1:00 Introductions and Review Agenda (Greg/Jerome)

1:05 Review and approve November 16 meeting notes (Greg/Jerome)
   - Review action items
   - Review status of FY16 objectives

1:15 Budget Update (Naomi)

1:25 Committee Updates
   - Project Team Handbook update
   - Project Readiness form update
   - Legislative and Farm Bill funding related issues (Ron H.)
   - TSAC update
   - March Conference
   - Communications team

1:45 Update on RCPP small watershed planning and discussion of the role of project teams in the process (Keith Weston, NRCS)

2:10 Watershed District Updates

2:30 Agency and Organization Updates

2:45 Project Updates – Roseau River Watershed and Red Lake Watershed Projects

3:20 Other Items

3:30 Adjourn
These meeting notes are provided as a record for this meeting. **Action Items are indicated in bold italicized text.**

Work Group members present: Greg Nelson, Jerome Deal, Keith Weston, Eddie Bernhardson, Gerry VanAmburg, LeRoy Carriere, Bruce Nelson, Rob Sip, Brian Dwight, Brian Lacey, Dan Wilkens, Ken Pederson, Jim Ziegler, Ryan Frohling.

Guests present: Dave Leuthe, John Jaschke, Henry Van Offelen, Dan Thul, Naomi Goral, Tracy Halstensgard, Chad Engels, Nate Dalager, Blake Carlson, Brett Arne, Pete Waller, Chuck Fritz, Riley Maanum, Craig Jarnot, Larry Puchalski, Kevin Ruud, Nick Brown, Ron Harnack, Steve Hofstad, Erik Jones

**Introductions and Review Agenda.** Meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.

**Update on issues related to buffer legislation.** John Jaschke and Dave Leuthe gave presentations on the current status of issues related to the buff legislation. DNR is working through multiple phases of a project to map the areas which will require buffers. BWSR is working with local governments to increase awareness of issues and LGU responsibilities under the new law (slideshow handout in post-meeting packet).

Review and approve August 19, 2015 meeting notes. Highlights of the August meeting notes were reviewed and approved. The action items from this meeting were to get a project monitoring update scheduled and to meet with the USACE to resolve issues related to outstanding CP3 documents. Henry provided an update on the status of FY16 objectives. A project monitoring update will be part of the March Conference.

**FY 16 expenditure and budget details**
- FY16 – Quarter one expense requests will be sent out soon

**Watershed District Project Team Updates**
The watershed update handout was distributed, reviewed, and updated as needed during the meeting. Generally, most project team activities are on hold pending signed agreements with NRCS to move forward on PL-566 planning under the RCPP.

**Agency and Organization Updates**
The agency and organization update sheet was distributed, reviewed, and updated as needed during the meeting.

**Committee Updates**
• PT handbook – Will likely move forward in FY 2106
• Project Readiness – The team met in August and continues to update the form. Target completion at March Conference.
• Communications Team – Rob Sip provided an update. Much of the work of the group is on planning the March Conference.
• March Conference – The group continues to develop an agenda for the meeting and a series of workshops. Additional input and ideas should be sent to Henry.
• Legislative Update – Ron’s monthly report was provided in the meeting packet.
• TSAC – no progress has been made in completing the project assessment project.
• Planning for December 9 meeting with Prairie Grains Conference. Rob, Henry, and Riley are working on pulling together the agenda for the December 9 meeting. This meeting will be an outreach effort to further engage the agricultural community in issues related to water management in the Red River basin.

Points of Concurrence Update
Chuck, Henry, and Ron met with Tamara, Tim Smith, and Ben Cox at the end of October. The meeting included a discussion of the current projects in concurrence point review (Roseau WMA, Roseau Lake, Green Meadow) and development of a list of specific tasks to improve coordination and communications through the points of concurrence process.

Other Items
• Roseau Lake Accelerated implementation. Tracy and Nate presented the acceleration grant form to the group. The acceleration grant was approved for $10,000.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:00
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<th>Objective</th>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Committee / Support</th>
<th>Status &amp; Expected Completion</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Schedule and coordinate six work group meetings</td>
<td>Henry</td>
<td>Naomi</td>
<td>February is meeting 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Create quarterly update project development tracking table</td>
<td>Henry</td>
<td>WD administrators</td>
<td>Remains a work in progress. Will complete for March Conference.</td>
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<td>4. Review and update financial protocols as needed</td>
<td>Henry &amp; Naomi</td>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
<td>A new system is in place to make FY 16 reporting easier.</td>
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<td>5. Develop Communications Plan</td>
<td>To be determined.</td>
<td>Communication Committee</td>
<td>Ongoing.</td>
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<td>6. Update the work group website and maintain</td>
<td>To be determined.</td>
<td>Communication Committee</td>
<td>Ongoing.</td>
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<td>7. Produce annual report to legislature</td>
<td>Henry &amp; Naomi</td>
<td>Communication Committee</td>
<td>FY15 year-end report not complete.</td>
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<td>8. Plan and implement March Conference</td>
<td>Henry &amp; Naomi</td>
<td>Conference Planning Committee</td>
<td>Planning ongoing</td>
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<td>9. Review and update PT handbook</td>
<td>Henry</td>
<td>New Committee - WD administrator, DNR and BWSR PT members</td>
<td>Readiness form almost done. Now “project status”.</td>
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<td>10. Update project readiness form</td>
<td>Brian</td>
<td>Dan Thul, Jim Ziegler, WD administrator, Ron Harnack</td>
<td>Almost complete.</td>
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<td>11. Incorporate lessons learned from Green Meadow process into PT handbook</td>
<td>Henry, Brian, Chuck</td>
<td>Jerry, Kevin</td>
<td>Report complete. March Conference workshop item.</td>
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<td>12. Hold early coordination meetings with USACE as needed</td>
<td>Henry</td>
<td>WD administrators, consultants</td>
<td>Ongoing - Regular communication has started.</td>
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<td>13. Update project monitoring protocols</td>
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<td>WQ update complete. TSAC work on other areas.</td>
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<td>14. Develop project monitoring guidance document, educate PT members</td>
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<td>TSAC still needs to work on this.</td>
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<td>15. Host one TSAC meeting</td>
<td>Henry</td>
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<td>Complete. Another one to be scheduled.</td>
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<td>16. Conduct and complete FDR project assessment work</td>
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Mediation Income/Expense FY2016
Red River Watershed Management Board
RED RIVER BASIN FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION WORK GROUP

FY 2016 Budget
Minnesota’s Flood Damage Reduction Work Group is working to ensure the full implementation of the 1998 Mediation Agreement. This spending plan identifies sufficient funds to continue a reasonable level of planning, project development, coordination, and oversight of the project team process.

