

Red River Watershed Management Board

Levy and Financial Information



RRWMB Mission:

The principal objective of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) is to assist member watershed districts with the implementation of water related projects and programs. The purpose of these projects and programs is the reduction of local and mainstem flood damages and to enhance environmental and water resource management.

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How Watershed Districts Are Funded:

Each watershed district in Minnesota may levy annually for a general fund. This *ad valorem* tax, known as the “Administrative Levy,” is based on property value, rather than benefits. The watershed district general fund levy may not exceed 0.048 percent of the taxable market value – or \$250,000 – whichever is less.

This annual levy must be determined and justified through the watershed district’s annual budget process. Watershed districts also receive funds from “Ditch Assessments,” based on benefits that legal ditches provide to landowners. Assessments collected by county auditors are distributed to local watershed districts twice a year. These funds can only be spent on legal ditch maintenance.

The RRWMB Levy: Each of the local watershed district members of the RRWMB may also levy another “*ad valorem*” tax not to exceed 0.04836 percent of the taxable market value of all property within the district. The RRWMB sets the “Red River Watershed” levy each July:

- Half of this levy is credited to the watershed district construction fund for the development, construction, and maintenance of projects and programs that benefit the **local** watershed district.
- The other half of this levy is credited to the general fund of the RRWMB to fund the development, construction and maintenance of projects and programs that benefit the **Red River Basin**.

Other Funding Partners: The RRWMB is part of the Red River Retention Authority (RRRA), which is a joint powers agreement with the North Dakota Joint Water Resource District. The RRRA primary objective 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 Basin. The RRRA received federal funding via the 2014 Farm Bill to develop comprehensive watershed plans in Minnesota and North Dakota for approximately 20 projects. More information about the RRRA can be found at the following website:

<https://www.redriverretentionauthority.net/>

Annual Programs Funded by the RRWMB: The programs and organizations below have been funded by the RRWMB annually for several years. These allocations have been determined important to the overall mission and supporting objectives of the RRWMB and are included in the 2019 RRWMB Operating Budget:

• Half of this levy is credited to the watershed district construction fund for the development, construction, and maintenance of projects and programs that benefit the local watershed district.	\$150,000	International Water Institute River Watch Program
• The other half of this levy is credited to the general fund of the RRWMB to fund the development, construction and maintenance of projects and programs that benefit the Red River Basin .	\$120,000	USGS Stream Gauging
	\$90,000	Red River Basin Commission
	\$45,000	Red River Retention Authority

Contact RRWMB staff for more information about the 2019 Operating Budget and Levy or for other financial questions.