

# RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

January 23, 2020

Agenda

9:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m.	Call to Order	Action
	Review and approve agenda	Action
	Requests to appear	Information
	January 9, 2020 Minutes	Action
	Financial Report dated January 22, 2020	Action
	Conflict of Interest Policy Review	Info./Action
	2020 Standard Mileage rates	Information
9:10 a.m.	Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179 Viewers Report Engineers Report	Info./Action Info./Action
	RLWD Ditch 10, RLWD Project No. 161 Outlet Repairs	Info./Action
	Thief River Falls Westside FDR Project, RLWD Project No. 178	Information
	Pine Lake, RLWD Project No. 26-Project Work Team Meeting	Information
	Burnham Creek Wildlife Habitat Structure, RLWD Project No. 43A	Information
	RRWMB Strategic Plan	Information
	Permits: 20001-20003	Action
	District Engineer Senior Position	Information
	Minnesota Association of Watershed District 2020 dues	Info./Action
	Red River Basin Drainage Conference	Information
	Administrators Update	Information
	Legal Counsel Update	Information
	Managers' updates	Information
	Adjourn	Action

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 27, 2020	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Red River Basin Drainage Conference, Moorhead
February 13, 2020	RLWD Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
February 27, 2020	RLWD Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
March 12, 2020	RLWD Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Board of Manager's Minutes  
January 9, 2020

**DRAFT**

President Dale M. Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District Office, Thief River Falls, MN.

Present were: Managers Terry Sorenson, Gene Tiedemann, Brian Dwight, Dale M. Nelson, Allan Page, LeRoy Ose and Les Torgerson. Staff Present: Myron Jesme and Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the December 30, 2019 minutes. Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Page, to approve the December 30, 2019 Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated January 8, 2020. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to approve the Financial Report dated January 8, 2020. Motion carried.

Marshall County and Beltrami County confirmed the reappointment of Managers Ose and Dwight, respectively, for an additional 3-year term on the Board.

Election of officers was conducted with President Nelson turning the meeting over to Vice President, Gene Tiedemann.

Manager Tiedemann called for nominations for president. Manager Ose, nominated Dale M. Nelson. Upon calling for further nominations three times, no further nominations were made. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, for nominations to cease and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Dale M. Nelson for president of the Board. Motion carried.

Vice President Tiedemann turned the meeting over to President Nelson to conduct elections for the remaining Board positions.

Nominations were opened for Vice-President. Manager Page nominated Gene Tiedemann. Upon calling for further nominations three times, no further nominations were made. Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Dwight, for nominations to cease, and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Gene Tiedemann for vice-president of the Board. Motion carried.

Nominations were opened for Secretary. Manager Torgerson nominated LeRoy Ose. Upon calling for further nominations three times, no further nominations were made. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, for nominations to cease, and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for LeRoy Ose for secretary of the Board. Motion carried.

Nominations were opened for Treasurer. Manager Ose nominated Terry Sorenson. Upon calling for further nominations three times, no further nominations were made. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Torgerson, for nominations to cease, and that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Terry Sorenson for treasurer of the Board. Motion carried.

President Nelson reviewed the Advisory Board members. Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to approve the Advisory Committee members as listed. Motion carried.

The position of Delegate and Alternate to the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) was discussed. Manager Nelson stated that Manager Ose is currently the Delegate and will begin the third year of a 3-year term, with Manager Torgerson and Manager Nelson as Alternates. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve Manager Ose as the Delegate to the RRWMB, and Managers Torgerson and Nelson as Alternates. Motion carried.

Delegates and Alternate to the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts were discussed. Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Dwight, to appoint Managers Ose and Tiedemann as Delegates and Manager Page as an alternate. Motion carried.

The Budget/Salary Committee was discussed by the Board. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to appoint Managers Dwight, Sorenson and Nelson to serve on the Budget/Salary Committee. Motion carried.

The Board discussed representatives on the Grand Marais Creek Joint Powers Board. A motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Ose, to appoint Managers Nelson, Tiedemann and Page to the Grand Marais Creek Joint Powers Board, with Manager Sorenson as an alternate. Motion carried. Administrator Jesme stated that the By-Laws of the Grand Marais Creek Joint Powers Board stated that a yearly meeting shall be called of the Joint Powers Board members. It was the consensus of the Board, to schedule a Joint Powers Board meeting.

The committees for the JD 2 and JD 72 Joint Ditch Boards were reviewed. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Dwight, to appoint Managers Sorenson and Torgerson to the JD 2 and JD 72 Joint Ditch Boards. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the appointment of representatives to the Pine Lake Area Project Work Team. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to appoint Managers Sorenson and Torgerson as Delegates and Manager Dwight as Alternate to the Pine Lake Area Project Work Team. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the appointment of representatives to the Four-Legged Lake Project Work Team. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to appoint Managers Sorenson and Torgerson as Delegates and Manager Dwight as Alternate to the Four-Legged Lake Project Work Team. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the appointment of representatives to the Black River Impoundment Project Work Team. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to appoint Managers Nelson and

Page as Delegates and Manager Tiedemann as Alternate to the Black River Impoundment Project Work Team. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the appointment of representatives to the 20% Flood Reduction Committee. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to appoint Managers Nelson, Ose and Torgerson to the 20% Flood Reduction Committee. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the appointment to the Policy Committee and Advisory Committee for the Red Lake River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P). Motion by Torgerson, seconded by Ose, to appoint Manager Tiedemann as Delegate and Manager Nelson as Alternate to the Policy Committee and Managers Nelson and Page to the Advisory Committee for the Red Lake River 1W1P. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the appointment to the Policy Committee and Advisory Committee for the Thief River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P). Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to appoint Manager Ose as Delegate and Manager Nelson as Alternate to the Policy Committee and Managers Nelson and Dwight to the Advisory Committee for the Thief River 1W1P. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the appointment of representatives to the Blackduck Lake Structure Joint Powers Board. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to appoint Managers Dwight and Torgerson to the Blackduck Lake Structure Joint Powers Board. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the appointment to the Permit Rules and Regulations Committee. Motion by Ose, seconded by Torgerson, to appoint Managers Dwight, Page and Tiedemann to the Permit Rules and Regulations Committee. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Tiedemann, seconded by Dwight, and passed by unanimous vote that the regularly scheduled Board meetings be held at 9:00 A.M. at the Red Lake Watershed District Office on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month for 2020.

A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, that the following institutions be designated as depositories for the RLWD: Northern State Bank, Border State Bank, American Federal Bank, Unity Bank North-Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service (CDARS) through Promontory Interfinancial Network, LLC, Bremer Bank, Ultima Bank, Edward Jones, with the following signatures on the signature cards at the financial institutions: Dale M. Nelson, Gene Tiedemann, LeRoy Ose, Terry Sorenson, Myron Jesme and Arlene Novak. Motion carried.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., reviewed the agenda for the January 17, 2020 Pine Lake Project Work Team. Dalager stated that the Project Team will look at the potential of replacing the existing dam, which would allow the District to lower the lake level to get more Flood Damage Reduction benefits. Lowering the lake level would also help with less oxygen degeneration. Dalager noted that if the existing dam was replaced, a new Operating Plan would need to be put in place. Administrator Jesme reminded that Board that the current structure is a

petitioned for project, with a benefitted area that pays for any maintenance and operating cost. The Board suggested that Administrator Jesme and Legal Counsel Sparby research the legalities of replacing a structure that is currently a petitioned project, should the project team recommend an alternative which could involve the existing structure. Dalager stated an example that the lake level could be lowered after Labor Day or a time agreed to by the property owners. Manager Torgerson discussed the concerns of the landowners regarding the ability to replenish the water released in the fall. Additional discussion was held on the potential of ring dikes/cabin flood proofing program.

Administrator Jesme stated that Pennington County and Pennington SWCD Boards approved the Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149, Memorandum of Agreement and approval to submit the plan to BWSR. Marshall and Beltrami County and SWCD's are scheduled to review the documents this month.

Administrator Jesme updated the Board on the status of the Improvement to Polk County Ditch No. 39, RLWD Project No. 179. Jesme has been working with permitting folks representing the Wetland Conservation Act and at this point is not anticipating permitting delays. The final hearing will be held in early March.

Administrator Jesme stated that when conditions allow this spring, construction on Ditch 16, RLWD Project No. 177 will proceed.

The Board reviewed correspondence from the RRWMB regarding cost-share payments due for USGS Stream Gages, in the amount of \$11,352.50 for Fiscal year 2020. Motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to approve the cost-share payment in the amount of \$11,352.50 for the District's portion of cost-share for USGS Stream Gages. Motion carried.

Minnesota Viewers Association dues for 2020 were presented to the Board. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Torgerson, and passed unanimously to approve paying \$200 for the 2020 Minnesota Viewers Association dues. Motion carried.

Staff member Tammy Audette updated the Board on the advertising for the District Engineer Senior Position. Audette stated that there have been 2,542 hits on our ad, but no applications have been received to date. Discussion was held on the potential of changing the job description.

#### Administrators Update:

- Jesme and Manager Ose will attend the RRWMB on January 14, 2020 at the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Moorhead.
- Jesme and Managers Ose, Tiedemann, Page, and Sorenson will attend the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Red River Basin Land and Water Institute Annual Conference on January 14-16, 2020. Included in the packet was the brochure for the conference.
- Included in the packet was a photo of Jesme and Managers Page, Ose and Tiedemann accepting a recognition plaque from MAWD for the 50-year anniversary of the establishment of the RLWD.

- Jesme and Staff member Tammy Audette are working on receiving additional quotes for renewal of the District's IT that will expire March 30, 2020. Audette has also been working with Budget Electronics concerning the purchase of technology for the Board Room.
- Staff member Corey Hanson attended a MPCA Civic Engagement meeting on January 7, 2020.
- Staff member Corey Hanson will attend the Pennington County WRAC meeting in the District office on January 13, 2020.
- The Red Lake River 1W1P Planning Workgroup will meet on January 16, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at the Pennington SWCD to finalize the Workplan for submittal to BWSR for approval.

Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., reviewed an email from Larry Puchalski, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, indicating that he is working on the permit documents for the Thief River Falls Westside Project, RLWD Project No. 178 and hopes to run it up the ladder for review by management with the hope of a permit by the end of January. Dalager indicated that he is planning for a February approval of the Plans and Specifications with a March bid opening.

Discussion was held on acquiring additional information for improvements to the Brandt Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60D and the outlet of the Euclid East Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60C. Administrator Jesme stated that Staff member Nick Olson has spoken to an area landowner regarding the installation of a berm through Lois Glass property and tie it into the existing township roadway. Discussion was held on purchasing additional property or perpetual easement from landowners Dennis and Brian Schultz on the Euclid East Impoundment. Manager Tiedemann and Jesme will meet with the landowners in the future.

Manager Ose stated he spoke to RRWMB Executive Director Rob Sip regarding permitting issues with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Jesme indicated that Rob had called him to discuss permitting questions or delays we are seeing on our projects.

