



Red River Watershed Management Board

Meeting Highlights – January 15, 2019

- 1. Annual Reorganization** – The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) Managers conducted its annual reorganization and held elections, with John Finney (Joe River WD) being re-elected President and Greg Holmvik (Wild Rice WD) being re-elected as Vice-president. Jason Braaten (Roseau River WD) was elected as Treasurer and Leroy Ose (Red Lake WD) was elected as Secretary. The Managers also approved several annual resolutions and discussed committee appointments for internal and external committees. The Bois de Sioux WD also appointed Linda Vavra as their representative to the RRWMB.
- 2. Funding** – The Managers discussed the annual allocation of \$90,000 to the Red River Basin Commission and will bring the matter back for more discussion in February 2019. The annual allocation of \$32,000 to the Red River Retention Authority was approved. A phosphorus research project proposed by the University of Minnesota was presented to the Managers by Dr. Lindsay Pease and the Managers approved the \$35,000 proposal contingent on the University of Minnesota receiving other external funds for the project. The Bois de Sioux WD presented a clean water project to the Managers and requested \$263,876 for the project, which was referred to the RRWMB Technical Advisory Committee for review.
- 3. Funding of Clean Water Projects** – The Managers discussed proposed criteria and process to potentially fund non-retention projects with water quality benefits that are being developed by member watershed districts. An annual budget was discussed for these types of projects and the matter was referred to the RRWMB Governing Documents Committee for further discussion and review. The Managers asked that the Committee meet soon to start discussions on this matter.
- 4. Quarterly Project Proposal Submissions** – A process was approved by the Managers regarding retention projects being proposed by member watershed districts. Retention projects will now be submitted to the RRWMB on a quarterly basis. As a result, the RRWMB Technical Advisory Committee will be scheduled for the entire year and the new process will bring more efficiency to the RRWMB funding process and procedures.
- 5. Legislative Priorities** – Updates were provided about legislative proposals from the Drainage Work Group and the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD). The RRWMB legislative priorities approved at the December 2018 RRWMB meeting will remain unchanged. The MAWD legislative conference is February 20 and 21, 2019 in St. Paul and more information is available on the MAWD website. The RRWMB will be coordinating a group meeting with area legislators and member watershed districts during the MAWD legislative conference.
- 6. Conference Update** – Information and updates were shared with the Managers regarding the joint annual conference of the RRWMB and Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (FDRWG), which will be held March 20 and 21, 2019. The final agenda for the Red River Basin Drainage Conference on March 19, 2019 and both events will be at the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Moorhead, with registration for both events being live this week on the RRWMB website.
- 7. Next RRWMB Meeting** – February 19, 2019 at 9:30 am at the Red Lake Watershed District, Thief River Falls, MN.