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<td>TSAC: Coordination and projects</td>
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<td>Work Group Meetings and Conference</td>
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<td>Communications and Outreach</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**Wednesday**

**Purpose:** Provide Educational Opportunities to those engaged in watershed management in the Red River Basin

9:00 – Noon  **Workshop 1:** Drainage Workshop (schedule attached)

12:00  Lunch (Served in Salon G, Grand Ballroom)

1:00 – 4:00  **Workshop 2:** Watershed district managers and SWCD supervisor’s orientation. (description attached)

2:30 – 4:00  **Workshop 3:** Increasing Project Team Efficiency and Effectiveness (description attached)

5:30 – 8:30  **Social** (Cash Bar and Snacks)

*Poster Session for Watershed Districts, Counties, and Agencies*

**Thursday**

**Purpose:** Provide updates on ongoing activities and accomplishments related to the Red River mediation process

8:00  Breakfast (Red River Valley Breakfast Buffet – Salon G)

9:00  Welcome Greg Nelson, MDNR; and Jerome Deal, RRWMB

9:05  Red River Basin Water Quality Improvement: Status and stressors of Red River Basin water quality, effects of watershed projects, and what actions are needed to meet basin wide goals (Jim Courneya, MPCA; Danni Halvorson, IWI; Jeff Lewis, RRBC)

10:05  Watershed District Updates:

- Bois de Sioux
- Roseau River

10:25  Break

10:45  LiDAR data and tools for use in watershed planning, targeted implementation, and runoff-based drainage assessment. (Charles Fritz, IWI; Henry Van Offelen, DNR)
11:45  Watershed District Updates:
   • Buffalo Red River
   • Two Rivers

12:05  Lunch (Served in Salon G, Grand Ballroom)

1:00   One Watershed One Plan – Red Lake River update (Matt Fischer, SWCD representative)

1:15   NRCS PL-566 planning and engagement in the Red River Basin (Cathee Pullman, Keith Weston)

1:45   Watershed District Updates:
   • Wild Rice River
   • Middle, Snake, Tamarac River

2:05   Grant opportunities for project development: Overview and timelines (BWSR, DNR)

2:15   Break

2:30   Flood Damage Work Group: 2016 objectives and project development calendar (Greg Nelson, DNR, Jerome Deal, RRWMB)

2:45   Watershed District Updates:
   • Sand Hill River
   • Red Lake River

3:05   Best Practices for Effective Public Outreach (Daron Selvig, AE2S/RRWMB)

3:25   Minnesota Buffer Law Update (DNR, BWSR)

3:45   Wrap up and Adjourn: Jerome Deal, RRWMB

Please register for the conference in advance to help us prepare for the meeting.
There is no fee for this conference.
February 12, 2016

Report to RRWMB

**ACTIVITY**

1. **Bonding Update:** I have attached a spreadsheet of the projects that have been submitted for bonding with a timeframe for when the funds would be needed. I have also attached a spread sheet developed by DNR with my input that shows all the projects for which money has been requested. Kent has also started to put a priority A, B, C on the community projects, but has not done so for the water management projects. Kent also asked what the RRWMB priorities would be and I gave him some initial thoughts, and said that was on the agenda for the February meeting in TRFs. The Governor’s recommendation (sent to each of the WDs previously) for FDR is only $3.5M with Montevideo and Halstad being listed. However, using DNR’s current list for projects $17+ million is needed for FY 2017 and an equal amount for FY2018 assuming all these projects fall into line as envisioned by the sponsors. From my perspective some of these are a bit aggressive. Think about what you would consider “A” priorities for the next year and the second year. I believe that something between minimum of $18 to $26 million as a final outcome is what we need to promote. This is envisioned as a two year bond cycle, however, I can remember only one year in the last several when there has not been an annual bonding bill. I will bring copies of statewide needs and the needs of the RRWMB.

2. **WCA Rule Update:** I attended the initial stakeholder meeting for updating the WCA rules. BWSR staff went through the new legislation and highlighted the changes and threw out some ideas for the group to chew on and discuss. I think that the establishment of high priority areas for mitigation and the in-lieu-fee are the most important elements as they will set the framework for crediting and the crediting ratios for mitigation. These also provide the greatest opportunity for the RRV and our water management projects to provide mitigation credits.

3. **Buffers Update:** The Governor has conceded on the buffering of private ditches within the assessed are of public drainage systems. To ensure that is sustained legislative clarification is needed. In addition to that from recent meetings with Ray Bohn, AMC, MASWCD and the Mn Rural Counties other issues of clarification have been raised as well. Some of those include:

   - **Withholding of State Funds:** There needs to be clarification that the funds eligible to be withheld if a local government is determined to be non implementing are limited to “BWSR buffer” funds. Without this clarification LGUs would be at risk of having FDR funds; LSOHC funds; CWFs; LGA funds; etc impounded.

