An Update of RRWMB Activities, Accomplishments, and Progress

2019 Joint Annual Conference
Red River Watershed Management Board and
Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

March 21, 2019
Marriott Hotel and Convention Center
Moorhead, MN
Discussion Topics

- RRWMB Reorganization
- Key Accomplishments in 2018
- Budgetary and Financial Information
- Legislative Activities
A Team Effort in 2018 and Beyond

- RRWMB Managers
- Watershed District Administrators and Boards
- Staff – Executive Director and Executive Assistant
- Legislative Liaison in St. Paul
- Red River Basin Coordinator – Joint Position with MN Department of Natural Resources
- Technical Advisory Committee
- Various Partners (RRBC, RRRA, FDRWG, RRJWRD, IJC, DNR, and Many More).
- Legal Counsel
- Auditing Firm
- Information Technology Firm
RRWMB Reorganization

Two Parts:

- Phase I:
  - Hire staff.
  - Establish a public office.

- Phase II:
  - Develop a strategic plan.
  - Implement the plan.
Reorganization Phase II

- Ongoing/Continued Outreach With Watershed Districts and County Commissioners in 2018 and Beyond
- Public Input Session at March 2018 Annual Conference
- April 2018 RRWMB Strategic Planning Meeting:
  - RRWMB Managers reaffirmed commitment to developing a strategic plan.
- October 2018 RRWMB Special Meeting Held
- Questionnaire Sent to all Watershed Districts in Late October 2018 to Obtain Input for Strategic Plan
Current Status of Reorganization Phase II as of 3/20/19

- Responses Received From 9 of 10 Watershed Districts Regarding Questionnaire
- RRWMB Discussing Criteria for Non-retention Flood Damage Reduction Projects and Water Quality
- RRWMB has Affirmed That Changes are Needed to the Governing Documents
- 4 Non-retention Flood Damage Reduction Projects Submitted to RRWMB for Funding Consideration Since June 2018
- Development/Finalization of Strategic Plan in 2019
RRWMB Mission

- To institute, 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.
Assist member Watershed Districts with the implementation of water related projects and programs. The purpose of these projects and programs is the reduction of local and mainstem flood damages, and also to enhance environmental and water resource management. Projects and programs must be of benefit to the Red River Basin and its member watershed districts in order to qualify for RRWMB funding.
Key Accomplishments in 2018

- Financial Accountability and Responsibility
- Transparency and Openness
- Communication and Outreach
- Responsiveness
- Legislative Efforts
Fiscal Accountability and Responsibility

- Internal Controls and Treasurers Policy Manual – August 2018
- Credit Card Policy – May 2018
- 2017 Annual Audit Posted on RRWMB Website
- Investment and Financial Services Reviewed Annually
- Bank Signers Reviewed and Updated Annually
- Annual Review of Board’s Insurances
- Close Watch of RRWMB Finances has Resulted in High ROI
- Limited use of Consultants
- Use of RFP Processes and Obtaining Quotes for Various Services
- Use of Contracts, Scopes of Work, and Resolutions When Funds are Dispersed for Projects and Initiatives
Transparency and Openness

- Establishment of a Public Office
- Regular Communication Between RRWMB Managers and Staff
- Continual Outreach to Member Watershed Districts, County Commissioners, and Partners
- Monthly Meeting Packets/Highlights Available on RRWMB Website and via Email
- Greater use of Social Media – Website, Constant Contact, and Facebook – Future use of Twitter?
- Budgetary and Financial Information Readily Available and Public
Transparency and Openness Continued

- Reinvigorated use of Internal RRWMB Committees, Processes, and Structure
- Rigorous Employee Performance Review Process Implemented
- Close Working Relationship Between RRWMB Treasurer and Staff
- Creation of Monthly Meeting Calendar
- Funding Commitments Spreadsheet Shared Monthly at RRWMB Meetings
Note – All RRWMB Tax Levy Funds Remain in the Red River Basin of Minnesota

Red River Watershed Management Board Member Watershed District Tax Levy Income Structure

Dollar Figures Based Upon 2018 Levies Member Watershed District ____% of Max RRWMB 100% of Max
# Budgetary Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUDGET CATEGORY</th>
<th>2019 Approved O. Budget</th>
<th>Approved 2018 O. Budget</th>
<th>2017 End of Year Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manager Expenses</td>
<td>$82,550</td>
<td>$115,000</td>
<td>$85,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Salary, Benefits, and Expenses</td>
<td>$253,588</td>
<td>$226,373</td>
<td>$138,253</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Operations</td>
<td>$54,000</td>
<td>$29,600</td>
<td>$22,034</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Services</td>
<td>$88,500</td>
<td>$83,000</td>
<td>$80,907</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legislative Efforts</td>
<td>$47,000</td>
<td>$130,750</td>
<td>$138,689</td>
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<td>Public Information and Outreach</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$53,500</td>
<td>$26,023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Services</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
<td>$135,502</td>
<td>$135,502</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Funding</td>
<td>$405,000</td>
<td>$399,867</td>
<td>$570,415</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total 2019 Operating Budget</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,075,638</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,173,592</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,246,202</strong></td>
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### Annual Programs Funded by the RRWMB (2018 Information)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$125,000</td>
<td>International Water Institute River Watch Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$32,000</td>
<td>Red River Retention Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$90,000</td>
<td>Red River Basin Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$118,535</td>
<td>USGS Stream Gaging</td>
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<tr>
<td>$365,535</td>
<td>Total:</td>
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### Additional Benefits From the RRWMB to all Member Watershed Districts Since 1998

