



Meeting Highlights – April 21, 2020

- 1. Regular Meeting Held Electronically:** The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) held the April 21, 2020 meeting via conference call according to Minnesota Statutes §13D.021, subdivision 1. The RRWMB will return to in-person meetings when allowable and safe. In the meantime, the RRWMB will continue to use conference calls and other technologies to hold regular board and committee meetings.
- 2. Water Quality Projects Heard:** The RRWMB Managers approved a Water Quality Program at the March 2020 regular meeting. As a result of that action, three water quality projects by the Bois de Sioux Watershed District (WD), Roseau River WD, and Wild Rice WD were presented to the Managers. All three projects were referred on to the RRWMB Water Quality and Monitoring Advisory Committee for review. The Committee will make recommendations back to the Managers at the May 19, 2020 regular RRWMB meeting. The total amount being requested by the member WDs for these three projects is \$1,369,067.
- 3. Approval of Base Funding:** As part of the Water Quality Program approved in March 2020, RRWMB member WDs are eligible for up to \$100,000 for base funding to augment and support local water quality efforts. The Bois de Sioux WD and Roseau River WD each requested \$100,000 for local efforts, with the RRWMB Managers approving these requests.
- 4. Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):** The Managers discussed the merits of applying for RCPP funds through the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. Consideration was given towards the upcoming application deadline, member WD funding needs, current RRWMB staff capacity, and potential assistance from RRWMB partners and stakeholders. The Managers determined that the RRWMB should keep informed of this process and that the organization should be prepared to potentially apply for future funding. The Managers also affirmed that if any member WD applies for RCPP funds, that the RRWMB would be supportive of local application efforts.
- 5. 2019 Annual Report:** The draft annual report for 2019 was presented to the Managers. The report was briefly reviewed, discussed, and the Managers approved the document for final preparation and distribution both electronically and in person.
- 6. Legislative Update:** Legislative Liaison Lisa Frenette presented information to the Managers about Minnesota legislative activities related to the 2020 bonding bill. The Managers heard that Governor Walz's bonding bill currently includes only \$20 million for Flood Hazard Mitigation (FHM) funding for the entire state. However, final decisions and agreements have not been made by the Governor and legislature and the RRWMB and Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) recently sent out a call to action. WDs across the state were requested by the RRWMB and MAWD to contact their local legislators to impress upon them the importance of the FHM Program and the need for more than \$20 million for 2020 bonding.
- 7. Next RRWMB Meeting:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 10:00 AM. The meeting will likely be held via electronic means pending the current pandemic situation.