



RRWMB BOARD MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATORS ATTEND CONFERENCE

WORKSHOPS FOCUS ON 'NO ADVERSE IMPACT' AND 'TOTAL WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT'

The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) and the administrators from its affiliated watershed districts recently attended the 27th Annual Red River Basin Land and Water International Summit Conference in Grand Forks, ND. The Red River Basin Commission sponsored conference included workshops and seminars on the theme, "The Changing Face of Flooding."

RRWMB President John Finney stressed the importance of attending seminars that provide new information about flood management issues. One important topic Finney and other RRWMB members have been learning about is how to protect property rights while also providing comprehensive flood damage reduction. Finney and RRWMB members Jerome Deal and Dan Wilkens attended a workshop titled: "No Adverse Impact—Protecting Property Rights for All."

No Adverse Impact (NAI) is defined as "an approach that ensures the action of any property owner, public or

private, does not adversely impact the property and rights of others," says workshop facilitator, floodplain manager and attorney Ed Thomas. "Part of an integrated and comprehensive water management plan is to acknowledge the rights of property owners and to ask ourselves if we can accept the consequences associated with at-risk development and its impact on others downstream."

For Finney, Deal, and Wilkens the workshop reinforced their commitment, and that of the RRWMB, to provide comprehensive flood damage reduction strategies that are just and fair. According to Wilkens, the RRWMB has "from its very beginning stressed mediation so that property rights are protected." For Deal, whose home watershed district is the Bois de Sioux Watershed District headquartered in the southern end of the Red River valley, the idea of total water resource management is the basic philosophy behind the RRWMB's basin-wide perspective. "In fact, what we do in the Bois de Sioux impacts

the entire basin. This is true of any watershed district up and down the valley," says Deal.

"Why is the work of the RRWMB and its affiliated watershed districts guided by a basin-wide perspective? Because it is the most fair and just perspective that protects the rights of land owners and citizens alike," says Finney. Attending the

conference and workshop on protecting property rights and total water resource management reinforced for Finney, Deal, and Wilkens that a basin-wide perspective is the best approach. "Not all watershed districts are on board with this basin-wide perspective, they've got to understand that a basin approach is the most fair and just," says Finney.



JOE RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT CELEBRATES 50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Joe River Watershed District was recognized for 50 years of water management and conservation by the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD). John Finney (left), Treasurer - Joe River Watershed District receives 50-year anniversary award from Jerome Deal (right), Secretary - MAWD.

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.
- Discussed conducting a legislative briefing in conjunction with the February RRWMB meeting scheduled for February 16, 2010. The Board of Managers agreed to authorize the Executive Committee to attend legislative hearings as needed at the request of the Project Coordinator rather than sponsor a briefing.
- Received a report from Dan Thul, Red River Coordinator.
- Appointed a Finance Committee at the prerogative of the President consisting of John Finney, Jerome Deal, Daniel Wilkens, Naomi Erickson, Myron Jesme, Ron Harnack and Dan Thul.
- Received a report from Naomi Erickson, Administrator.
- Authorized forwarding a letter regarding the proposed Fargo-Moorhead Red River Diversion Project.
- Received a report from Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator.
- Approved the Step II submittal of the Brandt-Angus Flood Control Project of the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD.

EVENTS COMING UP

The next meeting of the RRWMB will be at the Sand Hill River WD, 219 North Mill Street, Fertile, MN on Tuesday, February 16, 2010 starting at 9:30 a.m.

Please note that the Finance Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. prior to the RRWMB meeting on February 16, 2010 at the Sand Hill River WD office.

RRWMB ELECTS OFFICERS

The following board members were elected to serve as RRWMB officers at the January 2010 meeting: John Finney (Humboldt, MN and the Joe River Watershed District), President; Orville Knott (Red Lake Falls, MN and the Red Lake Watershed District), Vice President; Dan Wilkens (Fertile, MN and the Sand Hill River Watershed District), Treasurer; Jerome Deal (Wheaton, MN and the Bois de Sioux Watershed District), Secretary.

WATERSHED DISTRICT DEVELOPMENTS

ROSEAU RIVER WD

The Roseau River WD reported on the Hay Creek/Norland Project. Phases 1 and 3 of the project are nearing completion. Outlet structures for Phase 2 have been started and should be completed by July of 2010. The permit from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources was approved. Bids should be let for construction this spring for the inlet structures and dike construction for Phase 2.

The District is planning two new ring dikes through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the rural ring dikes program with construction to begin this summer. Engineering for both ring dikes has begun and cost estimates are ~ \$120,000 - \$130,000 per dike.

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