



Red River Watershed Management Board

Meeting Highlights – April 16, 2019

- 1. Funding** – The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) Managers approved the first payment request of \$80,421.96 by the Red Lake Watershed District for the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project. The Wild Rice Watershed District Goose Prairie WMA Enhancement Project Step 2 submittal was discussed, with the Managers approving the review of the project by the Technical Advisory Committee. The Managers approved a funding advance of \$135,000 to the Roseau River Watershed District for engineering assistance for the Whitney Lake Project. A Watershed Delineation GIS Tool was discussed and funding of \$31,111.11 was approved by the Managers via a resolution for the International Water Institute to develop the GIS Tool. The Managers approved a funding agreement and scope of work for this development of the Tool.
- 2. Overview of the 2019 Drainage Conference and Joint Annual RRWMB and Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (FDRWG) Conferences** – Staff provided the Managers with an overview of the events that were held March 19, 20, and 21, 2019 in Moorhead at the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center. Staff reported that many positive comments were received for both events by conference attendees through the evaluation forms that were completed and submitted. Preliminary financial information was provided to the Managers regarding expenses, sponsorships, and conference registration fees for the events.
- 3. 2020 Annual Conferences** – The Drainage Conference will be held March 24, 2020 and the Joint Annual RRWMB and FDRWG Conference will be held March 25 and 26, 2020. The events will occur at the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Moorhead. The KFGO News and Views Radio Show with Joel Heitkamp will also be part of the conference again in 2020.
- 4. 2018 Annual RRWMB Report** – The Managers approved the draft 2018 annual report and staff indicated that the draft document would be finalized and shared through Constant Contact and that it would also be posted on the RRWMB website as soon as possible.
- 5. Strategic Plan** – Staff provided an overview of input that was received from member and non-member watershed districts since November 2018 regarding the RRWMB Strategic Plan. Staff indicated that the primary comments received from this input focused on maintaining the core of flood damage reduction while increasing a focus on water quality. The Managers discussed the matter and affirmed that the entire Board should be involved with the development of the Plan. The Managers indicated that discussion about the Strategic Plan should occur at the May 2019 regular Board meeting.
- 6. Water Quality Standards Use Classifications 3 and 4** – The Managers were provided information about the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) proposed rule regarding this matter by Mike Sharp of the MPCA. The Managers held discussion about this issue with Mr. Sharp and affirmed that the RRWMB will comment on the proposed rules by the April 22, 2019 deadline.
- 7. Summer 2019 Tour** – The summer tour will be June 27, 2019 at the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Moorhead. Several partners will be working jointly to plan the event. Registration information will be available soon on the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts website.
- 8. Legislative Update** – It was reported that base funding for the FDRWG will likely remain at \$264,000/year. Per diems for watershed managers and funding for the River Watch Program continue to move forward. Legislators are on Easter break and it was noted that several town hall meetings will be taking place this week. Since 2019 is not a regular bonding year, funding for flood damage reduction projects is unlikely

Next RRWMB Meeting – Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at the University of Minnesota at Crookston at 9:30 am in the Harris A. Peterson Classroom in Heritage Hall.

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