



Red River Watershed Management Board Meeting Highlights – February 19, 2019

- 1. Governing Documents** – The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) Managers have begun the process of updating its Governing Documents, which provides information about its mission, principal objective, supporting objectives, enabling legislation, governance structure, funding process, project evaluation process, and related information. The RRWMB Governing Documents Committee met last week to start this process and the Committee is recommending several minor formatting and editing changes throughout the document. In addition, the Committee has recommended that two separate application packets be developed for retention projects and projects involving programs, studies, and monitoring initiatives to ensure that standard processes and procedures are in place and well known about how to apply for RRWMB funding. The Committee also recommended that once the packets are developed and approved by the RRWMB Managers, that outreach be conducted with its member watershed districts. More information will be provided in the coming months about the update to the RRWMB Governing Documents.
- 2. Funding** – The Managers discussed an allocation of \$2,500 for a Cold Weather BMP Workshop to be held in April 2019 at the University of Minnesota at Crookston. The upcoming event is being sponsored by several groups in the Red River Basin and the planning committee for this event has been working with many partners to develop the program and agenda. The RRWMB Technical Advisory Committee also reviewed this proposal and recommended funding of \$2,500 to the RRWMB Managers. The RRWMB will review this matter again in March 2019.
- 3. Summer 2019 Tour** – A tour is being proposed for June 2019 with several partners in the Red River Basin including the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, Red River Retention Authority, Red River Basin Commission, and the Red River Joint Water Resource District. The tour will incorporate other meetings and events held by partners and will likely be held in Moorhead, with tour destinations being areas close to the Fargo-Moorhead area. More details and information will be provided in the coming months.
- 4. Registration for the 2019 Red River Basin Drainage Conference and the 21st Annual RRWMB and Flood Damage Reduction Work Group Conference** – Registration is open and all registration materials and agendas can be found for these two events at the RRWMB website (www.rrwmb.org). If you encounter any registration problems or issues, please contact RRWMB Executive Assistant Nikki Swenson at 218-784-9500 or nikki.swenson@rrwmb.org. Register soon!
- 5. Legislative Update** – Bills have been introduced in the Minnesota House of Representatives for the River Watch Program and to increase base funding from \$264,000/year to \$364,000/year for the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group. The base funding provides financial resources to watershed districts for local project team efforts and project acceleration grants to develop and plan flood damage reduction projects. The current need by the watershed districts for this funding far exceeds the current allocation from the State of Minnesota. The RRWMB will continue to work on these issues with Red River Basin legislators and more information will be forthcoming. The RRWMB is participating in the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts legislative conference on March 20 and 21, 2019 in St. Paul to promote its legislative priorities.
- 6. Next RRWMB Meeting** – March 20, 2019 at 9:30 am at the Marriot Hotel and Convention Center in Moorhead, MN.