Legal Counsel Sparby discussed the Drainage Manual that Administrator Jesme sent him to review. Jesme stated that Al Kean had retired from BWSR but has come out of retirement to finish revisions on the Drainage Manual.

Legal Counsel Sparby stated that he will keep the Board informed, of any outcome from the courts for JD 5/Four-Legged Lake, RLWD Project No. 102.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., are gathering additional information for officials from the Wetland Conservation Act for the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176.

Motion by Dwight, seconded by Ose, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

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LeRoy Ose, Secretary

**RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT**  
**Financial Report for January 22, 2020**

<b>Ck#</b>	<b>Check Issued to:</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
online	EFTPS	Withholding for FICA, Medicare, and Federal taxes	3,043.20
online	MN Department of Revenue	Withholding taxes	501.14
online	Public Employees Retirement Assn.	PERA contributions	2,004.78
37988	Jason Bruggeman	Detail vehicles	595.00
37989	Myron Jesme	Per diem meals	73.00
37990	Motor Vehicle License Bureau	License for 6 vehicles and 2 kayaks	169.70
37991	Jerry Bennett	Viewers fees and expenses for Proj. 179, Ditch 17	2,186.04
37992	Dave Dalager	Pine Lake PWT mileage	59.80
37993	Delta Dental of Minnesota	Dental insurance premium	437.45
37994	HDR Engineering Inc.	*See below for project explanation	27,317.26
37995	Minnesota Viewers Association	2020 Associate membership fee	200.00
37996	Marco Technologies, LLC	Monthly copier rental	520.11
37997	NCPERS Group Life Insurance	Life insurance premium	112.00
37998	Northwest Service Cooperative	2020 CCOGA Membership dues	96.00
37999	Rinke Noonan	**See below for explanation	755.50
38000	RRWMB	Stream gages	11,352.50
38001	Tony Salentine	Parnell, Brandt & Euclid East Impoundment observation/operati	6,370.00
38002	Larry Skala	Pine Lake PWT mileage	31.62
38003	Thomson - Reuters	2020 Statute updates	88.00
38004	Robert Wagner	Viewers fees and expenses for Proj. 179, Ditch 17	1,746.24
38005	Terry Vonasek	Pine Lake PWT mileage	60.57
37972	Voided- Jason Bruggeman		(600.00)
online	Aflac	Staff paid insurances	593.76
online	Further	Medical FSA	650.00
online	Blue Cross Blue Shield	Health insurance premium	3,431.00
	<b>Payroll</b>		
	Check #11858-11865		<u>10,144.06</u>
	<b>Total Checks</b>		<b>\$ 71,938.73</b>

**\* HDR Inc.**

Proj. 26 Pine Lake	2,711.20
Proj. 178 Thief River Westside	<u>24,606.06</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,317.26</b>

**\*\* Rinke Noonan**

Proj. 01 Admin.-Monthly Retainer	200.00
Proj. 179 Improv. To Polk Co. #39	275.00
Proj. 178 Thief River Westside	<u>280.50</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>755.50</b>

**Banking****Northern State Bank**

Balance as of January 8, 2020	\$ 188,923.24
Total Checks Written	(71,938.73)
Receipt #989693 State of Minnesota-Reimbursement for Proj. 157E grant, Clearwater River WRAP	2,936.25
Receipt #989694 State of MN (MNDOT)-Refund of inspection fees for box culvert, RLWD Ditch 16	12,029.63
Balance as of January 22, 2020	<u>\$ 131,950.39</u>

**Border State Bank**

Balance as of December 27, 2019	\$ 18,294.38
Receipt #989685 Border State Bank-Monthly interest	8.53
Balance as of December 31, 2019	<u>\$ 18,302.91</u>

**American Federal Bank-Fosston**

Balance as of January 8, 2020	\$ 2,469,302.35
Receipt #989695 RRWMB-Ring dike cost share reimbursement for State and RRWMB share	\$ 11,811.69
Receipt #989696 RRWMB-Cost share of Web page	1,500.00
Receipt #989697 Roseau County-Delinquent MH taxes	5.30
Receipt #989698 Itasca County-Delinquent taxes	256.47
Balance as of January 22, 2020	<u>\$ 2,482,875.81</u>

**Bremer Bank**

Balance as of December 27, 2019	\$ 2,312,948.68
Receipt #989687 Bremer Bank-Monthly interest	\$ 3,381.98
Balance as of December 31, 2019	<u>\$ 2,316,330.66</u>



## **Conflict of Interest Policy**

The Board of Managers hereby adopts for themselves and successor Managers the following guidelines in an effort to avoid real and perceived conflicts of interest and to enhance the credibility of the District's actions:

1. All Managers shall comply with MSA Sec. 471.87. No Manager shall have a personal financial interest in any sale, lease, or contract entered into by the Board as it applies to MSA Sec. 471.87.
2. Disclosure. At the beginning of the discussion on any subject, all Managers shall disclose any potential conflict of interest and/or direct pecuniary interest they may have. Examples of matters which should be disclosed by the Managers include:
  - a. They own land which may be assessed.
  - b. They own land which may benefit or be damaged other than by a direct tax.
  - c. They have close relatives who have lands as described in (a) and (b) above, and that said relationship is such that it may affect their judgment.
  - d. They have close friends or business associates who have lands as described in (a) and (b) above, and that said relationship is such that it may affect their judgment.
  - e. They are a public officer, such as a township officer, which has potential interest or that may be affected by said project.
3. All Managers shall abstain from Board discussion and voting on any resolution that involves a direct pecuniary interest.
4. Each Manager shall use his own judgment in other situations and when in doubt should probably abstain from discussion and voting.
5. To avoid the appearance of wrongdoing, it is suggested that a Manager should remove himself from the Manager's chair and sit in the audience when he wishes to participate in a public discussion, particularly a public meeting on subjects where he may have a direct conflict of interest.
6. To the extent applicable, the Watershed staff is instructed to follow the above guidelines.

Adopted March 11, 1992

Amended April 8, 2010

I have reviewed this policy and agree to abide by these rules.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_

December 31, 2019

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service today issued the [2020 optional standard mileage rates \(PDF\)](#) used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on January 1, 2020, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 57.5 cents per mile driven for business use, down one half of a cent from the rate for 2019,
- 17 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, down three cents from the rate for 2019, and
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

The business mileage rate decreased one half of a cent for business travel driven and three cents for medical and certain moving expense from the rates for 2019. The charitable rate is set by statute and remains unchanged.

It is important to note that under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, taxpayers cannot claim a miscellaneous itemized deduction for unreimbursed employee travel expenses. Taxpayers also cannot claim a deduction for moving expenses, except members of the Armed Forces on active duty moving under orders to a permanent change of station. For more details, see [Rev. Proc. 2019-46 \(PDF\)](#).

The standard mileage rate for business use is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs.

Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates.

A taxpayer may not use the business standard mileage rate for a vehicle after using any depreciation method under the Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS) or after claiming a Section 179 deduction for that vehicle. In addition, the business standard mileage rate cannot be used for more than five vehicles used simultaneously. These and other limitations are described in section 4.05 of [Rev. Proc. 2019-46 \(PDF\)](#).

[Notice 2020-05 \(PDF\)](#), posted today on IRS.gov, contains the standard mileage rates, the amount a taxpayer must use in calculating reductions to basis for depreciation taken under the business standard mileage rate, and the maximum standard automobile cost that a taxpayer may use in computing the allowance under a fixed and variable rate plan. In addition, for employer-provided vehicles, the Notice provides the maximum fair market value of automobiles first made available to employees for personal use in calendar year 2020 for which employers may use the fleet-average valuation rule in § 1.61-21(d)(5)(v) or the vehicle cents-per-mile valuation rule in § 1.61-21(e).

# Strategic Plan Executive Summary



**Approved**

December 17, 2019



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**HISTORY OF THE RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD:** The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) is an organization initially created to address chronic flooding problems and other water management issues within the drainage basin of the Red River of the North. It is widely recognized that flooding occurs frequently along the mainstem of the Red River and its tributaries. Flooding has been and is the principal water problem in the Minnesota Portion of the Red River of the North Basin. The basin is particularly susceptible to severe flooding for two reasons: (1) Its flat topography, and; (2) The northward flow of the Red River. Spring thaws generally begin in the southern reaches, sending water to streams and rivers, restricted with ice in its northern reaches.

The majority of recorded and observed flood events originate from spring runoff. However, major summer flooding does occur with basin-wide impact (i.e., 1950, 1975 and 1993). Large historic floods were recorded in the basin in 1826, 1852, 1861, 1882, and 1897. Floods in 1950, 1966, 1969, 1975, 1978, 1979, 1985, 1989, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2001, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2019 have caused enormous economic and environmental disruptions.

Major basin-wide flooding causes extensive and costly damage to crop land, roads, bridges, towns, cities, and farmsteads along and adjacent to the mainstem and its tributaries. Various types of organizations have been created to address the flooding problems of the valley, however, most of these entities had only local jurisdiction. Until 1976, no Minnesota water management organization existed with a Red River basin-wide perspective. The Lower Red River Watershed Management Board (LRRWMB), later renamed the RRWMB, was created by an act of the Minnesota legislature in 1976 to provide an organization with a basin-wide perspective concerning flooding. Historically, the activities of the RRWMB have centered on flood control. Previous efforts in dealing with the flooding problem within the Red River Basin (RRB) consisted of single projects within a localized area, planned with primary regard to local benefits.

The RRWMB actively promotes a basin-wide perspective for water management. To date, the RRWMB has participated in over 40 floodwater retention projects in the RRB. Several more projects are under consideration by the RRWMB for financial support. Hydrologic water management studies have been undertaken by the RRWMB and others to provide an understanding of the characteristic flooding mechanisms of the basin, and to serve as a management tool for the purpose of assisting in making wise funding decisions. In 1980, the RRWMB commissioned a study that would ultimately have great impact on the Board's policy with respect to prioritizing flood control projects for financial support. This study, completed in 1984, established the concept of flood wave timing as a unique characteristic of RRB floods.

The premise of this concept is that the severity of flooding on the Red River mainstem is directly related to the time of travel of flood waves within the headwaters of individual contributing tributaries to the mainstem. The timing concept is used by the RRWMB to establish priorities in financing flood control projects with the most local and mainstem flood reduction benefits. The RRWMB policy for evaluating flood control projects was first articulated in its Project Evaluation Manual, dated November 16, 1976. This document was later updated under the title Application Procedures for Funding Flood Damage Reduction Projects and Related Programs and adopted by the RRWMB on January 15, 1991.

In addition to the name change in 1991, legislation expanded RRWMB authority to include projects and programs of benefit to the RRB. Some of these RRWMB initiatives have included the promotion of basin planning, water quality studies, data acquisition and educational programs and examples include but are not limited to:

- Developing a functional Geographic Information System (GIS) for the RRB to use as a tool for basin planning.
- Developing programs and materials intended to inform the public about natural resource management within the RRB.
- Funding and promoting planning on a watershed and basin-wide basis; funding water quality studies with the intent of understanding the relationship between land use and water quality.

