



Meeting Highlights – June 18, 2019

- 1. Ring Dike Funding** – The RRWMB Managers heard discussion about needs for farmstead ring dikes by several of the member watershed districts. Currently there is \$125,000 remaining in state funds for this program, with the RRWMB match being approximately \$62,000. The Managers discussed the need to allocate the funds as soon as possible, since the state grant expires on June 30, 2020. The Wild Rice Watershed District and Two Rivers Watershed District have indicated that they have projects that are ready to receive funding.
- 2. Red River Coordinator Contract** – The RRWMB has renewed the long-standing contract with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to provide funding for the Red River Coordinator position. The RRWMB agreed to increase its current allocation of \$28,000 to \$30,000 towards the Red River Coordinator position, which is supervised by the DNR. This position provides additional support to the RRWMB related to its Technical Advisory Committee and a scope of services has also been developed as part of the two-year contract with DNR.
- 3. Legislative Services** – The RRWMB Managers were provided an update related to negotiations between the RRWMB and Frenette Legislative Advisers for legislative services for the next two years. It was indicated to the Managers that a draft contract would be provided at the July 16, 2019 regular meeting for discussion and approval. The Managers agreed to allocate additional funds towards this contract and discussed the scope of services. The draft contract will be provided in the July meeting packet.
- 4. 2020 Operating Budget Preview** – An overview of the preliminary 2020 operating budget was provided to the RRWMB Managers. It was also indicated to the RRWMB Managers that the RRWMB Budget and Finance Committee had recently met to review budget targets and to provide guidance about the 2020 levy and the operating budget. The Committee will be meeting again on June 26, 2019 in Moorhead to finalize recommendations for the levy and operating budget.
- 5. Drainage Work Group (DWG)** – The DWG will reconvene on July 11, 2019 and discussion was held about how the RRWMB is represented at the DWG. The Managers indicated that additional discussion should be held in the coming months to further coordinate representation on the DWG. It was indicated to the Managers that Tom Gile of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources is the new DWG facilitator.
- 6. 2019 Flood Discussion** – A presentation was given by RRWMB Executive Director Robert Sip to share photos from a flight that was taken on April 16, 2019. Photos from the 2019 flood have been used in several recent presentations and have been shared with the DNR and Minnesota Department of Transportation
- 7. RRWMB Strategic Plan** – A strategic planning session was held in the afternoon of the RRWMB meeting. The RRWMB Managers discussed accomplishments from 2018 and priorities for the future. Another planning session will be held in August 2019.
- 8. Next RRWMB Meeting** – Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at the Wild Rice Watershed District Office at 9:30 AM in Ada, MN.