9:00 Introductions
9:10 Review and approve October meeting notes
9:40 Overview of 2017 Annual Report and accomplishments
10:00 FDR WG Strategic Planning Effort Update
10:15 Funding/budget update
10:30 Communications Team update on Annual Meeting
10:45 Flood Damage Reduction Project team updates by Watershed Districts
11:15 Agency and Partner Updates
11:45 Other Issues
12:00 Adjourn
Thank you to all our sponsors!

**General Session Sponsors:**

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- Bayer CropScience
- CHS Ag Services

**Research Reporting Session Sponsors:**

- Minnesota Wheat Research and Promotion Council
- syngenta
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**Media Sponsor:**

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**Program Sponsor:**

- Minnesota Corn Growers Association
Wednesday, December 12th

Grower & Industry Meetings
Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings.  
(Please register at registration desk)

Morning & Afternoon Sessions

7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
**6th Annual On-Farm Research Summit (Everyone Welcome)**
7:30 a.m.  **Registration, Breakfast and Social**
8:00 a.m.  **Welcome**
8:15 a.m.  **Program - Results & discussion on all 2018 On-Farm Research projects**
12:00 p.m.  **Lunch (complimentary)**
**See page 4 for full agenda for the OFRN Summit**

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
**Minnesota Wheat Research Committee**
Everyone is welcome to attend this committee meeting.  
The committee will hear presentations from researchers who have submitted research pre-proposals for funding by the Minnesota wheat check-off. The pre-proposals will be available for guests to read and discuss.

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  **Ag Peer Group**
**See page 3 for agenda**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
**Red River Flood Damage Reduction Working Group Meeting**
This group is working to build and maintain good communications with producers as they work to develop projects and plans to help reduce flooding in the Red River Basin. Growers are encouraged to attend. Leaders from NW Minnesota farm organizations will also be attending.

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  **North Dakota Barley Council County Representatives Meeting**

12:00 p.m.  **Lunch**
Open to all attendees

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
**MAWG Resolutions Committee Meeting**
The MAWG Resolutions Committee is comprised of members who attended the November 20th committee meeting in Red Lake Falls. At this meeting the committee will address unresolved resolutions and new resolutions presented in writing by MAWG members. The final resolutions will be presented at the MAWG’s Annual Business Meeting at 4:00 p.m.

1:30 - 3:45 p.m.
**Minnesota & North Dakota Malting Barley Program**
All growers and industry personnel interested in barley markets and production should attend this meeting.

1:30 p.m.  **Welcome**
Brian Lacey, MN Barley & Doyle Lentz, ND Barley
1:35 p.m.  **2-6 Rowed Barley Variety Selections**
Dr. Richard Horsley, NDSU
2:00 p.m.  **Quality Control of Stored Grain**
Dr. Kenneth Hellevang, NDSU
2:25 p.m.  **Protectants for Stored Grains**
Bob Johnston, Central Life Sciences
2:40 p.m.  **Improve Barley Yield and Reduce Lodging**
Fred Lukens & Rob Jarek, Stoller USA
3:05 p.m.  **Barley Production Alternatives**
Christine Spasoff, Syngenta Canada
3:30 p.m.  **Marketing Malting Barley**
Jessica Newman, Director of Agro, AB InBev & Ron Volpi, CCO, Rahr Malting

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.  **Refreshments and Social**
Wednesday, December 12th

Ag Peer Group
This a group of young farmers and ag professionals coming together throughout the year to learn from each other, build lasting relationships and to gain knowledge and experience important to agriculture.

1:00 p.m. Welcome & Introductions

1:15 p.m. GPS Guided Spot Sprayer Drone Demonstration - John Nowatski, Agricultural Machines Specialist, NDSU
Also discussions on:
• Robotics in Agriculture
• In field use of technology and how it can be used to educate the general public on its environmental benefits.
• Update on Modern Farm in the City – Red Barn Project and Cover Crop research results at Trinity Creek Ranch.

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Personal Growth and Team Building - Dennis Hoiberg, The Resilience Whisperer
Learning with Dennis Hoiberg, an organizational consultant from Melbourne Australia. Dennis has 30 year’s experience working with individuals, teams and businesses to achieve personal satisfaction, excellence and high performance. Thriving through change.

For more information on the Ag Peer Group, contact Minnesota Wheat Growers at mnwheat@gvtel.com or 218-253-4311 Ext 3

Sponsored by:

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Minnesota Soybean Growers County Association Meeting
County leaders from the region will get together to discuss county and regional projects and promotional programs. This is an open meeting and everyone is encouraged to attend to learn more about your soybean organizations.

