

INVESTMENTS MADE IN THE **RED RIVER BASIN SINCE 1976**

The **Mission** of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) is to institute, coordinate, and finance projects and programs to alleviate flooding and assure the beneficial use of water in the watershed of the Red River of the North and its tributaries.

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Introduction – The RRWMB was created in 1976 by the Minnesota Legislature and has been working with its member watershed districts to reduce flood damages to urban and rural areas, improve water quality, and to enhance natural resources. Projects, programs, and initiatives sponsored or funded by the RRWMB have provided many benefits to the residents of the Red River Basin. The RRWMB has invested continually in flood damage reduction efforts since 1976 and this document provides a brief overview of these efforts.

Regional Flood Control – Over 40 flood control projects have been constructed in the Minnesota portion of the Red River Basin since the late 1970s and early 1980s. These projects provide critical protection for urban centers, cities, rural areas and reduces risk for public and private infrastructure that has been constructed or improved. The map on the next page illustrates projects constructed since 1995. It should be noted that several additional projects are in various phases of planning, engineering, design, and permitting.

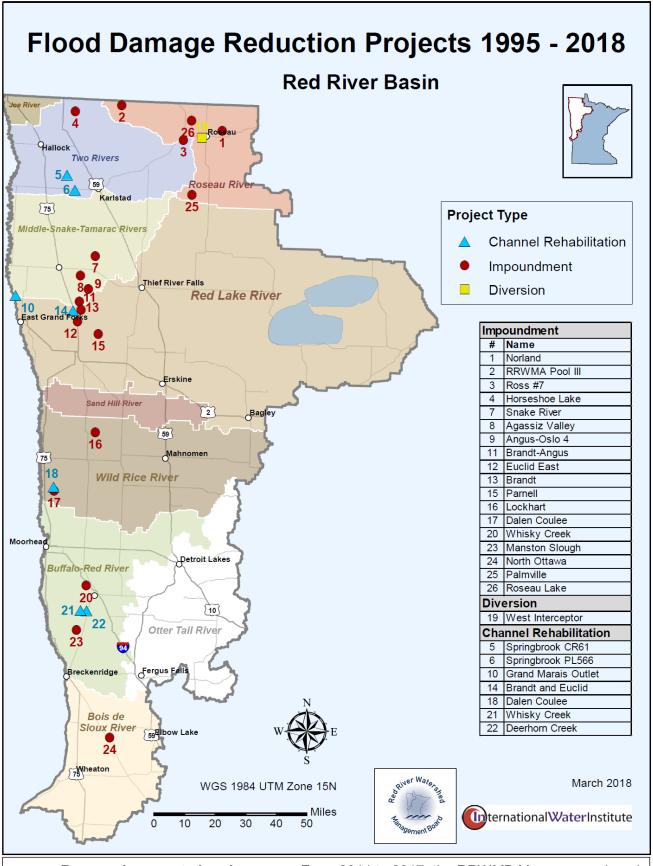
Rural Ring Dike Program - This program has resulted in over 270 individual ring dikes being constructed since 1997 to protect farmsteads and on-farm agricultural infrastructure such as certified seed storage, general grain storage, grain handling systems, chemical storage, machine sheds and shops, and related items. The total amount spent on this activity by the RRWMB during that time frame is approximately \$2,550,000. Other funding partners include:

- State of Minnesota at \$5.1 million dollars (50% cost-share).
- USDA NRCS at \$1.2 million dollars through the EQIP/AWEP programs at the federal level
- Local watershed districts and landowners have also contributed approximately \$2 million to the cost of design and construction.

USGS Stream Gauge Program – This United States Geological Survey (USGS) program has been funded by the RRWMB for several years and provides funding to the USGS in partnership with its member watershed districts to monitor water levels in rivers and streams in the Red River Basin of Minnesota. This program provides realtime information to local watershed managers during times of flood. More information about water levels can be found at this website: https://waterdata.usgs.gov/mn/nwis/rt

Additional Investments – The RRWMB has allocated significant financial resources into other programs and efforts that include but are not limited to the following:

- Hydrology and Hydraulics Modelling and Studies
- LIDAR and GIS Technology
- Education and Outreach
- Coordination Efforts With Partners and Stakeholders
- Services to its Member Watershed Districts



Responsiveness to Landowners – From 2014 to 2017, the RRWMB Managers reduced the annual levy rate to 75 percent. This three-year reduction in the levy provided some financial relief to landowners and farmers. The levy rate reverted back to 100 percent for 2018 due a number of factors including but not limited to reduced state and federal funding, increased land acquisition costs, and increasing construction costs for water retention and flood damage reduction projects.