



Meeting Highlights – December 17, 2019

- 1. USGS Contract:** The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) Managers approved a contract with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for \$114,131 for stream flow monitoring along the Red River at various locations. The RRWMB has provided funding for the USGS for several years and data collected has been critical during flood events for area flood managers and watershed district administrators and technical staff.
- 2. 2020 RRWMB Legislative Priorities:** The RRWMB Legislative Committee presented recommendations for 2020 legislative priorities. The RRWMB Managers reviewed recent legislative resolutions discussed by the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts in early December 2019 in relation to RRWMB 2020 legislative priorities. The RRWMB Managers also discussed the need for additional funds for farmstead ring dikes. Information was also presented related to other potential policy issues. The final approved RRWMB legislative priorities will be distributed starting in January 2020 and will be made available electronically.
- 3. Watershed District Presentations:** The RRWMB member watershed districts provided overviews of spring and fall flooding conditions from 2019. Information was shared related to operation and maintenance of flood impoundments, amount of water stored during floods, magnitude of floods, and effects of flooding on agricultural lands and public/private infrastructure. In addition, the presentations included information about planned flood damage reduction projects and financial needs for upcoming projects.
- 4. Legislators in Attendance:** Senator Kent Eken, Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen, Senator Jeff Howe, and Representative Ben Lien were in attendance to hear about RRWMB 2020 legislative priorities. The Legislators also learned about 2019 flooding and current conditions and heard discussion about RRWMB bonding needs for flood damage reduction projects.
- 5. National Weather Service (NWS) Update:** Greg Gust of the NWS provided comments and an update to the RRWMB Managers regarding current conditions, 2019 flooding, and general information about what could potentially be expected for Spring 2020.
- 6. Strategic Plan:** The Managers approved the RRWMB's first strategic plan. Priorities within the plan include Membership, Protection of Farmland, Funding, Multipurpose Drainage Water Management, Project Implementation, Flood Control and Protection of Infrastructure, and Water Quality. The final approved plan will be distributed starting in January 2020 and will be made available electronically.
- 7. Communication and Outreach Strategy:** The RRWMB Communication and Outreach Committee met in October 2019 to discuss the Communication and Outreach Strategy that was developed in 2018. The Committee provided an overview of recommended changes to the Strategy and the Managers approved the proposed changes. The newly updated Strategy will be distributed starting in January 2020 and will be made available electronically.
- 8. Next RRWMB Meeting:** Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 9:30 AM in Moorhead. The exact location is yet to be determined.