4:00 - 5:00 p.m. North Dakota Grain Growers Annual Meeting

4:00 - 5:30 p.m. MN Assn of Wheat Growers & MN Barley Growers Assn Annual Business Meetings
The associations will report on their activities, discuss and vote on resolutions and conduct the annual business of the association. This will include the election of board positions.

Pre-Conference Social, Banquet and Live Auction
People with a passion for our region’s agriculture - Coming together to celebrate and build relationships

5:30 p.m. Social – Hors d’oeuvres & Refreshments
6:15 p.m. Welcome and Dinner
6:50 p.m. Keynote Presentation - Dennis Hoiberg
7:30 p.m. Awards & Special Recognition Presentation
7:45 p.m. Concluding Remarks, Hospitality and Live Auction

Hospitality hosted in part by: Bayer CropScience

Dennis Hoiberg sponsored by:
Wednesday, December 12th

6th Annual On-Farm Research Summit

A unique way to learn about wheat and soybean production practices in northwest MN.

7:30 a.m.  Registration, Breakfast and Social
8:00 a.m.  Welcome - Melissa Geiszler and Lauren Proulx, On-Farm Research Coordinators
8:15 a.m.  Wheat Nitrogen Research
28% UAN Topdress Application: 28 locations testing a 10 gal 28% UAN application near boot stage to increase yield and protein content
Variable Rate N Application: 10 locations comparing variable rate to flat rate N application
Within-Field Protein Variability: Review the current findings of on-combine protein mapping
2019 New Research: Monitoring N loss from fall and spring-applied NH3 (CENTURO™) using a non-corrosive nitrification inhibitor
9:00 a.m.  Wheat Production Research
Plant Growth Regulator: 25 locations testing a plant growth regulator (Palisade™) to limit wheat height and reduce lodging
Seeding Rate: 29 locations comparing wheat yield at populations of 1.0, 1.5, and 2.0 mil plants per acre
Intensive Fungicide Management: Five locations in 2018 testing a 3rd fungicide application during flag leaf emergence in addition to applications at the 4-5 leaf and flowering stages
Sulfur: 12 locations testing the addition of 100 lbs/acre AMS to increase yield and protein content
10:15 a.m.  Soybean Research
Oats to Reduce IDC: Six locations in 2018 testing soybean seeded with oats to reduce IDC
Iron Chelate to Reduce IDC: Four locations in 2018 testing iron chelate (Soygreen™) application to reduce IDC
Seeding Rate: Two locations comparing yield of soybean populations ranging from 80-180k plants per acre
2019 New Research: ‘Green seeding’ soybean into living cereal rye and managing P and K fertility during a wheat-soybean rotation (pending approval)
10:45 a.m.  Cover Crops & Tillage
Vertical vs Conventional Tillage Trial: Two years of data for one field in a wheat-soybean rotation
Cover Crop Management: Producer experiences managing cover crops both inside and outside of the Red River Valley
11:45 a.m.  Wrap-up
12:00 p.m.  Lunch (complimentary)

Research coordinators will review current and past data. Grower participants will share their experiences and have an open discussion with the audience.

OFRN Research Funded By:
Thursday, December 13th

Prairie Grains Conference Program

6:30 a.m.  Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:00 a.m.  Exhibits open
7:00 a.m.  Wheat & Soybean Research Reporting Sessions (see page 6 for agenda)
8:50 a.m.  BREAK in Exhibit Hall
9:10 a.m.  Welcome – DAVE FREDERICKSON, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Ag

9:15 a.m.  2018/19 Crop Market Outlook & Strategies to Manage Global Market Risks
           - FRAYNE OLSON, PhD, Crops Economist/Marketing Specialist, NDSU

Global trade policy and tariffs are impacting local and regional markets in many ways. Growers are changing their typical marketing plans. Dr. Olson will provide insight on the short and long term outlook and how growers can best adjust their marketing plans to manage increased market uncertainty. He will give special attention to opportunities and local basis outlook for our regional crops.

10:05 a.m. 2019 Weather Outlook: The Weather Patterns and Cycles That Will Impact This Winter and the Next Growing Season
           - DARYL RITCHISON, Meteorologist & Interim Director, NDSU NDAWN

Daryl is returning to the Prairie Grains Conference after a well-received weather presentation last year. He knows the region and agriculture through his 18 years at WDAY TV and the last 5 years at NDSU. Daryl’s long range weather forecast is presented in a clear and enjoyable manner.

