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NEWS & VIEWS

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD

WATERSHEDS PRAISED AND AWARDED AT MAWD CONVENTION

Watershed districts affiliated with the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) received accolades at the December Minnesota Association of Watershed District's (MAWD) convention in Alexandria, MN. The convention held informative sessions on watershed issues affecting districts throughout Minnesota. State Legislative Representative Morrie Lanning of Moorhead, was the keynote speaker at the convention luncheon. Lanning praised the hard work of all watershed districts and promoted his upcoming legislative bill that would potentially organize all districts under a model presently used by the RRWMB.

Lanning also pointed out that one of the major issues prompting reorganizations is the current economic decline in state appropriated funds. By reorganizing watershed districts, the state could fund watershed districts more fully.

Lanning specifically pointed to the successes of the RRWMB model. The RRWMB is a consortium of watershed districts in the Red River valley that share costs, technical expertise, and coordination of water mitigation and flood control projects for the benefit of the entire Red River basin. Districts affiliated with the RRWMB include the Joe River, Two Rivers, Middle Snake Tamarac, Sand Hill, Wild Rice, Red Lake, Roseau, and Bois de Sioux watershed districts.

The Bois de Sioux Watershed District, headquartered in Wheaton, was recognized by the Department of Natural Resources for its excellence in water management in 2008. DNR Waters



Pictured L to R: Front, Jon Roeschlein, Administrator; Monica Wilson, Assistant Administrator; Jerome Deal, President; back, Charlie Anderson District Engineer; Tom Athens, District Attorney; Jon Pansch, Manager; John (Jack) Lampert, Treasurer; Don Davenport, Vice President; Dan Ellison, Manager; Robert Marts, Manager; Dennis Zimbrick, Manager. Not Pictured, John Kapphahn, Manager.

annually recognizes an outstanding watershed district for their leadership and direction in addressing water resource management challenges.

The Bois de Sioux Watershed District was recognized for their leadership in finding watershed solutions that contribute to flood damage reduction efforts in their watershed and also benefit downstream watersheds in the Red River basin. Major projects that help store floodwaters, such as the North Ottawa Impoundment, Moonshine Lakebed Restoration, Redpath Impoundment, and Eldorado 7 are important efforts in helping solve local and regional flooding problems. The watershed district was also recognized for their active stream monitoring pro-

gram, permitting program, educational outreach efforts, and buffer incentive program and demonstrating new storm-water management applications at their new office building site.

"Our accomplishments are the results of a team effort," said Jon Roeschlein, Administrator for the district, "None of this could have been done without the working relationships developed between the staff and board of managers, local, state and federal agency field staff, but most of all the support from the residents of the Bois de Sioux Watershed District."

Convention attendees also had the opportunity to visit with exhibitors and to share their expertise about watershed issues impacting the state.

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, Robert Wright-Secretary, and Daniel Wilkens-Treasurer.
- Discussed a letter received from the Citizens for Farmland Preservation group regarding Minnesota's Open Meeting Law and agreed to refer the issue to the Attorney General's office to request an opinion.
- Discussed the legislative briefing being planned in conjunction with the February RRWMB meeting scheduled for February 17, 2009.
- Received a report from Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator.
- Authorized a salary adjustment for the Water Quality Project Monitoring staff effective January 1, 2009.
- Received a report from Naomi Erickson, Administrator.
- Received a report from Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator.
- Reviewed a letter received from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources regarding procedures for determining conservation benefits in conjunction with the Con-Con Ditch Rule update.
- Authorized the loan agreement and resolution regarding a funding advance for the Hay Creek / Norland Project of the Roseau River WD.

The 11th Annual Joint Conference of the Red River Watershed Management Board and the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

**Northland Inn
Crookston, Minnesota
March 31, 2009**

EVENTS COMING UP

The next meeting of the RRWMB will be on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the St. Anthony Room of the Kelly Inn, St. Paul, MN. A legislative briefing has been scheduled prior to the board meeting in the St. Anthony Room from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

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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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