   - **“With Jurisdiction”:** How is “with jurisdiction” to be interpreted? Subd. 7. Corrective actions.(a) If the soil and water conservation district determines a landowner is not
in compliance with this section, the district must, in cooperation with the county and watershed district determine if the county or watershed district has jurisdiction relating to landowner compliance and formally notify the county or watershed district with jurisdiction over the noncompliant site. The county or watershed district that has jurisdiction or has assumed jurisdiction, must provide the landowner with a list of corrective actions needed to come into compliance and a practical timeline to meet the requirements in this section. The county or watershed district with jurisdiction must provide a copy of the corrective action notice to the board. If the county or watershed district does not have jurisdiction the SWCD must provide BWSR the information regarding landowner non compliance.

To help with this issue of jurisdiction it would be appropriate for each of the counties, WDs, cities, townships, to notify BWSR that they are assuming jurisdiction under 103F.48. If there has been no notification to BWSR it would be assumed that the local government HAS NOT assumed jurisdiction. This could be clarified in legislation as well since no one state agency has clear responsibility over implementation of 103F.48. BWSR has local water planning; DNR has shoreland and MPCA has storm water. That said BWSR which has all the appropriate agencies as members could provide clear direction without legislation.

- **Exemptions/Waivers to the Buffers Law:** "(7) covered by a county or watershed district 103E redetermination of benefits action by the drainage authority; including adoption by the drainage authority of a comprehensive plan for the gradual redetermination of all ditches no later than December 31, 2025." The same might be appropriate where a DA initiates a plan to get buffers on all public drainage systems using 103E.021 Subd. 6. **Incremental implementation of vegetated ditch buffer strips and side inlet controls.** In addition appropriate bonding funds for DAs to acquire the buffer on public drainage systems. Taking of lands w/o compensation has been an issue raised by many landowners.

- **Private Ditches:** On public drainage systems buffers of 16.5 only apply to ditches of the public drainage system, NOT all ditches within the public drainage system. The Governor has conceded this, however, it should be clear in the legislation.

Sec 2 Subd 3 (2) should be amended to read " for public drainage systems established under 103E, a 16.5 foot minimum width continuous buffer of perennially rooted vegetation on ditches (delete "within the benefitted area") of the public drainage systems."
• **Public Waters Inventory:** Clarify that public waters shall be limited to those waters that are on the public waters inventory as provided in section 103G.201. { amend the definition "public waters" by adding "The term "public waters" as used in this section shall apply to waters that are on the public waters inventory as provided in section 103G.201"}

• **Local Water Plan Updates:** Updating local water plans under subd 4: The current language is vague as to time frame for incorporating into local water plans and the current process for amendment of plans is time consuming and costly for both the local government and the state.

  Therefore, provide legislative clarification by amending the last sentence of the subd as follows: " A local water management authority that receives a summary of watercourses ID'd under this subd must, as part of the next regularly scheduled plan update, revise its comprehensive local water management plan or comprehensive watershed management plan to incorporate the swcd recommendations."

Please review and let me know any additional thoughts regarding these issues.

4. **404 Update:** Nothing more since the last update.

5. **Wetland Mitigation Credits on RRV Water Management Projects:** We have all talked about “Why do we not get credits for all the wetlands that we establish as part of the projects that we build?” The primary reason is that we DO NOT follow the process to get us eligible for wetland credits when we start the projects. I would suggest that we have the wetland banking specialist with BWSR make a presentation at the annual conference. It should also be the responsibility of the BWSR person on the PT to bring this issue to the attention of the PT. Wetland credits do not just happen, there is a very clear process that all wetland banking proponents need to follow and for us the PT is the perfect place. We cannot complain if we ignore the process. Well we can but!

6. **BTAG:** BTAG, Border Township Associative Group represents 4 townships and Oslo in Mn and the adjacent 3 township in ND. The BTAG goal is to promote greater flood free access upstream and downstream of and including Oslo; provide more equitable agricultural protection for MN and ND interests; establish an enhanced floodway that provides for more efficient flows including the removal of floodway and stream obstructions. They acknowledge that actions cannot increase downstream flood peaks and durations, however, believe jointly the two sides of the river can improve things. The MSTRWD, Dan Thul and Randy G and been working with the group and legislators from both sides to fund some modeling to look at options. That funding is estimated at $375K with ½ from ND and ½ from MN. In ND 30% of the ND share would be from the NDSWC and the balance from the local water boards and/or townships. In MN we are requesting the MN ½ from the legislature.
However, BTAG has asked if the RRWMB and the MSTRWD would share in the MN funding. I suggested that such a request to the RRWMB would need to come through the MSTRWD.

7. **MAWD LEGISLATIVE DAYS:** Wednesday March 30 & Thursday March 31 @ Embassy Suites, 175 10th St E, St Paul, MN 55101. I am planning again to have a joint meeting with the Capital Investment Chairs and our legislators to promote our bonding needs for the next two years. Time and location still to be determined. I will let you know more details as I get them confirmed. Many of you also want to meet individually with your respective legislators and please do that as one on one communication is important.

That’s all for now. See you all on Tuesday.
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Bois de Sioux

The North Ottawa Project is nearing final completion! About all that is left is to complete the punch list of minor details. Watch for the announcement of a dedication ceremony in the spring/summer 2016.

PT meetings and alternatives analysis in the Bois de Sioux Watershed District are temporarily on hold until we obtain NRCS Agreements for the PL-566 planning funds. The board will analyze the agreement language before acting on entering those agreements. We have received one of three agreements that we are expecting. Slow moving.

Buffalo – Red

Since 11/16/15, the BRRWD’s PT met on 12/10/15 and 01/28/16. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 1:30 PM in the Barnesville Watershed Office. The funding search for the Wolverton Creek Restoration Project continues, possible sources include EQIP, LSOHC, LCCMR, and BWSR’s Targeted Watershed Program. The BRRWD intends to apply for all of the grants. Locally, we will be developing a “water management district” in accordance with M.S.A. 103D.729, to provide for local match funds for the State and Federal grants.