- Cost sharing with the United States Geological Survey in the maintenance and operation of stream gaging stations
- Assisting other units of local government with an inventory of possible wetland restoration locations.
- Water supply.
- Funding for the initial development of the Red River Basin Board (RRBB).
- Funding and promotion of the River Watch program in conjunction with schools throughout the RRB.
- Supporting the mediation process.
- Developing broad-based LiDAR tools including the Project Planning Tool (PPT).

The RRWMB continues to provide a basin-wide perspective to water management in the RRB.

**AUTHORITY UNDER LAW:** In 1976, the Minnesota legislature passed legislation which enabled existing watershed districts within the Minnesota portion of the RRB to join together in a common effort under a Joint Powers Agreement to form the LRRWMB. This organization was created for the purpose of instituting, coordinating, and financing projects and programs to alleviate flooding and to assure the beneficial use of water in the watershed of the Red River of the North and its tributaries. The 1976 legislation gave the LRRWMB authority for "construction and maintenance of projects of common benefit," and also allowed member watershed districts to levy up to two mills ad valorem tax to be utilized for flood water retention projects.

One-half of the tax collected is retained by the individual member watershed district for projects within the district while the other half is transferred to the LRRWMB. Additional 1991 legislation changed the name of the LRRWMB to the RRWMB and redefined the authority of the Board to "...development, construction, and maintenance of projects and programs of benefit to the RRB." To conform with Minnesota Statutes Section 471.59 as amended in 1992, the current levy limitation is 0.04836 percent of the taxable market value of all property within the district.

As originally formed in 1976, the LRRWMB consisted of seven-member watershed districts (WD): Joe River WD, The Two Rivers WD, Roseau River WD, Middle River-Snake River WD, Red Lake WD, Sand Hill River WD, and the Wild Rice WD. In 1980, the Buffalo Red River WD joined. In 1994, the Bois de Sioux Watershed in the southern end of the RRB joined bringing the number of member districts to nine. The jurisdiction of the renamed RRWMB is limited to that of its member districts. However, the RRWMB does have the power to cooperate with authorities in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Manitoba and to enter into "contracts, compacts and agreements which may be necessary to ensure integration of its projects." Two watershed districts have left membership in the RRWMB since 2002. The Buffalo Red River WD left membership in 2002 and the Sand Hill River WD left membership in 2018.

The RRWMB presently holds quarterly meetings with the Red River Retention Authority (RRRA). The RRRA was formed on May 26, 2010 through a Joint Powers Agreement and is comprised of members of the Red River Joint Water Resource District, a North Dakota political subdivision, and the Red River Watershed Management Board, a Minnesota political subdivision. The primary objective of the RRRA is to ensure joint, comprehensive, and strategic coordination of retention projects in the Red River of the North watershed and facilitating implementation and construction of retention in the RRB.

The RRWMB also participates in activities of the RRBB. The RRBB was formed in 1997 by local, regional, and state/provincial interests in North Dakota, Minnesota, Manitoba, and South Dakota to develop a comprehensive plan for the Basin. In 2002, the RRBB joined with The International Coalition (TIC) and the Red River Water Resources Council (RRWRC) to form the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC).

**PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS:** The RRWMB has funded several education and information efforts over the last 20 plus years. One of the RRWMB primary educational programs is the River Watch Program, which is administered by the International Water Institute and this Program is strongly supported by the RRWMB. The RRWMB developed a Communication and Outreach Strategy in 2018 to share information about RRWMB activities and initiatives and this Strategy will guide how the RRWMB communicates into the future.

**BACKGROUND OF STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS:** The RRWMB initiated a phased Strategic Planning process to restructure and to develop a strategic plan approximately three years ago. The process has resulted in the hiring of a full-time Executive Director and Executive Assistant and the establishment of a permanent co-located office with the Wild Rice Watershed District in Ada, MN (Phase I). The RRWMB commenced Phase II of this Process in March 2018 at the joint annual conference with the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (FDRWG). During this event, a public input session was facilitated with over 90 individuals to gain input and comments regarding the RRWMB and FDRWG missions and future activities.

In April 2018, the RRWMB held a strategic planning session to discuss the results of the facilitated input session at the annual conference. The RRWMB Managers affirmed that they were committed to continuing the development of a strategic plan at this April 2018 session. The RRWMB Managers also held a special meeting in October 2018 to discuss potential funding of non-retention Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) and water quality projects. As a result, the Managers asked member watershed districts to bring forth non-retention flood damage reduction projects for consideration by the RRWMB for funding.

The Managers also directed staff at this October 2018 special meeting to develop a questionnaire to seek input regarding RRWMB priorities from all watershed districts within the Minnesota portion of the RRB. The RRWMB also distributed a document titled “Strategic Planning Process Results to Date – November 29, 2017 to September 5, 2018” to highlight and illustrate the work that was commenced or completed by the RRWMB during this reorganizational and restructuring timeframe. The RRWMB Managers discussed priorities for the future in June 2019 and asked for final input in July and August 2019 from member watershed districts and immediate stakeholders and partners. As a result of this input process and discussions by the RRWMB Managers, the RRWMB Strategic Plan was approved on December 17, 2019.

**RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD VISION STATEMENT:** We believe in and value a framework that works toward and achieves economic vitality, sustained economic growth for our population base, and enhanced natural resources for the future in the RRB of the North. We will: (1) Work with our members, partners, and stakeholders to implement this vision through the mission and objectives of the RRWMB as provided by enabling legislation and our strategic plan and with a basin-wide approach, and; (2) Work with our members to fund and implement projects related to flood damage reduction, and water quality to protect public and private investments in accordance with our governing documents, the 1998 Red River Basin Flood Mediation Agreement, and the 20 percent flow reduction strategy.

**RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD MISSION:** To identify, coordinate, and finance projects and programs to alleviate flooding and assure the beneficial use of water in the watershed of the Red River of the North and its tributaries.

**RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE:** The principal objective of the RRWMB is to assist member Watershed Districts with the implementation of water related projects and programs. The purpose of these projects and programs is: (1) The reduction of local and mainstem flood damages, and; (2) To enhance environmental and water resource management.



Projects and programs must be of benefit to the RRB and its member watershed districts in order to qualify for RRWMB funding. The principal objective of the RRWMB, as stated above, is derived from legislation passed in 1976 and 1991. This objective is also in direct support of the RRWMB's Mission Statement. In addition to the RRWMB's principle objective, the Board has adopted several supporting objectives listed in the table below. Taken as a whole, the principal and supporting objectives form an overall policy for the RRWMB.

**RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD SUPPORTING OBJECTIVES:**

<b>Supporting Objective</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Policy Statement</b>
Coordination	Provide leadership for the coordination of projects and programs related to water management.	The RRWMB accepts this leadership role as a matter of policy.
Financial Support	Participate in funding initiatives which include projects and related programs that encourage consideration of mainstem benefits and enhance environmental and water resources.	Participate in funding of projects initiated by a member watershed district-initiated projects meeting RRWMB established criteria for financial support and other initiatives beneficial to the basin.
Basin Planning	Assist private, local, state, interstate, federal, or international water management and natural resource activities within the RRB, through coordination and assistance with implementation.	Assist planning efforts at all levels within the RRB. Committed to supporting basin planning efforts as a matter of Board policy.
Water Quantity	Support projects and programs for the alleviation of damage by floodwater, with an additional emphasis on maintaining low flow conditions for the aquatic environment and providing water supply for public use.	Support flood control and water conservation projects.
Water Quality	Provide assistance for studies, programs, initiatives and projects to improve water quality.	Support ongoing studies, initiatives, and programs for the improvement of water quality.
Erosion and Sedimentation	Provide assistance for studies, programs, and initiatives, including cooperative efforts with other agencies, to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation.	Support studies, programs, and initiatives conducted by federal, state and local agencies for the reduction of soil erosion.
Education	Support development of informational and educational programs related to water and natural resource management concerns.	Utilize education as a tool to inform the public on issues related to the conservation of water, soil, and the preservation and enhancement of natural resources in the Basin.
Research	Provide assistance for basic and applied research related to natural resources management within the RRB.	Commit to an administrative and financial role in supporting and sponsoring relevant research related to water and natural resource management within the RRB.
Public Information	RRWMB to inform the public of water management activities and concerns.	Promote a strong public information program to educate the public regarding its operations and initiatives.

Conflict Resolution	Work toward the resolution of conflicts regarding water management. The RRWMB is committed to the resolution of conflicts and methods to reduce conflict include, but are not limited to negotiation, mediation, arbitration, or legal action.	The RRWMB will commit itself to the speedy and efficient resolution of any conflicts related to managing the Basin's water resources.
Policies, Rules, and Regulations of Other Entities	Will comply with the policies and regulations of other governmental entities. Where inconsistencies in policies and regulations exist, the RRWMB will cooperate with the appropriate governmental entities in resolving the inconsistencies.	Adopt policies and regulations which are consistent with policies and regulations of other governmental entities, and to comply with the regulatory programs of these agencies.

**PRIORITIES**

**1. RRWMB MEMBERSHIP**

**A. Goal(s) to Achieve Priority:**

- Regain past members, including the Buffalo Red River and Sand Hill River Watershed Districts.
- Gain new members, including the Pelican River and Cormorant Lakes Watershed Districts.
- Encourage the creation of an organized watershed district for the Ottertail watershed area.

**B. Action Step(s):** Start preliminary discussions with non-member watershed districts on benefits of membership upon approval of this strategic plan.

**C. Timelines:** The RRWMB will commence a membership drive after January 1, 2020.

**D. Lead:** The RRWMB President and Executive Director will work together on this issue including other interested RRWMB Managers.

**E. Partners or Stakeholder Groups That can Assist to Achieve Priorities:** County commissioners, member watershed districts, cities, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). The RRWMB may also consider the creation of an advisory, non-voting committee to advise the RRWMB on specific issues. The Committee would meet one or two times a year.

**2. PROTECTION OF FARMLAND**

**A. Goal(s) to Achieve Priority:**

- The RRWMB will continue to work towards protecting farmland and damages to farm structures.
- It is a goal of the RRWMB to primarily protect farmland and pasture and grassland areas for livestock foraging in the Minnesota RRB.
- The RRWMB will work closely with its member watershed districts to prioritize these areas for protection and will defer to local plans for priorities.
- The RRWMB will also work with agricultural stakeholder groups to gain better insights into farmland, pasture, and grassland protection needs.

**B. Action Step(s):**

- The RRWMB will provide input and comment on draft 1W1Ps and other local water management plans when possible. Continue the RRWMB core mission of multipurpose water management that includes distributed water retention/detention, FDR activities, water quality, habitat, soil health initiatives, and Natural Resources Enhancements (NRE).
- Promote and fund actions related to 10-year cropland flood protection in accordance with the 1998 Flood Mediation Agreement.
- Promote and fund actions related to 25-year cropland flood protection in accordance with the 1998 Flood Mediation Agreement.
- Create relationships and increase interactions and communication with agricultural groups and gain their support related to this priority.
- Map 10-year flood areas for member watershed districts.
- Map 25-year flood areas for member watershed districts.

