



Meeting Highlights – October 15, 2019

- 1. Goose Prairie WMA Enhancement Project:** The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) approved by resolution, funding of \$400,000 for the Goose Prairie WMA Enhancement Project of the Wild Rice Watershed District. The Project is moving through the RRWMB funding process and is a collaborative Project with several partners including the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
- 2. Long-term Flood Solutions Update:** Staff of the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) provided information related to progress being made on the update to the 2011 Long-term Flood Solutions document and requested additional funding for the update. The RRWMB Managers discussed this matter and determined that the RRWMB Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) should review the request. The RRWMB allocated \$12,500 in 2018 towards the update to the original plan and the issue will be brought forward to the RRWMB November 2019 regular meeting for further discussion and potential approval of additional funding.
- 3. Funding Strategy and Star Value:** The RRWMB Managers heard information and recommendations from the RRWMB Budget and Finance Committee regarding a funding strategy for the RRWMB and possible changes to the Star Value. The Committee was recently tasked to develop recommendations related to a funding strategy and potential changes to the dollars/Star that the RRWMB pays for flood retention projects. The RRWMB Managers held considerable discussion regarding this matter and will continue working on these issues in the coming months.
- 4. Progress Indicators:** The RRWMB Managers approved a set of Progress Indicators that highlight progress made by the RRWMB including but not limited to transparency and openness, fiscal accountability, communication, and governance. The Indicators will be shared soon by the RRWMB and will be made available at upcoming conferences and trade shows. The Indicators are drawn from the work completed and issues addressed by the RRWMB over the last two to three years and provide detailed information for over 50 Indicators.
- 5. Strategic Plan:** The RRWMB Managers discussed the initial draft of the first ever RRWMB strategic plan. Key areas of the draft plan include membership, protection of farmland, funding, drainage management, project implementation, flood control and protection of infrastructure, and water quality. The RRWMB Managers will review and discuss a second draft of the strategic plan at the November 2019 RRWMB meeting, with the goal of final plan approval in December 2019.
- 6. 2020 Drainage Conference:** RRWMB staff indicated that the RRWMB will again be hosting a drainage conference on Monday, January 27, 2020 at the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Moorhead, MN. A "Save the Date" notification was sent out recently and more details and a final agenda will be forthcoming. The intended audience is for watershed district staff, managers, engineers, county commissioners, county highway engineers, drainage viewers, and county auditor-treasurers in the Minnesota Red River Basin. Updates will be provided regarding drainage case law, Minnesota Statutes 103E, and several drainage related topics.

Next RRWMB Meeting – Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 9:30 AM at the Red Lake Watershed District Office, Thief River Falls, MN.