We continue to make progress on the Stony Creek Comprehensive Project, which will include an 8,000 acre-foot off-channel retention area, restoration of the channel (Clay C.D. No. 31), an off-channel levee system, and a redetermination of benefits for the ditch system. We are working with the landowners, who have expressed interest in the project and impoundment. An initial review of the dam by the DNR’s Dam Safety Division, classified the structure as “high hazard”. We continue to work with the DNR, with hopes that they will lower their classification. The BRRWD continues to research easement values, which the Board has not updated/reviewed since the early 1980’s, when cropland easement values were set at $800/acre. HEI recently completed a RRWMB Star Value calculations for this site, to determine how possible RRWMB membership/funding might impact the O&M.

Regarding the Barnesville Township Comprehensive Project, teleconference calls were held several weeks ago with Nustar Energy and Magellan Pipeline Companies who both have lines that traverse through the project area. Initially, they are not opposed to short term water storage or embankment placement over their lines. Once easement values are determined, a meeting will be held with the potential off-channel impoundment landowners.

Plans for the South Branch of the Buffalo River in Wilkin County have taken another turn, with the current focus looking at a potential river restoration east of T.H. No. 9. Most of the lands in this area are enrolled in various permanent conservation programs. A recently enrolled 480 parcel in RIM is being looked at for retention. The BRRWD will meet with representatives from the LSOHC to see if they would support a comprehensive project for this area, possibly relaxing some of their funding restrictions currently placed on RIM.

We intend to hold a series of three landowner informational meetings/forums before spring’s field work to discuss the history of the BRRWD, fdr/nre goals per planning region, review of the draft RWMP, and possible funding sources for fdr work, including possible membership in the RRWMB, and the associated membership costs. A tour for PT members and BRRWD landowners, especially those having lands involved with potential retention areas, of the North Ottawa Project developed by the Bois de Sioux WSD is tentatively scheduled for April 8th.
The BRRWD has put in place a system to deal with the new Bufferstrip Legislation and the 84 legal drainage systems under their jurisdiction. Research will be done on the R/W of record, legal surveying to determine R/W needs, hearings, posting, seeding, and finally recording of the R/W.

The BRRWD is in the process of updating their Rules. We’re currently reviewing the “draft” documents, which include new provisions to regulate/control sub-surface drainage (tiling), with downstream triggers for operation of tile.

At present, the BRRWD still has a seat at the table regarding development of the F-M Diversion Project. A new Joint Powers Agreement is being developed, and it remains to be seen whether or not the BRRWD will be a signer to that document. Aspects of the project remain very controversial, primarily, the proposed upstream staging area. Many feel that the project needs to follow the proper development steps, such as landowner negotiations, environmental review, and permitting, before construction begins. The Diversion Authority did fund our Phase 1 (preliminary study) applications for the Stony Creek, Barnesville Township, and South Branch of the Buffalo River retention areas.

**Wild Rice**
We received a PL-566 agreement that had errors in it, which was sent back with corrections from our side. We have not received any of the other two for the RCPP process.

Goose Prairie EAW process has been completed and a meeting was held with various agencies to put together a process with timelines to keep this moving forward. This information was presented to the Board at their meeting on the 10th of February.

**Red Lake**
Our two PWT were on hold until final documentation was completed for the NRCS RCPP grant agreements. I am glad to report that as of February 10, 2016 both Four Legged Lake and Pine Lake Watershed Grants have been approved and executed by the NRCS. As required by the RCPP funding, the RLWD Board of Managers is in the review process of an agreement with HDR Engineering Inc. which outlines a Task #2 plan as we move forward with Pine Lake Watershed. It is assumed we will be moving forward with the same agreement for Four Legged Lake Watershed.

To date we have scheduled a Project Team meeting for Pine Lake Watershed at 9:30 am, March 11, 2016 at the District office and have yet to schedule and Project Team meeting for Four Legged Lake.

**Sand Hill**
The district continues to work with DNR and West Polk SWCD on the modifications to the drop structures on the Sand Hill River and to install riffles for water quality and habitat enhancement.

**Middle Snake Tamarac.**
**Judicial Ditch #19 – East Park WMA (RCPP Project)** - John Williams, Keith Mykleseth, and Ruth Ann Franke of the DNR met with the MSTRWD Board on November 16, 2015. They distributed a handout titled *Opportunities for Increasing Flood Damage Reduction Benefits at the East Park WMA*. The discussion led to the most practical option identified for a future FDR project.

District staff added that they have contacted a landowner on the east side of the project who is willing to work with the District to explore allowing storage on the property. The natural lay of the land, proximity to the JD #19 system and East Park WMA should allow for good storage capabilities.
**Judicial Ditch #14 – Lilac Ridge (RCPP Project)** - Discussions in 2014 led to interest from 2 landowners for a future FDR project. Meetings with NRCS staff identified wetlands, fens and storage capabilities in the area. Recently District staff have identified another landowner who has shown interest in a storage project. If this new interest would work, restoration of a segment of the South Branch of the Snake River would be reviewed.

Floodwater storage has a downstream benefit to another system. Marshall County Ditch #22, which receives JD #14 water via the South Branch of the Snake River, experiences aggradation, slope damages and bank overtopping is a frequent occurrence before the flow reaches the Snake River.

An important goal for the MSTRWD Board would be to provide enough floodwater storage to allow for a ridge culvert in the JD #14 system to be lowered. Several upstream miles of ditch are currently at a 0.02% grade. Lowering the ridge culvert would allow for regrading of upstream reaches of the ditch to help minimize flood damages. Landowner support in the upper end of the system for a project is quite strong.

**Swift Coulee** - A Project Work Team was formed for the Swift Coulee in 2009. Due to another project elsewhere having been promoted by a majority of landowners, Swift Coulee was put on hold. The MSTRWD Board has now directed a February 18th Informational Meeting to be held. A project in the Swift Coulee area should be supported by downstream landowners in the overburdened Marshall County Ditch #3 system, which receives most of its flow from the Swift.

This Protected Water suffers from aggradation, several miles are overwhelmed with cattails and brush which causes flows to leave the channel. Numerous locations of water overtopping the channel causes damages to roads and infrastructure. A combination of storage, channel restoration, and set back levees will need to be reviewed.