**C. Timelines:** This will be an ongoing effort and will continue into the future.

**D. Lead:** RRWMB, member watershed districts, counties, soil and water conservation districts, and townships, can work together to work towards actions to meet this priority.

**E. Partners or Stakeholder Groups That can Assist to Achieve Priorities:** Member watershed districts, counties, and soil and water conservation districts will be the primary entities to meet the goal of farmland protection.

**3. FUNDING**

**A. Goals to Achieve Priority:** The RRWMB goals are to increase funding from the State of Minnesota and federal government and to work with other public and private partners collectively on projects that meet the mission of the RRWMB. The RRWMB will work towards better defining the need and purpose for funding for the following areas:

- FDR, and water quality projects.
- Programs such as River Watch and stream flow monitoring.
- Research initiated or requested by the RRWMB related to FDR, flood and NRE economics, water quality, NREs, wetlands, and technical efforts.

**B. Action Step(s):**

- Annually review and update a five-year capital investment plan for projects funded by the RRWMB to determine and assess funding needs.
- Consider funding project development for member watershed districts for engineering, design, permitting, environmental review, and related project activities.
- Develop a funding strategy to provide a framework for the RRWMB to secure and leverage funds for projects of its member watershed districts.
- Create communication tools and messages to meet the goals for this priority.
- Seek additional funding for the River Watch Program and other educational programs.

**C. Timelines:** This will be an ongoing effort.

**D. Lead:** RRWMB staff including the RRWMB Legislative Liaison, the RRWMB Legislative Committee, and the RRWMB Budget and Finance Committee will be primary leads for this priority.

**E. Partners or Stakeholder Groups That can Assist to Achieve Priorities:** Legislators, the congressional delegation, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, Association of Minnesota Counties, League of Minnesota Cities, Minnesota Association of Townships, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, state/federal agencies, and agricultural stakeholder groups in the RRB.

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#### **4. MULTIPURPOSE DRAINAGE WATER MANAGEMENT (DWM)**

##### **A. Goals to Achieve Priority:**

- The RRWMB Supports the adoption of Basin Technical and Scientific Advisory (BTSAC) recommendations and FDRWG Technical Paper 11 across all drainage authorities in the Minnesota RRB.
- The RRWMB will also host an annual drainage conference for drainage authorities to share current information about technical, financial, legal, and implementation issues related to public and private drainage.
- State drainage rules and regulations will need continual/future assessment to ensure that drainage authorities are not limited in implementing proactive drainage solutions at the local level. The RRWMB will continue to participate on the statewide Drainage Work Group (DWG) to represent its member watershed districts.

##### **B. Action Step(s):**

- Review the model watershed district rules in relation to drainage at least once every five years.
- Continue to hold an annual drainage conference.
- Request the FDRWG review Technical Paper 11 related to culvert sizing once every five years.
- Request the RRRRA to review BTSAC recommendations every five years.
- Promote and encourage all drainage authorities to adopt Multipurpose Drainage Water Management techniques including culvert sizing, two-stage ditches, side water inlet controls and other drainage best management practices to enhance water quality and reduce downstream flooding.
- Fund multipurpose DWM practices of public drainage projects.
- Monitor drainage legislation and activity participate on the Minnesota Drainage Work Group (DWG).

**C. Timelines:** This will be an ongoing effort.

**D. Lead:** RRWMB Managers and staff, RRWMB member watershed districts, and all drainage authorities in the Minnesota RRB.

**E. Partners or Stakeholder Groups That can Assist to Achieve Priorities:** The RRWMB may partner with other organizations as needed.

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#### **5. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

##### **A. Goal(s) to Achieve Priority:**

- To obtain greater certainty about state and federal funding and permitting processes given the higher standard that is applied to projects in the RRB of Minnesota.
- The 1998 Flood Mediation Agreement discusses NREs, but greater discussion needs to be held with permitting agencies about the acceptance of the level and type of NREs, for designed/engineered and incidental NRES.

**B. Action Step(s):** The RRWMB will work on the following:

- Plans to retain experienced permitting staff.
- Jointly sponsor training opportunities for technical and permitting staff related to permitting and technical issues.
- Consideration the development of “Generally Accepted NREs” by permitting agencies.
- Request state and federal agencies to determine priority NREs for the RRB of Minnesota and the type, amount, and location of NREs needed to meet water quality and habitat needs.
- More transparent information about the prioritization process for Flood Hazard Mitigation Grants.
- Work with the FDRWG to ensure that Technical Paper 14 is still valid.
- Request the FDRWG to complete tasks related to NREs.
- Mine data from past studies to inform decision-making.
- Work with the FDRWG to determine monitoring priorities.
- Determine research needs.
- Continue to annually fund RRWMB Technical Advisory Committee activities.
- Review current technical tool usage by member watershed districts and determine if existing technical tools should be updated.
- Determine if new technical tools are needed.
- Host a forum or training event on current technical tools funded by the RRWMB.

**C. Timelines:** This will be an ongoing and continual effort.

**D. Lead:** The RRWMB and its member watershed districts will work with permitting agencies at all levels.

**E. Partners or Stakeholder Groups That can Assist to Achieve Priorities:** The RRWMB will seek out additional assistance as needed for this priority area.

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## 6. FLOOD CONTROL AND PROTECTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE

**A. Goal(s) to Achieve Priority:**

- It is the goal of the RRWMB to continue with flood protection at all levels as a core activity and to mitigate and reduce damages. The RRWMB will focus on protecting:
  - Transportation systems at all levels.
  - Farmland.
  - On-farm infrastructure.
  - Other public and private infrastructure located outside cities.
  - Cities where unfinished FDR work is left to complete.

**B. Action Step(s):** The RRWMB will commence discussions with public agencies at all levels related to:

- Obtaining more accurate information about public and private flood damages.
- Assessment of flood protection of aging public infrastructure at all levels by RRWMB partners. This also includes public wildlife and natural lands related to flood impacts.
- Consult with partners on FDR priorities related to infrastructure protection for public roads, bridges, culverts, and existing levees.
- Assessment of the need for additional ring dike funding for farmsteads and rural housing developments.

**C. Timelines:** This will be an ongoing and continual effort.

**D. Lead:** RRWMB and public infrastructure partners.

**E. Partners or Stakeholder Groups That can Assist to Achieve Priorities:** The RRWMB will seek out additional assistance as needed for this priority area.

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## 7. WATER QUALITY

**A. Goal(s) to Achieve Priority:** The goal of the RRWMB is to support local efforts as identified in 1W1Ps or other local water and resource management plans that contribute to increased or enhanced water quality.

**B. Action Step(s):**

- Consider how to partner with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program, which can be used to encourage increased adoption of agricultural practices upstream of FDR projects to reduce sedimentation, pollutant loading, thus potentially reducing FDR project operational, maintenance, and repair costs.
- Consider an annual allocation to member watershed districts for water quality projects, which will help members and their partners leverage additional funds at all levels.
- Consider the creation of an NRE trading system for the Minnesota RRB and work with partners, stakeholders, and non-governmental organizations.
- Consider how to meet pollution reduction needs of cities, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit holders, and other governmental and private entities related phosphorus, nitrogen, TSS, and other water quality parameters.

**C. Timelines:** This will be an ongoing and continual effort.

**D. Lead:** The RRWMB will be the lead and will request assistance from partners as needed.

**E. Partners or Stakeholder Groups That can Assist to Achieve Priorities:** The RRWMB will seek out additional assistance as needed for this priority area.

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**ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS:** The RRWMB will measure progress ongoing and when this strategic plan is updated after 2025. The RRWMB Managers will adjust this plan as needed and as conditions occur that affect the goals and action steps within this document.

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# Strategic Plan



Approved

December 17, 2019



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**HISTORY OF THE RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD:** The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) is an organization initially created to address chronic flooding problems and other water management issues within the drainage basin of the Red River of the North. It is widely recognized that flooding occurs frequently along the mainstem of the Red River and its tributaries. Flooding has been and is the principal water problem in the Minnesota Portion of the Red River of the North Basin. The basin is particularly susceptible to severe flooding for two reasons: (1) Its flat topography, and; (2) The northward flow of the Red River. Spring thaws generally begin in the southern reaches, sending water to streams and rivers, restricted with ice in its northern reaches.

The majority of recorded and observed flood events originate from spring runoff. However, major summer flooding does occur with basin-wide impact (i.e., 1950, 1975 and 1993). Large historic floods were recorded in the basin in 1826, 1852, 1861, 1882, and 1897. Floods in 1950, 1966, 1969, 1975, 1978, 1979, 1985, 1989, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2001, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2019 have caused enormous economic and environmental disruptions.

Major basin-wide flooding causes extensive and costly damage to crop land, roads, bridges, towns, cities, and farmsteads along and adjacent to the mainstem and its tributaries. Various types of organizations have been created to address the flooding problems of the valley, however, most of these entities had only local jurisdiction. Until 1976, no Minnesota water management organization existed with a Red River basin-wide perspective. The Lower Red River Watershed Management Board (LRRWMB), later renamed the RRWMB, was created by an act of the Minnesota legislature in 1976 to provide an organization with a basin-wide perspective concerning flooding. Historically, the activities of the RRWMB have centered on flood control. Previous efforts in dealing with the flooding problem within the Red River Basin (RRB) consisted of single projects within a localized area, planned with primary regard to local benefits.

The RRWMB actively promotes a basin-wide perspective for water management. To date, the RRWMB has participated in over 40 floodwater retention projects in the RRB. Several more projects are under consideration by the RRWMB for financial support. Hydrologic water management studies have been undertaken by the RRWMB and others to provide an understanding of the characteristic flooding mechanisms of the basin, and to serve as a management tool for the purpose of assisting in making wise funding decisions. In 1980, the RRWMB commissioned a study that would ultimately have great impact on the Board's policy with respect to prioritizing flood control projects for financial support. This study, completed in 1984, established the concept of flood wave timing as a unique characteristic of RRB floods.

The premise of this concept is that the severity of flooding on the Red River mainstem is directly related to the time of travel of flood waves within the headwaters of individual contributing tributaries to the mainstem. The timing concept is used by the RRWMB to establish priorities in financing flood control projects with the most local and mainstem flood reduction benefits. The RRWMB policy for evaluating flood control projects was first articulated in its Project Evaluation Manual, dated November 16, 1976. This document was later updated under the title Application Procedures for Funding Flood Damage Reduction Projects and Related Programs and adopted by the RRWMB on January 15, 1991.

