The following resolution was adopted at the regular Board meeting on December 16, 2014:

The RRWMB agrees with the conclusions and recommendations put forth in the RRRA BTSAC Briefing Paper No. 3: “Water Management Options for Surface Drainage.”

The RRWMB agrees that the potential adverse impacts of surface drainage, related to both timing and volume increase, can be minimized by a universal surface drainage design that balances design capacities of both channels and culverts. Design of surface drainage should be based on the philosophy of “Adequate and Equitable” where “Adequate” refers to the amount of agricultural drainage provided by a given surface drainage system and the acknowledgment that Red River Basin landowners have the right to adequate, but not more than adequate drainage, in accordance with drainage and reasonable use laws. “Equitable” refers to the equal distribution of positive and negative effects of agricultural surface drainage throughout the drainage system and the entire Red River Basin.

The RRWMB supports a basin-wide comprehensive surface drainage management strategy that includes:

1) **Uniform Surface Drainage Design:**
   - The design guidance should be considered when permitting or improving both public and private surface drainage systems in agricultural areas of the Red River Basin.
   - Every available opportunity should be utilized to retrofit existing Red River Basin drainage systems using this design guidance.
   - Where the design guidance cannot be applied, other means to mitigate flood damages should be implemented in the watershed.

2) **Flood Storage:** Flood storage can also further reduce flood damages in drainage systems where the design guidance is applied. Although there are many types of floodwater storage, the most effective are those with “gated” outlet structures that are strategically located and have the capacity to store floodwaters until they can be released without adding to flood damages downstream. Gated storage is preferred over ungated storage.

3) **Maintain Non-Contributing Areas:** Drainage of noncontributing areas should be discouraged wherever possible. If non-contributing areas are drained, other strategies to mitigate the additional downstream flow contribution (e.g. temporary floodwater storage)
4) **Subsurface Drainage Management:** The RRWMB reaffirms the subsurface management recommendations to mitigate flood impacts from subsurface drainage systems including the installation and operation of controls to increase temporary storage during flood events whenever possible (BTSAC 2012).

5) **Outreach and Education Strategy:** Establish and fund an outreach strategy that promotes comprehensive water management practices in the Red River Basin through the adoption of the RRWMB recommendations for surface (and subsurface) drainage. The outreach strategy should include efforts to engage the respective audience groups:
   - Local Water Managers (Watershed and Water Resource Districts, and Counties)
   - Landowners
   - Drainage Engineers
   - Local and State Road Authorities and Engineers
   - Public/Media