**Two Rivers**

Our project team has not met in quite some time. We have been waiting on the NRCS – RCPP – PL566 agreements for over 2 months

**Joe River**

**Roseau River**

**RRWMA Project:** Met with DNR in December to plan next steps. We are working on the Joint Powers Agreement with the DNR and hope to begin the clearing this winter. A bid package will be put together in March or April.

**Beltrami Project:** We are waiting to sign contracts with NRCS for the RCPP funding.

**Lake Bottom:** A Project Team meeting was held in January. Right now it looks as though this project will be included in the LSOHC Bill presented to the legislature for $2.65 million. Working on concurrence points 1 and 2.

**Whitney Lake Sub-watershed:** The Districts application to the RRRA for RCPP funding for this project area was approved. There are several water management issues we would be addressing in this planning process.
Agency and Organization Updates  
February 16, 2016 - FDR Work Group meeting

**BWSR**

- **Targeted Watershed Grants:** The Request for Information (nomination) for target Watershed grant is now open until March 9th. 3 to 12 nominations will be awarded. $8 plus million. Available

- **1W1P planning:** 1W1P pilot planning projects are in their final stages. With this the 1W1P pilots will be done and the program goes live. Watch for the RFP coming out late spring with awards in middle summer. 1W1P is here to stay but yet voluntary.

- **CWF grants:** Again this year CWF grant applications will open in very early July.

- **SWCD grants:** SWCD capacity grants (100K/SWCD) and buffer implementation grants (sliding scale) are now out and BCs are working with SWCDs to assure appropriate expenditures.

- **Staffing:** We have filled a buffer initiative coordinator position. We have initiated an internal buffer team and Brian Dwight is member of that team.

- **Buffers:** The coordinator and team mentioned above will be working on guidance for SWCD roles and responsibilities not only for the buffer initiative but also the soil loss legislation.

- **The Governor a week or so ago took private ditches off the required buffer table, however the SWCDs still have the responsibility to identify waters they feel need buffering. This list will not necessarily require buffers but indicate the need.**

- **March Conference:** BWSR will be providing an orientation session for SWCD supervisors and WD managers. Some of you may be asked to participate.

**DNR**

- **Project teams – DNR staff continue to participate in the few project work teams that are active.**

- **The Goose Prairie EAW Record of Decision is complete.**

- **Buffer mapping – the buffer mapping project continues. Internal review of preliminary maps is almost complete. Next step is to review maps with LGUs.**

- **Riparian corridor projects and easements – given the interest in riparian and stream restoration work (lower wild rice, wolverton creek, lower otter tail river) and the difficulty of using traditional easements for wetlands and grasslands to them, it is becoming clear that some sort of riparian specific RIM-like easement program is needed. Henry and Jamison are workig internally to raise the priority level for this.**

- **NR planning – DNR staff continue to participate in the One Watershed One Plan process in the Red Lake Pilot watershed and continues to work on developing lists and maps of priority resources.**

- **FM Diversion –**
  - **October 28, 2015 —** Draft EIS comment period ended. 340 comments were received.
  - **Winter 2016 —** DNR considers and responds to all substantive comments and revises the EIS as needed. (current step)
  - **Spring 2016 —** Final EIS is prepared and published.
  - **Spring 2016 —** DNR makes adequacy decision on Final EIS.
*Summer 2016 — DNR permitting decisions.

**FSA**
The General CRP Signup continues through February 26, 2016. The amount of offers varies from county to county, but, in general, the activity is relatively slow. Most producers who have interest in entering into CRP will enroll through the Continuous CRP signup, as the incentives are much more attractive to the producer.

Offices, for the most part, are performing a lot of farm record maintenance related activities. (Restoring base and yields on expired CRP, reviewing new aerial imagery for cropland changes, working with IRS on Adjusted Gross Income certifications, and several conservation compliance wetland violations, are a few of the items being worked on in most offices)

Sign-up for the farm program ARC/PLC is very slow. Annual enrollment is a requirement to participate.

The Farm Loan staff is very busy. We are seeing new customers looking for direct loans from FSA. We are anticipating seeing a big increase in our Guaranteed Loans with banks. Some changes have been made in service area boundaries and FSA staff locations for Farm Loan Programs. A staff will be placed in the Warren Service Center and they will be responsible for producers located in Kittson County, West Marshall County. We have a severe staff shortage in northwest Minnesota in the Farm Loan Programs staff. The state is hiring nine Farm Loan Officers, half of which, will be placed in NW MN.

Post-meeting update - The White House has appointed a new State Executive Director (SED) for Minnesota. Grant Herfindahl (bio below) will begin his new role as SED on Monday, February 22, 2016.

**IWI**
Attached.

**MDA**
1. Research RFP - Update to be provided at meeting.
2. Recent pollinator summit - see attached document. Update and discussion to be provided at meeting.
3. Prime soils map - see attached map.
4. International drainage symposium – information available at [https://cceeevents.umn.edu/international-drainage-symposium](https://cceeevents.umn.edu/international-drainage-symposium)
6. Reminder - One Watershed One Plan documents will be published soon for review. There will be opportunity to comment on these plans.

**NRCS**
Thirteen of the 14 individual Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) cooperative agreements continue to be finalized by NRCS grants and agreements staff in National Headquarters. As of February 12, 2016; 6 have been sent to WDs for signature. Two are awaiting Chief of Staff initials and
the Regional Conservationists’ signature, 4 have minor revisions that need to be made before going to the Chief of Staff and Regional Conservationist. Roseau River WD has submitted their forms and draft Statement of Work and budget to the NRCS for Whitney Lake Watershed. Upper Sand Hill WD has not taken action to submit the required forms, statement of work and budget as of yet for the Upper Sand Hill River Watershed (highlighted in yellow).