In addition to the name change in 1991, legislation expanded RRWMB authority to include projects and programs of benefit to the RRB. Some of these RRWMB initiatives have included the promotion of basin planning, water quality studies, data acquisition and educational programs and examples include but are not limited to:

- Developing a functional Geographic Information System (GIS) for the RRB to use as a tool for basin planning.
- Developing programs and materials intended to inform the public about natural resource management within the RRB.
- Funding and promoting planning on a watershed and basin-wide basis; funding water quality studies with the intent of understanding the relationship between land use and water quality.

- Cost sharing with the United States Geological Survey in the maintenance and operation of stream gaging stations
- Assisting other units of local government with an inventory of possible wetland restoration locations.
- Water supply.
- Funding for the initial development of the Red River Basin Board (RRBB).
- Funding and promotion of the River Watch program in conjunction with schools throughout the RRB.
- Supporting the mediation process.
- Developing broad-based LiDAR tools including the Project Planning Tool (PPT).

The RRWMB continues to provide a basin-wide perspective to water management in the RRB.

**AUTHORITY UNDER LAW:** In 1976, the Minnesota legislature passed legislation which enabled existing watershed districts within the Minnesota portion of the RRB to join together in a common effort under a Joint Powers Agreement to form the LRRWMB. This organization was created for the purpose of instituting, coordinating, and financing projects and programs to alleviate flooding and to assure the beneficial use of water in the watershed of the Red River of the North and its tributaries. The 1976 legislation gave the LRRWMB authority for "construction and maintenance of projects of common benefit," and also allowed member watershed districts to levy up to two mills ad valorem tax to be utilized for flood water retention projects.

One-half of the tax collected is retained by the individual member watershed district for projects within the district while the other half is transferred to the LRRWMB. Additional 1991 legislation changed the name of the LRRWMB to the RRWMB and redefined the authority of the Board to "...development, construction, and maintenance of projects and programs of benefit to the RRB." To conform with Minnesota Statutes Section 471.59 as amended in 1992, the current levy limitation is 0.04836 percent of the taxable market value of all property within the district.

As originally formed in 1976, the LRRWMB consisted of seven-member watershed districts (WD): Joe River WD, The Two Rivers WD, Roseau River WD, Middle River-Snake River WD, Red Lake WD, Sand Hill River WD, and the Wild Rice WD. In 1980, the Buffalo Red River WD joined. In 1994, the Bois de Sioux Watershed in the southern end of the RRB joined bringing the number of member districts to nine. The jurisdiction of the renamed RRWMB is limited to that of its member districts. However, the RRWMB does have the power to cooperate with authorities in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Manitoba and to enter into "contracts, compacts and agreements which may be necessary to ensure integration of its projects." Two watershed districts have left membership in the RRWMB since 2002. The Buffalo Red River WD left membership in 2002 and the Sand Hill River WD left membership in 2018.

The RRWMB presently holds quarterly meetings with the Red River Retention Authority (RRRA). The RRRA was formed on May 26, 2010 through a Joint Powers Agreement and is comprised of members of the Red River Joint Water Resource District, a North Dakota political subdivision, and the Red River Watershed Management Board, a Minnesota political subdivision. The primary objective of the RRRA is to ensure joint, comprehensive, and strategic coordination of retention projects in the Red River of the North watershed and facilitating implementation and construction of retention in the RRB.

The RRWMB also participates in activities of the RRBB. The RRBB was formed in 1997 by local, regional, and state/provincial interests in North Dakota, Minnesota, Manitoba, and South Dakota to develop a comprehensive plan for the Basin. In 2002, the RRBB joined with The International Coalition (TIC) and the Red River Water Resources Council (RRWRC) to form the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC).

**PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS:** The RRWMB has funded several education and information efforts over the last 20 plus years. One of the RRWMB primary educational programs is the River Watch Program, which is administered by the International Water Institute and this Program is strongly supported by the RRWMB. The RRWMB developed a Communication and Outreach Strategy in 2018 to share information about RRWMB activities and initiatives and this Strategy will guide how the RRWMB communicates into the future.

**BACKGROUND OF STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS:** The RRWMB initiated a phased Strategic Planning process to restructure and to develop a strategic plan approximately three years ago. The process has resulted in the hiring of a full-time Executive Director and Executive Assistant and the establishment of a permanent co-located office with the Wild Rice Watershed District in Ada, MN (Phase I). The RRWMB commenced Phase II of this Process in March 2018 at the joint annual conference with the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (FDRWG). During this event, a public input session was facilitated with over 90 individuals to gain input and comments regarding the RRWMB and FDRWG missions and future activities.

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## PRIORITIES

**1. RRWMB MEMBERSHIP:** There are eleven organized watershed districts in the RRB of Minnesota. Seven of these watershed districts are part of the RRWMB through a joint power's agreement, which was established in 1976 by the Minnesota Legislature. Two watershed districts have left the RRWMB since 2003. The RRWMB believes that a unified voice through the RRWMB for all watershed districts in the RRB is beneficial and will commence efforts to increase membership. Without unity, we are fractured in the work we do to reduce flooding, enhance water quality, and to increase fish and wildlife habitat in the RRB.

**A. Why is this a priority?** Retaining and expanding RRWMB membership will provide a unified voice from the RRB on several issues related to legislative, congressional, and regulatory efforts. The RRWMB provides many services and benefits to its member watershed districts, which includes but is not limited to the following:

- Project and program funding through the RRWMB levy.
- Lobbying services related to policy and funding issues.
- A unified voice at the local, state, and federal level.
- Tracking of regulatory issues at all levels.
- Legal services for issues affecting all members.
- Funding for the RRBC, River Watch, USGS stream flow monitoring, and several other programs.
- Training and informational meetings through the joint annual conference with the FDRWG.
- Access to technical resources through the RRWMB Technical Advisory Committee.
- Constant communication related to or including RRWMB activities, legislative matters, RRWMB post-meeting highlights, meeting packets, and other regular business of the RRWMB.

**B. What should be the goal(s) to achieve this priority?**

- Regain past members, including the Buffalo Red River and Sand Hill River Watershed Districts.
- Gain new members, including the Pelican River and Cormorant Lakes Watershed Districts.
- Encourage the creation of an organized watershed district for the Ottertail watershed area.

**C. What action steps are needed to achieve this priority?**

- Start preliminary discussions with non-member watershed districts on benefits of membership upon approval of this strategic plan.

- D. When should these action steps be taken and what are potential timelines to achieve the priority?** The RRWMB will commence a membership drive after January 1, 2020.
- E. Who should be the lead for each priority?** The RRWMB President and Executive Director will work together on this issue including other interested RRWMB Managers.
- F. Are there are people or organizations such as partners or stakeholder groups that can assist to achieve priorities?**
- County commissioners.
  - Member watershed districts.
  - Cities.
  - Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD).
  - The RRWMB may also consider the creation of an advisory, non-voting committee to advise the RRWMB on specific issues. The Committee would meet one or two times a year.
- 

**2. PROTECTION OF FARMLAND:** The farmers in the Minnesota RRB produce several crops including but not limited to sugar beets, potatoes, corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, oats, sunflowers, dry edible beans, alfalfa, canola, annual rye grass, and other specialty crops. Agriculture is a primary driver of local economies and contributes to overall economic vitality in the Minnesota RRB. Protection of farmland is not just a concern for spring flooding and summer flooding during the growing season and excess moisture in the soil profile during fall harvest greatly impacts soil health, water quality, crop productivity, profitability, and local/regional economic vitality.

**A. Why is this a priority?** Landowners, who are also farmers, pay taxes to local governments including counties, townships, watershed districts, and the RRWMB. The RRWMB recognizes that taxes provide funding for Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) and drainage projects so that farmers can have adequate drainage and flood protection. Proper drainage and flood protection also allow farmers and landowners to increase productivity and profitability, which affects local economic vitality. The RRWMB mission, principal objective, and supporting objective are critical in meeting the flood protection and drainage needs of farmers and landowners.

**B. What should be the goal(s) to achieve this priority?** The 1998 Flood Mediation Agreement calls for reducing damages to agricultural lands from 10-year storm events and 25-year storm events when feasible at a minimal incremental cost. The Agreement also calls for the prevention of damage to farm structures, homes and communities. The following are goals to achieve this priority:

- The RRWMB will continue to work towards protecting farmland and damages to farm structures.
- It is a goal of the RRWMB to primarily protect farmland and pasture and grassland areas for livestock foraging in the Minnesota RRB.
- The RRWMB will work closely with its member watershed districts to prioritize these areas for protection and will defer to local plans for priorities.
- The RRWMB will also work with agricultural stakeholder groups to gain better insights into farmland, pasture, and grassland protection needs.

**C. What action steps are needed to achieve this priority?** The 1998 Flood Mediation Agreement, local watershed district comprehensive plans, comprehensive local water management plans, One Water One Plans (1W1P), and other plans will provide additional prioritization for member watershed districts and the RRWMB. However, the following action steps are needed for this priority:

- The RRWMB will provide input and comment on draft 1W1Ps and other local water management plans when possible. Continue the RRWMB core mission of multipurpose water management that includes distributed water retention/detention, FDR activities, water quality, habitat, soil health initiatives, and Natural Resources Enhancements (NRE).
- Promote and fund actions related to 10-year cropland flood protection in accordance with the 1998 Flood Mediation Agreement.
- Promote and fund actions related to 25-year cropland flood protection in accordance with the 1998 Flood Mediation Agreement.
- Create relationships and increase interactions and communication with agricultural groups and gain their support related to this priority.
- Map 10-year flood areas for member watershed districts.
- Map 25-year flood areas for member watershed districts.

**D. When should these action steps be taken and what are potential timelines to achieve the priority?** This will be an ongoing effort and will continue into the future.

**E. Who should be the lead for each priority?** RRWMB, member watershed districts, counties, soil and water conservation districts, and townships, can work together to work towards actions to meet this priority.

**F. Are there are people or organizations such as partners or stakeholder groups that can assist to achieve priorities?** Member watershed districts, counties, and soil and water conservation districts will be the primary entities to meet the goal of farmland protection.

**3. FUNDING:** FDR, drainage, and habitat projects in the RRB are primarily funded through the RRWMB and local watershed district taxes. Projects funds may also be received through the State of Minnesota via the Outdoor Heritage Fund, Clean Water Fund, Flood Hazard Mitigation Program, and other local, state, or federal sources. While state funding has decreased in recent years and many urban areas are now protected, there is still a demonstrated need to protect agricultural lands and other public and private infrastructure related to drainage and transportation.

The RRWMB continually works with its member watershed districts to identify funding needs for multipurpose FDR projects. Financial needs often exceed the ability of local and RRWMB funds to cover all the costs for projects. The state Flood Hazard Mitigation Program has been a primary funder of projects in the RRB. However, at the time this Strategic Plan was developed, statewide needs for the Flood Hazard Mitigation Program were approximately \$293 million, with bonding years being every other year, and the funding request generally being only \$20 million in recent years

**A. Why is this a priority?** The RRWMB has several projects in its funding process at various phases. The RRWMB commits funds to projects being developed by member watershed districts and the RRWMB levy cannot entirely fund all projects. State and federal funds are limited but the RRWMB will continue to look towards leveraging funds for projects from all sources. Projects can and do incorporate NREs that also meet goals and objectives of several local, state, federal, regional, and international plans. The RRWMB will also consider partnerships with other stakeholders, both public and private.

