



RRWMB BEGINS PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

By Mark Meister
*Communication Research & Consulting Services (CR*CS)*

The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB), a coalition of affiliated watershed districts in the Red River basin of Minnesota, has launched a public information campaign. The intention of the campaign is to respond to citizen watershed concerns and issues, a process RRWMB President John Finney of Humboldt says is important to each watershed district.

"Up and down the valley, one of the major concerns is flood damage reduction and water quality," says Finney. For this reason, the RRWMB contracted with the Moorhead-based communication consulting firm Communication Research and Consulting Services (CR*CS) to investigate watershed district issues that impact citizens from the U.S.-Canadian border south to the Bois de Sioux River.

"The purpose of the campaign is simple. We want citizens in all affiliated watershed districts to know the good work that their local watershed districts are doing. This message needs to get

out so that citizens are well informed," says Finney.

Mark Meister of CR*CS is coordinating the campaign. "It is necessary to invite citizens to participate in the campaign as much as possible," says Meister. Meister specializes in communication research that will help make recommendations to the RRWMB that will eventually be used to create a watershed literacy project. According to Meister, it is important to hear the concerns of watershed citizens so that meaningful recommendations can be made.

Meister's group is coordinating a two-stage research process. The first is to invite citizens to complete a 10-minute online survey about watershed issues and management.

The survey is available at: www.ndsu.edu/gdc/Surveys/gdc1235/welcome.htm.

The second stage consists of hosting focus groups in local communities during the winter months. "The RRWMB is committed to serving all affiliated watershed districts and citizens," says Meister.

The RRWMB's jurisdiction

and authority encompasses the area managed by the individual watershed districts that have membership on the Board. Eight watershed districts within the Red River basin form the RRWMB including the Joe River, Roseau River, Two Rivers, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers, Red Lake, Sand Hill River, Wild Rice, and Bois de Sioux.

The RRWMB was created by an act of the Minnesota legislature in 1976 to provide an organization with a basin-wide perspective concerning flooding. Historically,

the activities of the RRWMB have centered on flood control. Previous efforts in dealing with the flooding problem within the Red River basin consisted of single projects within a localized area, planned with primary regard to local benefits. The RRWMB actively promotes a basin-wide perspective for water management.

For information about the RRWMB and its public information initiatives, contact Mark Meister at MarkMeister123@msn.com.

RRWMB MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At its regularly scheduled October meeting, the RRWMB:

- Received a report from Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator.
- Authorized the Human Resources Committee consisting of John Finney, Orville Knott, Jerome Deal and Daniel Wilkens to schedule a meeting to address the cafeteria plan provided by the board.
- Received a recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) regarding the Step I application for the Eldorado No. 7 Impoundment Project.
- Received a report from Naomi Erickson, Administrator.
- Toured the Eldorado No. 7 and North Ottawa Impoundment projects following the board meeting.

ROSEAU RIVER WD

West Intercept - Closeout of the project is anticipated to occur early winter. Construction is complete and mowing has been done this year.

Hay Creek / Norland - The Board of Managers have established a sub-committee to begin land purchases associated with the project. Anticipated land acquisition will begin in November. Preliminary plans and specifications by HDR Engineering, Inc. will be presented at the November board meeting.

Farmstead Ring Dikes - One ring dike is expected to be completed this fall. The contract has been awarded to R & Q, of Roseau, MN. A completion date is scheduled for November 1, 2007. The District received a grant from the State of Minnesota for \$50,000 to construct one ring dike for the 2008 construction season. The Board of Managers have retained Houston Engineering, Inc. to complete this ring dike.

Palmville / Malung / Roseau River Wildlife Management Area

- A pre-bid meeting has been scheduled for October 15, 2007 for the Palmville Project with bid openings scheduled for October 30, 2007. The District plans to begin construction this fall and continue through the

winter. The project should be completed in 2008.

BOIS DE SIOUX WD

The Bois de Sioux WD reported on the North Ottawa Impoundment Project. Phases III A and B are well underway. The District is currently administering two construction contracts for a total of ~ \$3,000,000. Barry Construction ofergus Falls has completed more than half of their contract, and Riley Brothers are

about 80% complete on the borrow excavation portion and 50% on the haul excavation of their contract.

One mile of the perimeter dike has been completed including seeding. Work has been progressing well despite conditions being too wet at times. Although currently rain has stopped the project, overall contract work on the project is about 60% complete.



Aerial photo of the North Ottawa Impoundment project site looking south. The angle ditch near the bottom of the photo is the main outlet channel, JD No. 2.

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