The following table lists the 15 MN watersheds submitted for RCPP funding. Please note the Roseau Lake Bottom Watershed (highlighted in red) was determined not eligible for RCPP funding due to size of watershed and not meeting NRCS PI 83-566 Small Watershed Program policy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Watershed Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bois de Sioux - Direct Watershed</td>
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<td>Bois de Sioux - 5 Mile Creek Watershed</td>
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<td>Bois de Sioux - Rabbit River Watershed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle-Snake-Tamarac - JD #14 Watershed</td>
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<td>Middle-Snake-Tamarac - JD #19 East Park WMA Watershed</td>
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<td>Red Lake - Four Legged Lake Watershed</td>
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<td>Red Lake - Pine Lake Watershed</td>
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<td>Roseau River - Beltrami Island State Forest Watershed</td>
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<td><strong>Roseau River - Lower Roseau Lake Bottom Watershed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Roseau River - Whitney Lake Watershed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sand Hill - Upper Sand Hill River Watershed</td>
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<td>Two Rivers - Klondike Watershed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wild Rice - Green Meadow Watershed</td>
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<td>Wild Rice - Moccasin Creek Watershed</td>
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<td>Wild Rice - South Branch Wild Rice River Watershed</td>
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A general EQIP sign-up was held in November. The FY16 Red River Basin Initiative (RRBI) EQIP sign-up date is to be determined for a later this winter. EQIP has a continuous open sign-up and so producers may contact their local NRCS Field Office to request assistance and sign an application. The initial FY 16 RRBI EQIP allocation for MN is $4,274,234.00.

NRCS Minnesota initial Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) allocation for FY16 is $1,000,000 in assistance for WRE and ALE. Applications for the current round of funding needed to be submitted by January 15, 2016. I have requested a report on how many applications were received, but as of today have not gotten information back yet.

**PCA**

Jim presented and review a map of WRAPS process calendar and presented information related to the 319 funding opportunities which are open now.
**Red Lake Band**
The Red Lake Band has applied for funding to restore two stream crossings on reservation land improving fish passage and preventing excessive erosion. One restoration would be fully funded by EPA while the other would be a combination of funds from EPA and USFWS. The Band has completed work funded under an MPCA Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) and is beginning the second year of the Upper/Lower Red Lakes Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS). Additional projects include working toward the development of water quality standards for tribal waters and guiding the development of a regional climate change monitoring strategy in cooperation with EPA, NOAA, various Midwest tribes, and other entities. Finally, in partnership with the St. Croix Watershed Research Station at the Science Museum of Minnesota, we are conducting a paleolimnological assessment of Upper and Lower Red Lake to determine historic nutrient regimes in the lake. This information should give us a much needed baseline from which to begin determining land use impacts.

**Red River Basin Agency Interaction Team**
Nothing to report.

**RRBC**
No report.

**RRRA**
Nothing to report.

**SWCDs**
No report.

**USFWS**
No report.

**USACE**
Tamara has moved to a new position.

**Agricultural Sector**
- Farmers have been attending several meetings regarding conservation issues, how to be even more efficient as a grower and updates on policy affecting agriculture.
- Farmers have also been working on cropping budgets for 2016, and margins will be tight with the current economy.
- Ag groups are working with RRBC to involve them in some way in our water meetings we put on every July.
- We are hoping to get some ag leaders to attend the March Conference.
- NW MN farmers will be having a Day on the Hill trip to St. Paul on March 15th. Water quality/quantity, production practices, buffers will all be discussed.
- Several divisive things are being portrayed in the media regarding agriculture and we plan to continue to work at the local level for continual improvement on farms.
Federal Section 319 Funding Round Open Now

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is seeking applications for projects that will reduce Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) in Minnesota’s lakes, rivers, and streams. Funding for selected projects will be provided by the Federal Clean Water Act Section 319 (Section 319) grant funds. The funding round will be open for approximately one month.

Eligible Projects
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) or Watershed Protection and Restoration Strategy (WRAPS) implementation projects.
No nonpoint source development, education or applied research projects (DER) projects will be accepted this year.

Available Funding
Two and a half million dollars will be available this year, contingent upon Congressional appropriation.

Changes this year
➢ No maximum limit for a project funding request
➢ Local cash or in-kind match has been reduced to 40%. (Previously 45%)
➢ State Clean Water funds may be used for match
➢ No longer using the SWIFT system for application

Requirements
➢ Project must be completed and grant funds expended by August 31, 2020.
➢ Eligible proposers must have a TMDL Implementation Plan or WRAPS approved by the MPCA by February 29, 2016.

The complete Request for Grant Application (RFGA), applications form, and other information will be available on the MPCA website at https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/financial-assistance-nonpoint-source-water-pollution-projects-clean-water-partnership-and

Applications will be electronically received at the email address listed in the RFGA. Submissions received after the deadline will not be eligible for consideration. Successful proposers will be notified before May 15 and will then be required to submit a detailed work plan, budget and timeline/Gantt chart.
Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) Status Map
Initial 10-Year WRAPS Cycle

* Specific dates listed are our best estimate of the start of the public notice period at this time. These dates are subject to change due to variables out of our control, such as USEPA review time. This map will be updated periodically with specific dates for other watersheds as the WRAPS near completion and dates can be determined. For specific information on the status of each WRAPS, please contact the Project Manager directly.

Project Managers

Cary Hernandez
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WRAPS Status

- Public Notice Complete
- Public Notice within the Next 12 Months
- WRAPS Underway
- WRAPS Scheduled to Start in 2016

Last Updated: 1/14/2016
January 2016 International Water Institute Monitoring and Education Activity Report

FDR, Condition, Watershed, and SWAG Projects:

- WPLMN sampling continues at a reduced number of sites. Sample frequency is monthly throughout winter months at 14 Major Watershed locations. We received confirmation that IWI was awarded the monitoring and load calculation work for the 2016-2017 monitoring seasons. Final work plan and budget documents have been approved by MPCA and the contract has been executed.
- Staff have completed calculating 2013 loads for the WPLMN project sites. Load calculations were submitted to the MPCA project manager and have been finalized. IWI is responsible for load determinations at 27 sites. All 2013 IWI load calculation work is complete.
- Monitoring for the 2015 Buffalo Red Watershed Project was completed in October, final data review completed in December.
- FDR load monitoring at Brandt, Angus-Oslo #4, and PL-566 above Warren impoundments will begin this spring pending impoundment operation. In addition to load monitoring in 2016 we are exploring the idea of developing a project conditions report that can be applied to an FDR project area. We envision a report similar to the conditions reports produced for the River Explorers paddled river reaches mentioned below in the River Watch section. Guidance will be sought from TSAC on report content.
- All water quality data collected in 2016 has been submitted, reviewed, and is finalized within the State EQuIS system.