**Note** – This data was compiled based on historic and current information that is available. The RRWMB will continue to further refine this data and information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Dollar Amount</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lobbying Services – 2018</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>For All Member Watershed Districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobbying Services – 2017 (Approximate)</td>
<td>$120,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobbying/Project Coordination</td>
<td>$993,223</td>
<td>2006 – 20016</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIDAR</td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
<td>For Entire US Portion of Red River Basin – All Member WDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Watch</td>
<td>$950,000</td>
<td>Since 2010 for All Members WDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red River Coordinator Position</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>Since 1999 – For All Member WDs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Runoff Based Assessment Model</td>
<td>$117,087</td>
<td>For All Member WDs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basin Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee</td>
<td>$100,696</td>
<td>For All Member WDs</td>
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<td>Project Planning Tool</td>
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<tr>
<td>USGS Stream Flow Monitoring</td>
<td>????</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benefit Cost Analysis</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>For All Member WDs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,069,164</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item</td>
<td>Dollar Amount</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Tools Such As Prioritize, Target, and Measure Application</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>For All Member WDs</td>
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<tr>
<td>(PTMAp)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Engineering Studies and Hydrologic and Hydraulic Models</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>For All Member WDs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Model WD Rules</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>For All Member WDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drainage Guidelines</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>For All Member WDs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unified Voice – DWG, RRRA, RRBC, Etc. Yearly Allocations to RRRA</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>For All Member WDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and RRBC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACOE – Feasibility Study and Comp Watershed Plan</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>For All Member WDs</td>
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<tr>
<td>McCombs Study</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>For All Member WDs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-term Flood Solutions Study</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>For All Member WDs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red River Basin EIS/Lawsuit</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>For All Member WDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>Continuing to Refine Data.</td>
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</table>

Note – This data has not yet been compiled.
NOTE – The RRWMB is in the process of updating this data and information.

45 Projects Constructed Since 1976 by Member Watershed Districts

11 Projects Currently in the RRWMB Funding Process

20 Projects Originally in the RRCP Process in MN and ND
FUNDING OF RED RIVER BASIN FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECTS IN MINNESOTA BY THE RRWMB PRIOR TO 2019

- State of Minnesota Funds: 49%
- Funds Provided by the RRWMB: 26%
- Local Watershed District Funds: 12%
- Other Funding Sources: 13%
MN Flood Hazard Mitigation Funding (Bonding) 2008–2017

Total state expenditures
WD projects = ~ $32.5 M
Responsiveness

- One Cornerstone of Reorganization
- Quick Response Times to Members
- Member Watershed Districts are a Priority
- Partner Organizations are Critical and Important
- Increased and Frequent Communication
- Outreach Efforts Enhanced
Services Provided to Members

- State and Federal Lobbying Efforts
- Unified Voice for Various Issues and Efforts
- Tracking of Permit and Regulatory Processes
- Financial Resources for Flood Damage Reduction Projects
- Coordination of Legal Services for Issues Affecting all Members
- Funding for Water Quality Studies, Research Initiatives, Modeling, and Engineering Efforts That Benefit all Members
- Participation in Regional Planning Efforts (Comp. Watershed Mgmt. Plan for RRB)
- Coordinated Education and Outreach Initiatives
- Implementation and Coordination of the 1998 Mediation Agreement With FDRWG
- Stream Gaging Coordination With USGS
Communication and Outreach Strategy Developed and Approved in 2018

- Booth Materials and Equipment Purchased
- Attendance at MAWD, Prairie Grains, Big Iron, and RRBC Annual Conferences and Events
- Various Factsheets, Brochures, and Outreach Materials Developed
- Presentations Made to Watershed Districts and County Commissioners: How the RRWMB Levy Works, Budget, and Finances
- Greater Coordination With MAWD and Partners
- RRWMB Website is an Important Communication Tool
RRWMB Legislative Committee Formed

Input Obtained From Members on 2018 Legislative Funding and Policy Priorities

RRWMB Lobby Efforts – Resulted in $20 Million for Statewide Flood Hazard Mitigation

Advanced RRWMB Interests on the Drainage Work Group

Defeated Legislation That Would Have Stripped WDs of Current Authority

Commented on Rules Related to Tiered Aquatic Life Use and Environmental Review
Key Considerations

- Reduced State Funding Over Time
- Federal Requirements for Funding
- Continuance and Maintenance of RRWMB Core Focus on Flood Damage Reduction While:
  - Protecting Public and Private Infrastructure in Urban and Rural Areas
  - Further incorporating Natural Resources Enhancements (NREs)
  - Addressing Water Quality and Habitat Issues
2018 – The RRWMB Managers:

- Had a Challenging Year
- Addressed Many Governance, Policy, Organizational, and Operational Issues
- Were Patient With all the Change
- Adjusted to new Staff, Process, and Procedure
- Focused on the Future
- Worked Through Conflict
2019 – The RRWMB Will Continue To:

- Work on Governance and Operational Issues
- Be Responsive, Open, Transparent and Fiscally Responsible
- Focus on the Future, the Basin, its Members, and Partners
- Develop a Strategic Plan
Parting Thoughts

- The RRWMB is Uniquely Prepared to Meet Goals of Various Local, State, Federal, Regional and International Plans Related to Water Storage, Habitat and Water Quality

- The Red River Basin Framework:
  - RRWMB Funding, Project Evaluation Form, and Star Value Process
  - 1998 Mediation Agreement
  - Flood Damage Reduction Work Group
  - Project Readiness Form
  - Project Acceleration Grants
  - Project Team Support

- Red River Basin Held to a Higher Standard Than Rest of State

- More Prepared to Receive State and Federal Funds Than Remainder of MN

- Much Unfinished Work Left With Protecting Public and Private Infrastructure in Rural Areas, NREs, Water Quality, and Habitat
Thank You