



## RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP CLARIFIED

The Red River Retention Authority is comprised of members of the Red River Joint Water Resource District, a North Dakota political subdivision, and the Red River Watershed Management Board, a Minnesota political subdivision.

According to John Finney, Red River Retention Authority Co-chair and President of the Red River Watershed Management Board, it is easy for the public to be confused about the different watershed authorities, districts, and boards.

“Fortunately, most of us work together. The (Red River) Retention Authority is a good example. Those watershed districts and water resource districts on both sides of the Red River that are most interested in retention are either part of the Red River Joint Water Resource District in ND or the Red River Watershed Management Board in MN,” says Finney.

The Red River Joint Water Resource District is comprised of the following member water resource districts in ND: Barnes County, Grand Forks County, Maple River, Nelson County,

North Cass, Pembina County, Ransom County, Richland County, Rush River, Sargent County, Southeast Cass, Steele County, Traill County, and Walsh County.

Member watershed districts represented by the MN Red River Watershed Management Board are: Joe River, Two Rivers, Roseau River, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers, Red Lake, Sand Hill River, Wild Rice, and the Bois de Sioux.

The primary objective of the Red River Retention Authority is to ensure joint, comprehensive, and strategic coordination of retention projects in the Red River of the North watershed and facilitating implementation and construction of retention in the Red River Valley.

In meeting this objective, the Red River Retention Authority relies on the expertise and technical advice of the engineers, hydrologists, and scientists associated with Red River Joint Water Resource District in ND and the Red River Watershed Management Board in MN.

Retention Authority board member from

Minnesota’s Red River Watershed Management Board, Jerome Deal says that the Retention Authority benefits from the joint expertise because “the (Red River) Valley is not the same throughout the basin. There are some points in the basin where retention is feasible, in others, levees are more feasible. We rely on our experts to give us the best scientifically reliable advice.”

The Retention Authority and its members aggressively pursue federal dollars to off-set local costs for retention projects, and the organization serves as an advocate for local projects in the federal regulatory process.

So what should the public know about the Red River Retention Authority?

According to Finney, citizens should know that those watershed boards and districts represented by the Red River Joint Water Resource District in ND and the Red River Watershed Management Board in MN seek basin-wide solutions to realize effective flood protection and flood damage reduction, which is accomplished on a strategic project-by-project basis.

“Those watershed boards in ND and MN that are affiliated with the Red River Retention Authority are leading a basin-wide perspective of flood protection that is based on the technical recommendations of individuals with years of experience,” says Finney.



### EVENTS

The next meeting of the RRWMB will be on Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at the Wild Rice Watershed District, 11 5th Avenue East, Ada, MN.

The 15th 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, Moorhead, Minnesota on March 12-13, 2013.

## WATERSHED DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS

### ROSEAU RIVER WD

The Roseau River WD reported that the board continues to await a response from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the proposed adaptive management plan for wetland mitigation requirements on the Hay Creek/Norland project.

### RED LAKE WD

The Red Lake WD reported on the Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction Project. The contractor has substantially completed construction on the project, however, additional work must be completed in the spring as the contractor was unable to complete the project prior to the contract expiration date of November 15, 2012. The Board of Managers approved extending the contract date for the project to June 15, 2013 at which

time all work must be completed. The District also received approval for a grant amendment from the State of Minnesota extending the expiration date for the project to June 30, 2013. Construction payments made to date total \$2,051,821.69 with a \$10,000 retainer held until work is completed next spring.

### WILD RICE WD

The Wild Rice WD reported on the Olson Agassiz Pilot Project. A meeting was conducted with landowners, MDNR and the District regarding the proposed operating plan for the project. An agreement was tentatively reached to set the gates at an elevation of 971 feet above sea level and continue to allow time for spring runoff prior to flooding.

## RRWMB MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

*At its regularly scheduled January meeting, the RRWMB:*

- *Conducted the annual board organization. RRWMB officer positions are as follows:  
President - John Finney, Joe River Watershed District  
Vice President - Orville Knott, Red Lake Watershed District  
Secretary - Jerome Deal, Bois de Sioux Watershed District  
Treasurer - Dan Wilkens, Sand Hill River Watershed District*
- *Welcomed new board manager, LeRoy Carriere, representing the Roseau River Watershed District. Mr. Carriere replaces Todd Miller who served on the board since May 2008.*
- *Received a report from RRWMB Administrator Naomi Erickson which included information on the 15th Joint Annual Conference to be held March 12-13 at the Courtyard by Marriott and Conference Center, Moorhead, MN.*
- *Received a report from Public Information Officer Mark Meister. The annual calendars were printed and forwarded to member watershed districts for distribution.*
- *Received a report from Project Coordinator Ron Harnack who stated that the Drainage Work Group (DWG) has finalized their recommended legislative changes.*

## NEWS & VIEWS

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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,

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