River Watch:

- River Of Dreams project activities began in December with a web application kick-off meeting and a meeting with the target schools (Marshall County Central, Red Lake County Central, Fertile, and Fisher). Project materials have been delivered to the target schools and teachers have begun covering materials with students. IWI staff have scheduled classroom mapping and watershed sessions for February and tentative canoe release dates in March and April. 5 teachers and 107 elementary students will be participating in this project in 2016.
- IWI staff have been busy meeting with ND and MN schools preparing them for the 2016 River Watch Forum. The 2016 Forum is scheduled for March 15, 2016. 3 Kick Off events were held November 17-19, at Crookston, Barnesville, and Thief River Falls. 113 students attended this year participating in a team building exercise and learning how to scout their local river from the desktop. The poster theme for the Forum this year is “River Recreation”.
- Staff finalized river conditions reports for the Clearwater, South Branch Two, Sand Hill, Mustinka, and Buffalo Rivers. Reports can be viewed at this web address:
  http://www.arcgis.com/apps/PublicGallery/index.html?appid=e3b8c64d0f854c0ba0f59d20ad3c4fad
- Staff installed snow study equipment at participating ND RW schools. River Watch Teams will collect snow depth, snow water equivalency, and frost depth data to be submitted to CoCoRaHs. Information gathered will also help students gain a better understanding of spring-melt and flood dynamics.
WPT Project Acceleration:

- Green Meadow BCA.
  - Awaiting (still) RCPP Agreement Execution to begin BCA work.
- Planning a BCA coordination meeting (February).
- Met with Corps, NRCS, and others to discuss PL566 planning
  - Update Points of Concurrence (incorporate lesson learned from Green Meadow process)

PTMApp

- PTMApp Desktop programming/debugging continues.
- PTMApp web - testing underway.
- Developing training / outreach strategy.
  - Draft training / outreach budget prepared for BWSR
- Presented at RRCB Conference (Grand Forks).
- Presenting at MN Erosion Conference (St. Paul - Jan. 27th).
- James River Conditioning effort continues
  - 5 interns now working with Grit.

MN Drainage Work Group – GIS/Drainage Assessment

- Memo Completed.
- Met with DWG Jan. 14th.
- Awaiting feedback from Committee before developing methods/GIS model.

LCCMR (Roseau Lake Restoration/PTMApp)

- Working the DNR, BWSR, and Roseau River WD to develop budget.
- Project start ~July 2016.

BTSAC

- Presented BTSAC Briefing Paper #3 (Surface Drainage Management) to interagency drainage committee (St. Paul, Jan. 21st.)

Administrative

- Face-to-Face board meeting Jan 19th in Grand Forks.
- Bylaws/Board terms/membership.
- Met with Board member Sinner to discuss banking options.
Minnesota Department of Agriculture Pollinators Summit
Agenda

Friday, February 12, 2016
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
The Wellstone Center
179 Robie Street East
Saint Paul, MN 55107

8:00  Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:30  Welcome
Dave Frederickson, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture & Lt. Governor Tina Smith

8:40  Introductions & Housekeeping
Mike Harley, Executive Director, Environmental Initiative

8:45  Current Research Updates Related to Stressors Facing Minnesota Pollinators
•  Dr. Marla Spivak, MacArthur Fellow and Distinguished McKnight Professor in Entomology, University of Minnesota Bee Lab
•  Dr. Dan Cariveau, Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota Bee Lab
•  Wendy Caldwell, Community Program Specialist, Monarch Joint Venture, University of Minnesota Monarch Lab
•  Dr. Erik Runquist, Butterfly Conservation Biologist, Minnesota Zoo

10:00  Break

10:15  State Pollinator Programs & Initiatives
•  Jamison Scholer, Research Scientist, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
•  Dan Shaw, Native Vegetation Specialist, Board of Water and Soil Resources
•  Crystal Boyd, Entomologist/Bee Specialist, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
•  Tina Markeson, Roadside Vegetation Management Unit Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Transportation

11:30  Federal Pollinator Programs & Initiatives
•  Charlie Zelle, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Transportation
•  Ryan Galbreath, State Resource Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture
•  AnnMarie Krmpotich, Monarch Coordinator, Midwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior
12:00  Identifying Opportunities for Action  
*Mike Harley, Executive Director, Environmental Initiative*

12:15  Lunch

1:15  Breakout Group Discussions – Session I
- Agricultural Landscapes
- Residential Landscapes
- Commercial Landscapes
- Roadsides & Rights-of-Way
- Public Lands

2:15  Break (move between groups)

2:25  Breakout Group Discussions – Session II
- Agricultural Landscapes
- Residential Landscapes
- Commercial Landscapes
- Roadsides & Rights-of-Way
- Public Lands

3:25  Break

3:45  Report Back from Breakouts and Identify Priorities

4:15  Wrap-up Comments on Action Steps  
*Dave Frederickson, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture*

4:30  Adjourn
Farmland Classification ratings from SSURGO

- Not rated or not available
- All areas are prime farmland
- Farmland of local importance
- Farmland of statewide importance
- Not prime farmland
- Prime farmland if drained
- Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
- Prime farmland if irrigated
- Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season