**B. What should be the goal(s) to achieve this priority?** The RRWMB goals are to increase funding from the State of Minnesota and federal government and to work with other public and private partners collectively on projects that meet the mission of the RRWMB. The RRWMB will work towards better defining the need and purpose for funding for the following areas:



- FDR and water quality projects.
- Programs such as River Watch and stream flow monitoring.
- Research initiated or requested by the RRWMB related to FDR, flood and NRE economics, water quality, NREs, wetlands, and technical efforts.

**C. What action steps are needed to achieve this priority?** The RRWMB will:

- Annually review and update a five-year capital investment plan for projects funded by the RRWMB to determine and assess funding needs.
- Consider funding project development for member watershed districts for engineering, design, permitting, environmental review, and related project activities.
- Develop a funding strategy to provide a framework for the RRWMB to secure and leverage funds for projects of its member watershed districts.
- Create communication tools and messages to meet the goals for this priority.
- Seek additional funding for the River Watch Program and other educational programs.

**D. When should these action steps be taken and what are potential timelines to achieve the priority?** This will be an ongoing effort.

**E. Who should be the lead for each priority?** RRWMB staff including the RRWMB Legislative Liaison, the RRWMB Legislative Committee, and the RRWMB Budget and Finance Committee will be primary leads for this priority.

**F. Are there are people or organizations such as partners or stakeholder groups that can assist to achieve priorities?** We will work with legislators, the congressional delegation, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, Association of Minnesota Counties, League of Minnesota Cities, Minnesota Association of Townships, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, state/federal agencies, and agricultural stakeholder groups in the RRB on this priority.

**4. MULTIPURPOSE DRAINAGE WATER MANAGEMENT (DWM):** Watershed districts in the RRB are tasked with implemented drainage law (Minnesota Statute 103E) related to public drainage project repairs, improvements, redetermination of benefits, and associated drainage initiatives. Public drainage projects provide benefits for landowners and farmers and these projects provide adequate outlets for private drainage. As a result, soil health can be better managed, and productivity and profitability can be enhanced. The RRWMB has adopted recommended guidelines for its member watershed districts related to surface drainage and sub-surface drainage. The RRWMB is not recognized as a drainage authority under Minnesota Statutes 103E.

In addition, the Red River Retention Authority (RRRA) commissioned the Basin Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (BTSAC) to review, study and make recommendations related to how surface drainage and sub-surface drainage affects flooding in the RRB. Also, the FDRWG has developed several Technical Papers since 1998 and Technical Paper 11 relates to culvert sizing. These technical papers provide guidance to the RRWMB, watershed districts, counties, and townships as they make decisions about public and private drainage, culverts, and related matters in a unified and consistent manner. The RRWMB also developed a model set of watershed district rules for its member watershed districts to ensure a consistent approach to water management and unmanaged private drainage in the Minnesota RRB. These technical papers and RRWMB recommended guidance can be found at the RRWMB website at the following weblink: <http://www.rrwmb.org/Drainage%20Guidance.html>

**A. Why is this a priority?** Landowners and farmers pay taxes to the RRWMB and watershed districts in the RRB in addition to counties, townships, and other local governmental entities. The RRWMB recognizes the current farm economy is not conducive to investments in private drainage at the present time and that higher rates of return may come from greater investments in public drainage systems.

Public drainage projects take several years to implement from inception to construction and many processes and procedures must be adhered to according to state statute. Drainage management is a priority because flooding still occurs in the spring and during the growing season. Excess water in the soil profile can also greatly affect fall harvest operations, thus impacting soil health, productivity, profitability, and economic vitality, both locally and regionally.

- B. What should be the goal(s) to achieve this priority?** Adequate and equitable drainage is a key to economic sustainability of the RRB. Multipurpose DWM can work towards and can address altered hydrology, water quality, and habitat issues. The following are the goals for this priority:
- The RRWMB Supports the adoption of BTSAC recommendations and Technical Paper 11 across all drainage authorities in the Minnesota RRB.
  - The RRWMB will also host an annual drainage conference for drainage authorities to share current information about technical, financial, legal, and implementation issues related to public and private drainage.
  - State drainage rules and regulations will need continual/future assessment to ensure that drainage authorities are not limited in implementing proactive drainage solutions at the local level. The RRWMB will continue to participate on the statewide Drainage Work Group (DWG) to represent its member watershed districts.
- C. What action steps are needed to achieve this priority?** The RRWMB will do the following to achieve this priority related to drainage:
- Review the model watershed district rules in relation to drainage at least once every five years.
  - Continue to hold an annual drainage conference.
  - Request the FDRWG review Technical Paper 11 related to culvert sizing once every five years.
  - Request the RRRRA to review BTSAC recommendations every five years.
  - Promote and encourage all drainage authorities to adopt Multipurpose Drainage Water Management techniques including culvert sizing, two-stage ditches, side water inlet controls and other drainage best management practices to enhance water quality and reduce downstream flooding.
  - Fund multipurpose DWM practices of public drainage projects.
  - Monitor drainage legislation and activity participate on the Minnesota DWG.
- D. When should these action steps be taken and what are potential timelines to achieve the priority?** This will be an ongoing effort.
- E. Who should be the lead for each priority?** RRWMB Managers and staff, RRWMB member watershed districts, and all drainage authorities in the Minnesota RRB.
- F. Are there are people or organizations such as partners or stakeholder groups that can assist to achieve priorities?** The RRWMB may partner with other organizations as needed.
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- 5. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:** The implementation of watershed projects can take several years from inception to construction and there several factors can affect this such as duplicative or onerous permitting processes, reduced funding, and technical issues. The 1998 Flood Mediation Agreement also provides for a Project Team Handbook, which illustrates a framework for local project teams. The RRWMB believes that there is great value in the local project team process and that projects in the Red River Basin of Minnesota go through a rigorous process to develop projects and to obtain funding. Regarding NREs, the RRWMB and its members need certainty about the types of NREs that are acceptable by state agencies.

**A. Why is this a priority?** Watershed districts have limited windows of opportunity and timeframes to align funding, permitting, and engineering/design, and land purchases with local, state, and federal funding and permitting processes. Also, climactic factors often affect the ability of projects to be completed. RRWMB levy income is also affected by market valuations and the overall economy in the Minnesota RRB and there are limited funds available for projects in the RRWMB funding process. The RRWMB has a funding process in addition to the FDRWG (Project Teams, Project Readiness Form, and Project Team Handbook) and the State of Minnesota Process to obtain Flood Hazard Mitigation funds. The RRWMB and its member watershed districts are held to a higher standard than the rest of Minnesota related to project readiness, funding, and permitting.

The RRWMB funding procedures includes several components including technical review by the RRWMBs Technical Advisory Committee, commitment of funding, the Step Process, Star Valuation, and the Project Evaluation Worksheet. The 1998 Mediation Agreement augments the RRWMB procedures with local project teams and the process provided in the Project Team Handbook and technical review by the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee of the FDRWG.

**B. What should be the goal(s) to achieve this priority?**

- To obtain greater certainty about state and federal funding and permitting processes given the higher standard that is applied to projects in the RRB of Minnesota.
- The 1998 Flood Mediation Agreement discusses NREs, but greater discussion needs to be held with permitting agencies about the acceptance of the level and type of NREs, for designed/engineered and incidental NRES.

**C. What action steps are needed to achieve this priority?** The RRWMB will work with the FDRWG and other partners and stakeholders on the following:

- Plans to retain experienced permitting staff.
- Jointly sponsor training opportunities for technical and permitting staff related to permitting and technical issues.
- Consideration the development of “Generally Accepted NREs” by permitting agencies.
- Request state and federal agencies to determine priority NREs for the RRB of Minnesota and the type, amount, and location of NREs needed to meet water quality and habitat needs.
- More transparent information about the prioritization process for Flood Hazard Mitigation Grants.
- Work with the FDRWG to ensure that Technical Paper 14 is still valid.
- Request the FDRWG to complete tasks related to NREs.
- Mine data from past studies to inform decision-making.
- Work with the FDRWG to determine monitoring priorities.
- Determine research needs.
- Continue to annually fund TRRWMB Technical Advisory Committee activities.
- Review current technical tool usage by member watershed districts and determine if existing technical tools should be updated.
- Determine if new technical tools are needed.
- Host a forum or training event on current technical tools funded by the RRWMB.

**D. When should these action steps be taken and what are potential timelines to achieve the priority?** This will be an ongoing and continual effort.

**E. Who should be the lead for each priority?** The RRWMB and its member watershed districts will work with permitting agencies at all levels.

**F. Are there are people or organizations such as partners or stakeholder groups that can assist to achieve priorities?** The RRWMB will seek out additional assistance as needed for this priority area.

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**6. FLOOD CONTROL AND PROTECTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE:** The 2019 flood in the RRB illustrated a continued need for flood protection of public and private infrastructure. Since the 1997 flood, several urban areas and cities have largely been protected. However, agricultural lands, public and private drainage and transportation systems at all levels outside of urban areas across the RRB remain largely unprotected. Continued flooding disrupts traffic flow, increases the risk of infrastructure failure, places high demands on key emergency management personnel, and affects the safety and welfare of the citizens of the RRB.

**A. Why is this a priority?** While smaller rural populations continue a generally declining trend, there has been an exponential increase in the construction of private agricultural drainage, grain handling, and on-farm infrastructure. This investment by farmers and landowners has resulted in millions of dollars being allocated for private infrastructure. In addition, several private companies have invested significant financial resources into grain elevators and storage, fertilizer storage, and associated transportation infrastructure in smaller rural communities. The 2019 flood in addition to previous years of flooding in the RRB also showed us continued vulnerabilities in public transportation and all drainage infrastructure. Government agencies at all levels continue to update transportation and drainage infrastructure.

**B. What should be the goal(s) to achieve this priority?**

- It is the goal of the RRWMB to continue with flood protection at all levels as a core activity and to mitigate and reduce damages. The RRWMB will focus on protecting:
  - Transportation systems at all levels.
  - Farmland.
  - On-farm infrastructure.
  - Other public and private infrastructure located outside cities.
  - Cities where unfinished FDR work is left to complete.

**C. What action steps are needed to achieve this priority?** The RRWMB will commence discussions with public agencies at all levels related to:

- Obtaining more accurate information about public and private flood damages.
- Assessment of flood protection of aging public infrastructure at all levels by RRWMB partners. This also includes public wildlife and natural lands related to flood impacts.
- Consult with partners on FDR priorities related to infrastructure protection for public roads, bridges, culverts, and existing levees.
- Assessment of the need for additional ring dike funding for farmsteads and rural housing developments.

