being planned through the EQIP and rural ring dike programs with construction plans to begin next summer.

RED LAKE WD

The Red Lake WD reported on the Parnell Impoundment. Construction on the modification of the impoundment has been substantially completed with the exception of seeding. The seeding will be completed following the spring runoff event.

A preliminary hearing for the Pennington County Ditch No. 75 Petition was held on October 22, 2009. The project calls for the construction of a new ditch which includes the existing five-mile legal drainage system and the construction of an additional 2 ¼ miles of a new ditch. After the close of the hearing, the Board of Managers directed the District engineer to make a detailed survey with plans and specifications for the proposed project and submit a detailed survey report. The Board also appointed three disinterested land-owners to view the project. The final hearing on the project is planned for early in the spring of 2010.

The next meeting of the RRWMB will be held prior to the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District, 1000 Pennington Ave S, Thief River Falls, MN. Following the board meeting, the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group will meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District office.

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