



Meeting Highlights – October 20, 2020

- 1. Investment Discussion:** Officials from Bremer Bank attended the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) meeting electronically to discuss current interest rates, investments, and related financial matters. The RRWMB Managers also considered upcoming funding needs and requests of member watershed districts for flood damage reduction and water quality projects. The Managers reviewed upcoming annual funding allocations to partner organizations and based on information provided by Bremer Bank, the RRWMB determined to transfer \$10 million into a six-month CD.
- 2. Funding Agreements:** The RRWMB Managers approved the execution of funding agreements for the Roseau River Watershed District for \$466,667 to implement the Roseau River Restoration Project and the United States Geological Survey for \$115,345 to conduct annual streamflow monitoring at locations in the Minnesota portion of the Red River Basin.
- 3. Funding Request:** The Wild Rice Watershed District was approved for up to \$100,000 in base funding through the RRWMB Water Quality Program. The funding will be used by the District to monitor sediment loading and to implement streambank stabilization projects on the Wild Rice River and the South Branch of the Wild Rice River.
- 4. RRWMB Membership:** The Managers held discussion related to potential new members to join and former member watershed districts to rejoin the RRWMB. The RRWMB Managers determined that RRWMB staff should continue communication and outreach with all watershed districts regardless of membership status and with county commissioners. The Managers affirmed that regular and continued communications with these groups is critical.
- 5. LIDAR:** Discussion was held regarding the need for updated LIDAR data in the Red River Basin of Minnesota. Chuck Fritz of the International Water Institute presented information regarding the original LIDAR data that was originally collected. The benefits of a new flight were discussed, and the Managers affirmed that the member watershed districts and the RRWMB Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) should be contacted to obtain input.
- 6. Nation-wide Permits (NWP):** Staff from the United States Army Corps of Engineers presented information about proposed changes to NWPs along with permits for regional conditions. The NWP comment deadline is approaching in November 2020 and the RRWMB Managers affirmed that RRWMB staff should further inquire with the member watershed districts and the TAC to determine if RRWMB comments are warranted.
- 7. Next RRWMB Meeting:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 10:00 AM in Ada, MN pending the current pandemic situation.