**D. When should these action steps be taken and what are potential timelines to achieve the priority?** This will be an ongoing and continual effort.

**E. Who should be the lead for each priority?** RRWMB and public infrastructure partners.

**F. Are there are people or organizations such as partners or stakeholder groups that can assist to achieve priorities?** The RRWMB will seek out additional assistance as needed for this priority area.

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7. **WATER QUALITY:** During the process to obtain input on the RRWMB strategic plan, all Minnesota RRB watershed districts, partners, and stakeholders provided comments on priorities. Water quality was one area receiving the most attention from all commenters and through all commenting opportunities. Several local, state, regional, federal, and international laws, rules, statutes, and plans relate to water quality and the RRWMB has an opportunity to further expand its role into water quality and to obtain alternative or new funding sources for multipurpose FDR projects.

**A. Why is this a priority?** Member watershed districts are in the process of developing 1W1Ps with various partners. Future state funding for water quality will be directed towards completed 1W1Ps and the RRWMB can potentially leverage funds and provide additional financial resources for projects meeting the RRWMB mission. These local plans include several priority areas and in addition, there are many other plans at all levels that include water quality goals and priorities for action at the international border with Canada, Lake Winnipeg, the mainstem Red River, and tributaries. There is opportunity for the RRWMB to partner with cities and industries on NRE or water quality trading and to potentially tap into new or additional funding sources for multipurpose FDR projects. There is great opportunity for the RRWMB to be a leader in water quality in the RRB.

**B. What should be the goal(s) to achieve this priority?** The goal of the RRWMB is to support local efforts as identified in 1W1Ps or other local water and resource management plans that contribute to increased or enhanced water quality.

**C. What action steps are needed to achieve this priority?** The RRWMB approved the 2020 operating budget in July 2019 with a \$3 million allocation for water quality. The RRWMB Water Quality and Monitoring Advisory Committee is working on the development of process, procedure, guidance, and criteria to fund water quality projects for 2020 and beyond at the time this strategic plan was approved. The following are action steps for this priority area:

- Consider how to partner with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program, which can be used to encourage increased adoption of agricultural practices upstream of FDR projects to reduce sedimentation, pollutant loading, thus potentially reducing FDR project operational, maintenance, and repair costs.
- Consider an annual allocation to member watershed districts for water quality projects, which will help members and their partners leverage additional funds at all levels.
- Consider the creation of an NRE trading system for the Minnesota RRB and work with partners, stakeholders, and non-governmental organizations.
- Consider how to meet pollution reduction needs of cities, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit holders, and other governmental and private entities related phosphorus, nitrogen, TSS, and other water quality parameters.

**D. When should these action steps be taken and what are potential timelines to achieve the priority?** This will be an ongoing and continual effort. The RRWMB directed the RRWMB Water Quality and Monitoring Advisory Committee to start developing process, procedure, criteria, and guidance for water quality projects being proposed by member watershed districts. The Committee has met once and will continue to develop recommendations with the final product being projected to be presented to the RRWMB Managers for adoption in late 2019 or early 2020.

**E. Who should be the lead for each priority?** The RRWMB will be the lead and will request assistance from partners as needed.

**F. Are there are people or organizations such as partners or stakeholder groups that can assist to achieve priorities?** The RRWMB will seek out additional assistance as needed for this priority area.

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**ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS:** The RRWMB will measure progress ongoing and when this strategic plan is updated after 2025. The RRWMB Managers will adjust this plan as needed and as conditions occur that affect the goals and action steps within this document.

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**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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11 Fifth Avenue East  
Suite B  
Ada, MN 56510

**Website:** [www.rrwmb.org](http://www.rrwmb.org)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/RedRiverWatershedManagementBoard>



Permit # 20-001

Status Report: **Approved**

**Applicant Information**

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
	Garden Valley Telephone Company	PO Box 259 Erskine, MN 56535		tel:218-687-5251 mobile: fax:

**General Information**

(1) The proposed project is a:

**Utility Installations**

(2) Legal Description

(3) County: **Clearwater** Township: **Leon** Range: **37** Section: **32 1/4**:

(4) Describe in detail the work to be performed. **Installation of fiber optic lines**

(5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **Replace copper lines with fiber optic.**

**Status**

Status	Notes	Date
<b>Approved</b>		<b>Jan. 22, 2020</b>
Received		Jan. 13, 2020

**Conditions**

**Site 1 - Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approval as per approval of all affected road and ditch authorities and utilities; new lines shall be installed at a minimum of at least 3 feet below the flowline (channel bottom) of rivers, streams, ditches, legal and natural drains. Site 2 - Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approval as per approval of all affected road and ditch authorities and utilities; new lines shall be installed at a minimum of at least 3 feet below the flowline (channel bottom) of rivers, streams, ditches, legal and natural drains. N.J.O.**

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.



Permit # 20-002

Status Report: **Approved**

**Applicant Information**

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
	Garden Valley Telephone Company	PO Box 259 Erskine, MN 56535		tel:218-687-5251 mobile: fax:

**General Information**

(1) The proposed project is a:

**Utility Installations**

(2) Legal Description

(3) County: **Clearwater** Township: **Pine Lake** Range: **38** Section: **10 1/4**:

(4) Describe in detail the work to be performed. **Installation of fiber optic telephone lines.**

(5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **Updating of existing telephone lines with fiber optic.**

**Status**

Status	Notes	Date
Approved		Jan. 22, 2020
Received		Jan. 13, 2020

**Conditions**

**Site 1 - Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approval as per approval of all affected road and ditch authorities and utilities; new lines shall be installed at a minimum of at least 3 feet below the flowline (channel bottom) of rivers, streams, ditches, legal and natural drains. Site 2 - Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approval as per approval of all affected road and ditch authorities and utilities; new lines shall be installed at a minimum of at least 3 feet below the flowline (channel bottom) of rivers, streams, ditches, legal and natural drains. Site 3 - Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approval as per approval of all affected road and ditch authorities and utilities; new lines shall be installed at a minimum of at least 3 feet below the flowline (channel bottom) of rivers, streams, ditches, legal and natural drains. N.J.O.**

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.





Permit # 20-003

Status Report: **Approved**

**Applicant Information**

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
	<b>BNSF Railway Company</b>	<b>4515 Kansas Avenue Kansas City, KS 66106</b>		tel: <b>913-551-4192</b> mobile: fax:

**General Information**

(1) The proposed project is a:

**Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification**

**Bridge Installation / Removal / Modification**

(2) Legal Description

(3) County: **Polk** Township: **Euclid** Range: **47** Section: **14 1/4: SE1/4**

(4) Describe in detail the work to be performed. **Replace existing 42- 3 span timber structure with 5-36" culverts.**

(5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **Bridge No. 245-13.5 will be reconstructed as part of the BNSF Railway Company's general maintenance program. The purpose and need for the project is to maintain a safe and efficient structure for the transportation of interstate freight.**

**Status**

Status	Notes	Date
<b>Approved</b>		<b>Jan. 22, 2020</b>
<b>Received</b>		<b>Jan. 14, 2020</b>

**Conditions**

**Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approval to remove existing 42' span bridge and replace with 5 – 36" culverts, as per approval of Minnesota Department of Transportation if work is within Trunk Highway #75. Engineering has been completed by TKDA. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166) N.J.O.**

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.



Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, Inc.  
www.mnwatershed.org | 651-440-9407

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## Memo

DATE: January 16, 2020  
TO: Watershed District Administrators  
FROM: Emily Javens, Executive Director  
CC: MAWD President Mary Texer, Treasurer Sherry Davis White, Co-Treasurer Jackie Anderson  
MAWD Accountant Angie Fischer Obremski

### RE: 2020 ANNUAL DUES STATEMENT

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Please find attached the 2020 MAWD Membership Dues Worksheet that shows the amounts due from each watershed organization to be members of MAWD this year. The dues formula remained the same from last year, but your dues amount may have gone up or down based on the updated taxable market values for your watershed. The current dues payment for watershed districts is equal to 0.5% of each watershed district's maximum general levy as defined in statute (before applying the \$250,000 levy limit), not to exceed \$7,500. Dues for water management organizations will remain at \$500 for 2020.

2020 WD Dues = 2017 Taxable Market Value x 0.00048 x 0.005, not to exceed \$7,500  
2019 WMO Dues = \$500

Please remit payment by February 28, 2020 to the MAWD Accountant:

MN Association of Watershed Districts  
c/o Obremski Ltd.  
1005 Mainstreet  
Hopkins, MN 55343

***Thank you for your support!***

Attachments: 2020 MAWD Dues Worksheet  
BWSR Memo dated July 17, 2018 re: 2018 Taxable Market Values

## 2020 MAWD Membership Dues

WATERSHED DISTRICT NAME	Estimated Market Values	2020 MAWD Dues
BEAR VALLEY	221,457,700	531
BELLE CREEK	415,815,100	998
BOIS DE SIOUX	4,559,626,000	7,500
BROWN'S CREEK	1,938,920,100	4,653
BUFFALO CREEK	2,322,046,700	5,573
BUFFALO-RED RIVER	8,958,175,200	7,500
CAPITOL REGION	22,568,389,100	7,500
CARNELIAN MARINE ST. CROIX	1,706,562,200	4,096
CEDAR RIVER	2,907,759,700	6,979
CLEARWATER RIVER	1,633,188,700	3,920
COMFORT LAKE - FOREST LAKE	2,068,377,700	4,964
COON CREEK	16,123,925,700	7,500
CORMORANT LAKES	578,953,800	1,389
CROOKED CREEK	379,939,000	912
HERON LAKE	2,502,098,000	6,005
HIGH ISLAND	1,152,024,400	2,765
JOE RIVER	233,271,200	560
KANARANZI-LITTLE ROCK	1,703,696,000	4,089
LAC QUI PARLE-YELLOW BANK	3,041,400,900	7,299
LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER	10,234,630,000	7,500
MIDDLE FORK CROW RIVER	1,816,448,800	4,359
MIDDLE SNAKE TAMARAC RIVERS	2,590,548,300	6,217
MINNEHAHA CREEK	54,724,737,200	7,500
NINE MILE CREEK	20,812,262,300	7,500
NORTH FORK CROW RIVER	1,438,556,400	3,453
OKABENA-OCHEDEA	999,289,500	2,398
PELICAN RIVER	2,199,426,700	5,279
PRIOR LAKE-SPRING LAKE	4,169,842,200	7,500
RAMSEY-WASHINGTON METRO	16,827,737,100	7,500
RED LAKE	8,335,247,800	7,500
RICE CREEK	22,885,493,500	7,500
RILEY-PURGATORY-BLUFF CREEK	14,968,773,000	7,500
ROSEAU RIVER	769,910,800	1,848
SAND HILL RIVER	1,130,955,600	2,714
SAUK RIVER	8,693,633,700	7,500
SHELL ROCK RIVER	2,095,326,400	5,029
SOUTH WASHINGTON	12,751,609,300	7,500
STOCKTON-ROLLINGSTONE WS	512,233,500	1,229
TURTLE CREEK	1,564,576,100	3,755
TWO RIVERS	1,235,002,900	2,964
UPPER MINNESOTA RIVER	1,391,288,200	3,339
VALLEY BRANCH	4,778,103,200	7,500
WARROAD	374,141,600	898
WILD RICE	3,644,267,200	7,500
YELLOW MEDICINE RIVER	2,510,395,200	6,025
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>278,470,063,700</b>	<b>224,241</b>
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS		500

### Notes:

Dues Calculation = Estimated Market Values x 0.00048 x 0.005, capped at \$7,500  
 2019 Estimated Market Values Source: BWSR Memorandum, June 21, 2019

## Memo

Date: June 21, 2019

To: Watershed District Administrators and Managers

From: Annie Felix-Gerth, Water Programs Coordinator

Cc: Emily Javens, MAWD

Rob Sip, RRWMB

BWSR: John Jaschke, Angie Becker Kudelka, Kevin Bigalke, Dave Weirens, Jeremy Olson,  
Regional Managers and Board Conservationists

### RE: 2019 Estimated Market Values

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Please find attached a table containing the recently released total estimate market values (EMV) for 2019 from the Minnesota Department of Revenue. The 2019 abstract of tax list was used as the basis for calculating the table.

