



BOARD AND WATERSHEDS HAVE BUSY AND SUCCESSFUL SUMMER

IMPOUNDMENT CONSTRUCTION AND COMPLETION JUST SOME OF THE SUCCESSES

As harvest continues and the days draw shorter, the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) and its affiliated watershed districts can reflect back on a productive summer. "We have completed and made great progress that will lead to significant flood reduction," says RRWMB President John Finney. Up and down the Minnesota Red River Valley, flood mitigation projects are being completed and progressing.

The North Ottawa Impoundment project in the Bois de Sioux Watershed District is complete and fully operational. In the event of major spring flooding, the impoundment will hold 16,000 acre-feet of gate controlled storage. The impoundment controls 75 square miles of the 320 square-mile Rabbit River watershed on 1,920 acres of land. It is expected to reduce peak flood flows at Wahpeton/Breckenridge by about 5% and have significant benefits to agricultural lands.

The Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District, headquartered in Warren, recently completed construction of the Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management project. The impoundment is capable of holding 10,600 acre-feet of water during spring run-off. Work continues on the proposed Brandt/Angus impoundment, that when completed will hold an additional 8,000 acre-feet of water.

The Red Lake Watershed District, in Thief River Falls, recently reported that its 26 impoundment projects hold an estimated 370,000 acre-feet of water. An additional



2009 Joint Annual Meeting & Tour. From left to right: Ben Varnson - Lakota, ND; Gary Thompson - Mayville, ND; Nate Dalager, Engineer - HDR Engineering, Inc.; and Myron Jesme, Administrator - Red Lake WD.



2009 Joint Annual Meeting & Tour. Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District.

23,000 acre-feet of water is held by storage areas around the Clearwater River.

The Palmville impoundment controls 500 acre-feet of water in the Roseau River Watershed District and construction continues on the Hay Creek impoundment, that when completed, will hold 10,000 acre-feet of water during spring run-off.

The Nereson, Ross, and Horseshoe Lake impoundments in the Two Rivers Watershed District, headquartered in Hallock, are capable of holding more than 12,000 acre-feet of spring run-off water.

In all, the impoundments funded jointly by the Red River Watershed Management Board and its affiliated watershed districts can

hold enough water to fill 38 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Besides the completion and continued construction of storage facilities, RRWMB members worked with MN legislators on future bonding issues. In addition, board members met with ND colleagues to discuss partnerships for even more flood control projects during the 2009 Joint Annual Meeting & Tour of the board and the Red River Joint Water Resource Board sponsored this year by the RRWMB.

"We continue to work hard to manage flooding in the Red River Valley. We also work hard to make sure that water quality and watershed education are key components in all projects that we

sponsor," says Finney.

Among the water quality and watershed education projects supported by the RRWMB are water quality monitoring efforts and River Watch, a watershed education program designed for high school students. The River Watch curriculum is implemented in 14 MN and ND schools and has plans to grow to include more schools, including high schools in Manitoba.

"Because of our partnerships with a variety of federal, state, and local water agencies and organizations, we not only help to manage flooding, but also we are able to collaborate in projects that help educate citizens about water issues," says Finney.

Specifically, the RRWMB is partnering with MN agencies interested in creating a series of internet videos. The educational videos address the flood damage control and conservation benefits of impoundments and floodways. In addition, technical and water policy collaborations with the International Water Institute (IWI) and the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) continue to lead to effective flood damage reduction decisions.

"We have seen a lot of progress this summer," says Finney. "Our work continues, and in the coming months we will continue to work with federal, state and local agencies and organizations to develop comprehensive flood damage reduction for all the citizens of the Red River Valley.

For more information about the RRWMB and its affiliated watershed districts, visit www.rrwmb.org.

RRWMB MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At its regularly scheduled September meeting, the RRWMB:

- *Discussed the Water Quality Project Monitoring effort and directed N. Erickson to coordinate with legal counsel regarding finalizing the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) relative to the transition of the initiative from the RRWMB to the International Water Institute (IWI).*
- *Received a report from Mark Meister, Public Information Officer.*
- *Received a report from Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator.*
- *Received an update from Julie Goehring, Communications Coordinator, Red River Basin Commission (RRBC).*
- *Received a report from Naomi Erickson, Administrator.*
- *Authorized 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 in October.*
- *Received a report from Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator.*



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WATERSHED DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS

RED LAKE WD

The Red Lake WD reported on the Parnell Impoundment. At the regularly scheduled monthly board meeting conducted on September 10, 2009 the Board of Managers approved the low quote from Wright Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$39,711.25 to modify the Parnell Impoundment. The modification consists of installing two 48" CSP with screw gates at the location of the existing connection channel along with the construction of an interior channel. It will allow the transfer of three-feet of water from the west pool to outlet back to the east pool and flow down JD No. 60 when conditions warrant. The project must be completed by October 23, 2009.

BOIS DE SIOUX WD

The Bois de Sioux WD reported that the District agreed to serve as a partner in the Upper Mustinka Corridor Transportation Improvements project. The project will include the raising of 25 - 30 road crossings in the upper Mustinka River valley and sizing culverts so that with the 100-year flood potentially an additional 5,700 acre-feet can be stored automatically without washing out every road crossing in the area. In 2009, all but two of these crossings were impassible for 2 to 3 weeks, including MN State Highway No. 55. Grant County is applying for a grant in the amount of \$9 million. At their July board meeting, the RRWMB authorized N. Erickson to draft a letter of support to the Grant County Commission.

EVENTS COMING UP

The next meeting of the RRWMB will be on Tuesday, October 27, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Wild Rice WD, 11 5th Avenue East, Ada, MN.

A joint meeting of the Red River Joint Water Resource Board and a sub-committee of the RRWMB will begin following lunch at 1:00 p.m. at the Wild Rice WD office.

Please note the change of the regular meeting date (the 3rd Tuesday of each month) to coincide with the Senate Bonding Tour tentatively scheduled for late afternoon on October 27th in Ada, MN.

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Your comments and contributions are always welcome. If you are receiving this newsletter and are not currently a member of a governing unit in the Red River Basin, please notify us and provide the name of the appropriate person to be added to our mailing list. News & Views, c/o RRWMB, P.O. Box 763, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502-0763, Phone: (218) 844-6166; Fax: (218) 844-6167.