



RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY GETS DOWN TO BUSINESS

In July 2010, the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) signed a joint powers agreement with the Red River Joint Water Resource District (RRJWRD) in North Dakota creating the Red River Retention Authority (3RA). Since then, the newly formed 3RA has met monthly coordinating efforts for basin-wide protection that utilizes the resources in Minnesota, North Dakota, and the federal government.

Many logistical decisions have been made in recent months, including the appointment of members, legal counsel, and the designation of committees focusing on permitting, mobilizing federal farm bill money, and establishing scientific and technical standards for future retention projects.

The 3RA is a distinct authority in the Red River valley because it focuses exclusively on water retention. The 3RA is Co-Chaired by Jim Lyons of Lisbon, ND and John Finney of Humboldt, MN. Finney also serves as President of the RRWMB. Other members of the RRWMB who serve

on the 3RA are Ron Osowski of Oslo, MN and Jerome Deal of Wheaton, MN. Members of the 3RA from North Dakota include Gary Thompson of Mayville, ND, and Rodger Olson of Leonard, ND. Sam Schellenberg of Manitoba also serves as a non-voting board member representing the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC).

The 3RA committee discussing permitting issues consists of, Chad Engels, Chair and engineer with the RRJWRD, Lance Yohe – RRBC, and Dan Wilkens, Administrator of the Sand Hill River Watershed District and board member of the RRWMB.

Bill Hejl, North Dakota Water Manager and Co-Chair of the Retention Committee, is leading the committee working on securing federal farm bill resources for retention efforts. The other Co-Chair of the committee is Jerome Deal, Bois de Sioux Watershed District and board member of the RRWMB.

The 3RA has established a Basin Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (BTSAC) consisting of technical representatives from

stakeholders throughout the Red River basin.

The 3RA will soon launch a website that will provide citizens with vital information related to authority decisions and project funding. The website is presently under development and will be online by April 2011.

Monthly meetings of the 3RA are open to the

public and are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month. The meetings are scheduled from 10:00 a.m. until noon at the Cass County Highway Department Building, 1201 Main Ave. W., West Fargo, ND.

For meeting information, please contact 3RA Secretary-Treasurer, Carol Lewis at (701) 298-2381.

RED RIVER BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT LEADERSHIP AWARD PRESENTED TO DANIEL WILKENS



To recognize exemplary service that enhances the lives of basin residents, the Red River Basin Water Management Leadership Award was presented to Daniel Wilkens at the 28th Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference in appreciation for his lifetime of innovative water management efforts that transcend political boundaries. From left to right, Daniel Wilkens – Administrator, Sand Hill River Watershed District / Treasurer, RRWMB; Herm Martens – Chair, RRBC, and Lance Yohe – Executive Director, RRBC.

RRWMB MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At its regularly scheduled January meeting, the RRWMB:

- Re-elected the following individuals at the annual organization of the board: John Finney-President, Orville Knott-Vice President, Jerome Deal-Secretary, and Daniel Wilkens-Treasurer.
- Received a report from Mark Meister, Public Information Officer.
- Discussed board policy regarding member district webpage development and maintenance reimbursement and directed the Administrator's Committee to develop a recommendation for board consideration.
- Received a report from Naomi Erickson, Administrator.
- Reviewed a draft letter previously authorized to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Watershed Feasibility Study Project Manager requesting that the modeling efforts currently being conducted in the southern part of the basin are also performed in the northern part of the basin, with assistance provided by the board's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).
- Received a report from Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator.
- Discussed the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee's (TSAC) Report No. 14 and directed the board's TAC to review the document and report to the board at the next monthly meeting.
- Approved a program reimbursement request of \$46,875 for the Palmville FDR & Fen Restoration project of the Roseau River WD.
- Received a report from Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator.

WATERSHED DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS

ROSEAU RIVER WD

The Roseau River WD reported on the Hay Creek/Norland Project. The Spruce Valley Corporation continues work on Phase 2 of the project. They have been working in the damp areas of the project while those areas are frozen. Monitoring will continue on the project this spring.

A meeting to discuss the operation and maintenance procedures for the Palmville FDR and Restoration Project will be conducted in February. The remaining elements in the operation and maintenance agreement between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Roseau County and the District will be finalized.

RED LAKE WD

The Red Lake WD reported on the lateral to Pennington County Ditch No. 75. The Final Survey Report for a petition to construct a lateral to Pennington County Ditch No. 75 was submitted at the regularly scheduled meeting conducted on January 13, 2011. After accepting the report for filing, the Board appointed three viewers for the project. Following the completion and approval of the viewing process, a final hearing will be scheduled for the project sometime in April with construction to occur in late May.

EVENTS COMING UP

The next meeting of the RRWMB will be at the Red Lake Watershed District, 1000 Pennington Ave. S, Thief River Falls, MN on Tuesday, February 15, 2010 starting at 9:30 a.m.

The 13th Joint Annual Conference of the Red River Watershed Management Board and the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott & Conference Center, Moorhead, Minnesota on March 15-16, 2011.

NEWS & VIEWS
c/o RRWMB
P.O. Box 763
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502-0763

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