Data Source: USDA Geospatial Data Gateway
https://gdg.sc.egov.usda.gov/
Gridded Soil Survey Geographic (gSSURGO)
Derived from the Soil Survey Geographic (2.2) Database dated November 16, 2015
Background and Project Purpose

- RRWMA consists of ~75,000 acres
- Established in the early 1950s
- Dominated by a mosaic of shallow marshes, wet meadows, & lowland brush with islands of ag land & aspen forest
- Flood-control aspects of project: diversion of Pine Creek into RRWMA (away from Roseau Lake) and….
- 1986 Flood Storage Agreement - Flood storage between drawdown level and normal pool, about 1’ (+/- 5,000 A-F gated and 10,000 A-F ungated)

Project Timeline

- Project Team met in June and October 2011 in an effort to renew the project
- An FDR grant was applied for in August 2011
- A Step I agreement was signed in January 2012
- Preliminary Engineer’s Report – February 2013
- Project Team and Public Hearing – April 2013
- BWSR Advisory Report on the Project – May 2013
- Final Engineer’s Report – June 2014
- Step II authorized in July 2014
- 6 month Step III extension requested – February 2016
**Existing Features of the RRWMA**

**Proposed Project Features**

**Pool 2 to Pool 3 Structure**
- One 5’ wide stoplog bay, one 6’ x 6’ stainless steel slide gate
- One 12’ wide x 6’ tall RC box culvert

**Typical Conveyance Channel Section**
- Excavated Material will be placed either on the existing interior side slope of dike, Pool 3 Outlet Channel spoil berm, or 400th Street profile raise
- Near the Pool 3 Outlet Structure, depth of cut will range from 4-7 feet
**Pool 3 Outlet Structure Plan View**

- Two 5' wide stoplog bays
- Two 6' x 6' stainless steel slide gates
- Two 12' wide x 6' tall box culverts

**Typical Pool 3 Outlet Channel Section**

- 400th Street profile raise of approximately 3 feet
- 400th Street raise to tie into north shoulder, and will only impact south shoulder of existing road
- Spoil berm top elevation to be below the proposed 400th Street elevation
- Existing power line/poles will be buried

**Operating Plan Summary**

- Operation of the existing water control structures and emergency spillways on the RRWMA pools is not governed by this plan.
- DNR will operate the new structures in accordance with the agreed to operating plan. RRWD staff will assist with operation at the request of the DNR. RRWD staff will be granted access to restricted areas of the RRWMA for the purpose of inspection of the project’s infrastructure.
- Multi-stage operation of the pool 3 outlet will be determined by stream gauge reading from Ross and Roseau. Discharge from the pool 3 outlet will be adjusted as needed to allow outflows that do not exceed 2,500 cfs at the Caribou USGA gauge.
- Utilizing the operation plan reduces the length of time that the Roseau River is at any particular high flow rate

**Status – Feb 2016**

**Work Completed:**
- Final Engineers Report
- Plans
- Specifications
- Operation and Maintenance Plan

**Permit Status:**
- All permit applications have been submitted and are awaiting final approval
- Joint Powers Agreement between the RRWD & DNR is currently being drafted
Background and Project Purpose

- Roseau Lake consisted of ~6,000 acres of surface area at historic 1030’ water elevation NGVD29
- Drained in 1914 for agricultural purposes, but production was heavily impacted by normal to wet seasons
- Dominated by shallow marshes, wet meadows, & lowland brush
- Flood-control aspects can be improved to optimize storage timing and minimize downstream effects
Step 1 Request

- Lake Bottom Preliminary Eng $ Advance
- Work would begin/continue immediately on:
  - Preliminary engineering
  - H&H
  - Structure design
  - Alternatives analysis
  - Evaluation of NRE impacts and opportunities
  - Soil Borings

Costs

The total estimated cost for the project is $15,000,000. The local cost share is based upon a 2/3 (RRWMB) 1/3 (RRWD) breakdown of the local match.

*75/25 State/FDR cost share will be requested

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<th>RRWD</th>
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Four Legged Lake
Red Lake Watershed District

Project History

- Judicial Ditch #5 established in 1921
- Outlet culvert “raised” from historical runout multiple times. Last time was 15+ years ago (RLWD was not consulted).
- More lands flooded
- Road damages
- Public meeting held in 2010 and 2014
- RLWD 20% Flow Reduction Initiative ID’d - Four Legged Lake FDR opportunity

Recent Survey

Recent Survey

Project Discussion/Goals – Local Benefits

- Modify existing outlet structure(s) to allow for a combination of current and original lake levels
- Goals
  - Follow appropriate drainage law procedures
  - Provide storage for downstream areas to reduce peak flows in spring
  - Maintain base flow in outlet channel during summer months
  - Manage agreeable lake levels
RECOMMENDATIONS

ALTERNATIVES
- Do Nothing
- Restore Original Ditch Grade
- Manage for F&W
- FDR Project
- Other (Ditch Abandonment, etc.)

Recommendation – Consider a multi-purpose project that incorporates flood storage. A permissible project would likely include a range of operation between pre-1998 levels and current levels (with a +/-2 foot FDR fluctuation). Extreme range is 1423' – 1430'.

Questions, Discussion, and Next Steps

1960 2010

Project Team Goals

Goals and Objectives
RLWD: FDR (local and Red River) - all seasons; aesthetics; water quality; beaver control

CCHD: Freeboard; 1423 – 1426……”maybe 1427” @ CSAH #2 (1988 datum); beaver control

Landowners: Manage water levels in an acceptable and equitable manner for all 4 basins; reduce high water levels; compensate landowners for flooding impacts due to potential FDR project operation; aesthetics;

BWSR: Maintain or improve water quality

Project Team Goals

DNR: Enhance and restore lower water levels, maintain and enhance waterfowl habitat diversity; maintain or improve water quality; capacity to manage and manipulate water levels in all 4 basins on a temporary basis

PCA: Maintain or improve water quality

USACE: Follow Concurrence Points Process

NRCS: Possible Federal funding through WRE and ALE