1998 Red River Basin Mediation Agreement –
History and current perspectives

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Past challenges / opportunities

- Historic battles over water management and environmental permitting resulted in an joint Federal-State Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- Disagreement over the EIS resulted in a legislative directive and funding to mediate the conflict.
- 12 months of meetings resulted in the Red River Mediation Agreement. 1998.
- Established consensus-based process
Mediation Agreement:

FDRWG Structure

- FDR Work Group
- Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC)
- Watershed-based Project Teams (PTs)
Mediation Agreement:

FDRWG Process

- Engage people at the “problem” stage not the “project” stage.
- Consensus-based decision making
- Use interagency work teams to develop and evaluate alternatives.
- Advocate/promote/develop watershed based approaches to water and NR management.
- Comprehensive Watershed Plans
Red River Mediation Agreement

- Signed by 20+ parties in December, 1998.
- Outlined a watershed based approach to flood damage reduction (FDR) and natural resource enhancement (NRE).
- Recommended a “problem solving” approach to develop comprehensive solutions.
- Directed work to watershed based multidisciplinary “project teams”.
Flood Damage Reduction Goals

- Prevent loss of human life
- Prevent damage to structures, homes, communities (100 yr)
- Reduce damage to farm land (10 yr summer storm event, more if at minimal cost)
- Reduce damage to transportation, water quality, social and economic factors
Natural Resource Goals

- Manage streams for natural characteristics
- Enhance flow regimes in streams for water supply, water quality, recreation.
- Provide recreational opportunities
- Improve water quality
- Protect groundwater
- Manage lakes for natural characteristics
RRWMB and member districts - Existing Projects (retention & water management)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Ac-Feet</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brandt-Angus</td>
<td>3,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N Ottawa</td>
<td>18,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay Creek</td>
<td>13,826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross #7</td>
<td>4,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Euclid East</td>
<td>2,443</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brandt Imp-AR</td>
<td>3,912</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agassiz Valley</td>
<td>11,270</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>57,361</strong></td>
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**Flood Damage Reduction Projects 1995 - 2016**

Red River Basin

[Map of Red River Basin with project locations marked]
### Projects in development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roseau River Watershed</th>
<th>Wild Rice River Watershed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roseau WMA</td>
<td>Lower Wild Rice River Corridor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitney Lake</td>
<td>Green Meadow Watershed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Roseau Watershed</td>
<td>South Branch Wild Rice (not yet started)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roseau Lake</td>
<td>Moccasin Creek Watershed (not yet started)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Two Rivers Watershed</strong></td>
<td><strong>Buffalo River Watershed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Klondike Impoundment</td>
<td>Wolverton Creek Rehabilitation</td>
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<td><strong>Red Lake Watershed</strong></td>
<td>Barnesville Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four-legged Lake</td>
<td>Lower Otter Tail River Corridor</td>
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<td>Pine Lake</td>
<td>Upper South Branch Buffalo</td>
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<td><strong>Sand Hill Watershed</strong></td>
<td>Stony Creek Detention</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper Sand Hill ?</td>
<td><strong>Bois de Sioux Watershed</strong></td>
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<td>Direct to the Red &amp; Redpath</td>
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Continuing Challenges With Project Development

- Too many meetings without results
- Loss of momentum during process
- Unclear roles and responsibilities of PT members & Watershed District
- Focus on project rather than problem
- Poorly defined problem(s)
- Environmental Review & Permitting Uncertainty
- Land availability
In the year 2040...
Project Development Steps

- Identify Problem
- Set goals/objectives
- Consider and screen alternatives
- Establish preferred alternative
- Make recommendation to WD board
- Secure lands, funding, and permits
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Minnesota Annual Precipitation Trends

Minnesota, Precipitation, January-December

- Binomial Filter
- 1895-2014 Trend (+0.25"/Decade)
- 1901-2000
- Avg: 25.98"
- Precip

Graph showing annual precipitation trends in inches and millimeters from 1900 to 2010.
MN Flood Hazard Mitigation Funding (bonding) (2008 - 2017)

Total state expenditures WD projects = ~ $32.5 M
Multipurpose projects

- Flood Damage Reduction – Local Watershed
- Flood Damage Reduction – Red River Mainstem
- Sedimentation/Erosion
- Water Quality Improvements
- Altered Hydrology
- Wildlife Habitat
- Recreation
- Other, Other, Other,…
- Combined Benefits of Distributed Detention Strategy (Multipurpose)

Funded Locally

Other Funding Sources

GREAT SCOTT!!
IT’S THE FUTURE!!
- Reduced flood damages
- Improved water management
- Landscape which is more resilient to climate trends
- Protect agricultural productivity
- Improved surface water quality
- Protected groundwater
- Improved and protected stream habitats
- Improved and protected uplands and wetland habitats
- Stronger partnerships
Questions ?

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