In order to determine the annual maximum General Fund levy for a watershed district, the EMV listed in the table must be multiplied by 0.048 percent (0.00048) and then compared to the maximum General Fund levy limit of \$250,000. Use whichever value is less. See Minn. Stat. § 103D.905, Subd. 3 for reference.

Please contact me if you have any questions,

Annie Felix-Gerth

[Annie.Felix-gerth@state.mn.us](mailto:Annie.Felix-gerth@state.mn.us) | 651-238-0677

Attachment: Taxes Payable 2019 Estimated Market Values For Watershed Districts in Minnesota

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## Taxes Payable 2019 - Estimated Market Values for Watershed Districts in Minnesota

<b>Watershed Name</b>	<b>Total EMV (\$)</b>	<b>Watershed Code</b>
Bear Valley Watershed District	221,457,700	001
Belle Creek Watershed District	415,815,100	003
Bois De Sioux Watershed District	4,559,626,000	031
Browns Creek Watershed District	1,938,920,100	069
Buffalo Creek Watershed District	2,322,046,700	005
Buffalo-Red River Watershed District	8,958,175,200	007
Capitol Region Watershed District	22,568,389,100	070
Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District	1,706,562,200	010
Cedar River Watershed District	2,907,759,700	002
Clearwater River Watershed District	1,633,188,700	009
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District	2,068,377,700	071
Coon Creek Watershed District	16,123,925,700	013
Cormorant Lakes Watershed District	578,953,800	015
Crooked Creek Watershed District	379,939,000	016
Heron Lake Watershed District	2,502,098,000	024
High Island Watershed District	1,152,024,400	018
Joe River Watershed District	233,271,200	020
Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District	1,703,696,000	021
Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District	3,041,400,900	022
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District	10,234,630,000	060
Middle Fork-Crow River Watershed District	1,816,448,800	074
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District	2,590,548,300	026
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District	54,724,737,200	062
Nine Mile Creek Watershed District	20,812,262,300	058
North Fork Crow River Watershed District	1,438,556,400	008
Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District	999,289,500	028
Pelican River Watershed District	2,199,426,700	030
Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District	4,169,842,200	032
Ramsey-Washington Metropolitan Watershed District	16,827,737,100	034
Red Lake Watershed District	8,335,247,800	036
Rice Creek Watershed District	22,885,493,500	038
Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District	14,968,773,000	064
Roseau River Watershed District	769,910,800	040
Sand Hill Watershed District	1,130,955,600	042
Sauk River Watershed District	8,693,633,700	043
Shell Rock River Watershed District	2,095,326,400	073
South Washington Watershed District	12,751,609,300	014
Stockton-Rollingstone-Minnesota City Watershed District	512,233,500	044
The Two Rivers Watershed District	1,564,576,100	050
Turtle Creek Watershed District	1,235,002,900	048
Upper Minnesota River Watershed District	1,391,288,200	052
Valley Branch Watershed District	4,778,103,200	054
Warroad Watershed District	374,141,600	056
Wild Rice Watershed District	3,644,267,200	066
Yellow Medicine River Watershed District	2,510,395,200	068



**2020 Red River Basin Drainage Conference**  
**Monday – January 27, 2020**  
**Marriott Hotel and Convention Center**  
**Moorhead, MN**

**8:00 to 8:45 AM Registration**

- 8:45 AM**                    **Welcome**  
*Robert Sip, Executive Director, Red River Watershed Management Board*
- 8:50 AM**                    **Case and Regulatory Law Updates Impacting Public Drainage**  
*Louis Smith, Attorney, Smith Partners Law Firm*  
*John Kolb, Attorney, Rinke - Noonan Law Firm*
- 9:50 AM**                    **Refreshment Break**
- 10:05 AM**                    **Drainage Authority Consideration Requirements of Public Drainage Law**  
*Louis Smith, Attorney, Smith Partners Law Firm*  
*John Kolb, Attorney, Rinke - Noonan Law Firm*  
*Tracy Halstensgard, Administrator, Roseau River Watershed District*  
*Chad Engels, Engineer, Moore Engineering, Incorporated*
- 11:05 AM**                    **Interface Between Public Drainage and Public Waters Regulation: Status of the Current Framework, Minnesota DNR Guidance, and Friction Points**  
*John Kolb, Attorney, Rinke - Noonan Law Firm*
- 11:35 AM**                    **The Minnesota DNR Role in Review of Drainage and Repair Projects**  
*Nathan Kestner, Northwest Regional Manager, MN Dept. of Natural Resources*
- 12 NOON**                    **Lunch - Provided Onsite**
- 12:45 PM**                    **General Drainage System and Procedural Management**  
*Louis Smith, Attorney, Smith Partners Law Firm*  
*John Kolb, Attorney, Rinke - Noonan Law Firm*
- 1:45 PM**                    **The Red River Watershed Management Board Technical Advisory Committee: Working to Inform Drainage and Flood Mitigation Decisions**  
*Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering Incorporated*  
*Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Incorporated*  
*Blake Carlson, Engineer, WSN Engineering, Incorporated*  
*Chad Engels, Engineer, Moore Engineering Incorporated*
- 2:45 PM**                    **Refreshment Break**
- 3:00 PM**                    **Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project: Intersection of Drainage and Flood Damage Reduction Goals in an Urban Setting**  
*Myron Jesme, Administrator, Red Lake Watershed District*
- 3:30 PM**                    **The National Wetland Inventory Update: Its use by Red River Basin Drainage Authorities in Decision Making at the Local Level**  
*Doug Norris, Wetlands Program Coordinator, MN Dept. of Natural Resources*
- 4:00 PM**                    **Panel Discussion With All Presenters**
- 4:45 PM**                    **Conclusion**

## **Red Lake Watershed District - Administrators Report**

**January 23, 2020**

**Red River Watershed Management Board** – LeRoy and I attended the RRWMB meeting which will be held at 9:30 am on January 14<sup>th</sup> at the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Moorhead. I have included in your packet the summary of the meeting.

**37<sup>th</sup> Red River Basin Land and Water Institute Annual Conference** - LeRoy, Gene, Allan, Terry and I attended the RRB Land and Water Institute Annual Conference which started at 1:00 pm Tuesday January 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Delta Hotels Fargo. This conference ran through 1:00 pm Thursday and overall, I believe the sessions were good. I will let the Board members that attended chime in as they see fit.

**IT update** – Marco delivered the new Canon printer yesterday, so we are up and running on this technology.

**Bartlett Lake Management Plan** – Wednesday January 21st, Corey attended an all-day meeting at Northome City Hall to discuss problems, goals and actions that will be included in the plan. The MPCA brainstorming workshop with various LGU and State employees. This session was to get input from folks as to what worked and what didn't work in getting public participation for various Civic Engagement project.

**Pennington County Water Resource Advisory Committee** – Corey attended the Pennington County WRAC meeting at 9:00 am Monday January 13<sup>th</sup> at the Red Lake Watershed District Board Room.

**Red Lake River 1W1P** – RLR 1W1P Planning Workgroup met at 1:00 pm Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at the Pennington SWCD Board Room to finalize our workplan for submittal to BWSR. I was informed by the Peter Nelson yesterday that the workplan was submitted to BWSR for their review.

**RRWMB Drainage Conference** – Nick and I will be attending the RRWMB Drainage Conference Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead. I will be given a presentation as part of the afternoon session concerning the partnership and collaboration for the development and design of the Thief River Falls Westside FDR Project.

**Annual Audit Brady Martz** – Staff from Brady Martz will be on site for our annual audit on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 4 and 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Vacation** – I will be on vacation in Mexico starting the afternoon of February 3<sup>rd</sup> and will be gone through February 12<sup>th</sup>.



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## *Meeting Highlights – January 14, 2020*

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**1. Elections and Annual Reorganization:** The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) Managers held elections with all officers being re-elected in their current positions. Officers for 2020 are:

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| • John Finney, Joe River Watershed District      | President      |
| • Greg Holmvik, Wild Rice Watershed District     | Vice-president |
| • LeRoy Ose, Red Lake Watershed District         | Secretary      |
| • Jason Braaten, Roseau River Watershed District | Treasurer      |

Several resolutions were also passed as part of the annual reorganization related to regular meeting date and time, regular meeting location, legal counsel, per diem and mileage rate, invest/deposit of funds, and the annual audit. RRWMB meetings in 2020 will continue to be the third Tuesday of the Month but at 10:00 AM in Ada at the RRWMB office unless otherwise noted. RRWMB Committees were also reviewed, and it was determined that no changes were needed.

- 2. Bremer Bank Presentation:** Ron Mueller, President of Bremer Bank, Detroit Lakes office was in attendance and presented information related to current interest rates for CDs and money market accounts, deposit securities, and to answer general questions from the RRWMB Managers.
- 3. CD Maturity:** Based on current interest rate information from Bremer Bank, the RRWMB Managers determined that a soon to be maturing CD would not be re-invested into another CD. The Managers held discussion and it was Manager consensus that funds would be placed into current RRWMB reserves.
- 4. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Presentation:** Troy Daniell, State Conservationist for the Minnesota NRCS was in attendance and discussed several matters with the RRWMB Managers. Mr. Daniell provided information about current Minnesota NRCS activities and provided updates related to several Farm Bill programs and initiatives.
- 5. Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) Funding:** The Managers held discussion related to several funding requests by the RRBC related to the update to the Long-term Flood Solutions, the annual allocation to the RRBC, and an allocation to the RRBC for managing the Red River Watershed office complex in Fargo, North Dakota. RRWMB staff indicated that contracts and scopes of service for all the funding requests from the RRBC would be forthcoming in February 2020.
- 6. Next RRWMB Meeting:** Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 10:00 AM in Ada at the RRWMB office.