10:50 a.m. BREAK in Exhibit Hall
11:15 a.m. Breakout Sessions - (see page 6 for agenda)
12:00 p.m. LUNCH - Buffet lunch & dessert

1:15 p.m. Grain Marketing Actions That Make A Difference - A Panel Discussion

The Enforcer “Moderator”  
Betsy Jensen  
Farm Business Mgmt Inst NCTC

Back by Popular Demand  
Tommy Grisafi  
Marketing Consultant  
Advance Trading Inc.

Marketing Group Guru  
Randy Zimmerman  
Grain Merchandiser  
West Central Ag Services

The Educator  
Katie Miller  
Market Education Specialist  
AgCountry FCS

Dirty Harry of Marketing  
Brett Oelke  
President  
Innovus Agra LLC

2:15 p.m. BREAK in Exhibit Hall
2:30 p.m. Repeat of Breakout Sessions (see page 6 for agenda)
3:00 p.m. CLOSING RECEPTION in Exhibit Hall

General Session Sponsors:

AgCountry Farm Credit Services  Bayer CropScience  CHS CHS Ag Services
Thursday, December 13th

Research & Reporting Sessions

WHEAT

6:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast Begins
Sponsored by MN Wheat Check-off

7:00 a.m. Introductions and Welcome

7:10 a.m. **Mapping In-Field Wheat Protein Variability**
– Melissa Geiszler, NDSU PhD Graduate Student
Review the current findings of on-combine protein mapping of spring wheat in Northwest MN

7:30 a.m. **Four Years of Finding Wheat Sawfly**
– Dr. Jochum Wiersma, Small Grains Specialist, U of M Extension
Learn what we know about identification, impact area and management of sawfly, an emerging pest.

7:50 a.m. **Concerned About BLS in 2018 – What You Can Do to Manage It**
– Dr. Madeleine Smith, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Plant Pathology, U of M Extension
Learn about the research results from 10 fields in 2018 that were tracked weekly for nitrogen gasification and leaching. How much, when and how was it lost?

8:10 a.m. **Effect of Seeding Rate and Row Spacing on Plant Establishment and Yield**
– J. Stanley, NDSU Graduate Research Assistant
Learn about this multi-year research seeking to develop an environment specific decision support tool to help growers determine an optimum seeding rate for new wheat varieties.

8:30 a.m. **Optimum Seeding Rate for New Wheat Varieties**
– J. Stanley, NDSU Graduate Research Assistant
Learn about this multi-year research seeking to develop an environment specific decision support tool to help growers determine an optimum seeding rate for new wheat varieties.

8:50 a.m. Concluding Remarks – Visit Exhibitors and Break

SOYBEANS

6:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast Begins
Sponsored by MN Soybean Check-off

7:00 a.m. Introductions and Welcome

7:10 a.m. **Supplemental Sulfur in Soybean: Two Years of Data from Northwest MN**
– Dr. Dave Grafstrom, Customized Training Rep, NCTC, Roseau, MN
Reporting research results from a combination of small plot replicated research and large strip trials that tested sulfur applied in furrow and broadcast.

7:30 a.m. **Soybean Variety, Seeding Rate & Planting Date Trials**
– Bill Craig, Agriculture Services Director, Marshall and Pennington Counties
Highlighting 2018 variety trials results from three locations in NW MN and one seeding rate and planting date trial in Marshall County.

7:50 a.m. **Six Years and Over 50 Soybean Variety Trials Later: Find Out Who Won**
– Dr. Garth Kruger, PhD, Warren, MN
Kruger has combined soybean yield trial data from university and independent research organizations in MN and ND to select the best early maturing varieties. Over 4,000 individual data points have been matched with IDC data; and duplicate brands have been identified using seed tag variety numbers.

8:10 a.m. **Effect of Seeding Rate and Row Spacing on Plant Establishment and Yield**
– Peder Schmitz, NDSU Graduate Research Assistant
Research was conducted at multiple locations for two seasons to determine the plant establishment and ultimate yield of a range of seeding rates. Optimum seeding rate, early plant and late plant populations in relationship to yield will be discussed.

8:30 a.m. **Soybean Cyst Nematode (SCN) Sampling Program: Awareness is the First Step Towards Effective Management**
– Dr. Angie Peltier, Extension Educator - Crops, U of M Extension
Learn about the soybean check-off funded sampling program and how to get started managing SCN in your fields.

8:50 a.m. Concluding Remarks – Visit Exhibitors and Break

Sponsors of the Wheat & Soybean Research Reporting Sessions:

Be sure to visit our exhibitors at the Prairie Grains Conference. Take the opportunity to talk with company representatives about their products and services they have to offer. The exhibits booths are open from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm Thursday, December 13, 2018.

Thank you Booster Sponsors & Exhibitors!

**Booster Sponsors:** AURI, Duluth Seaway Port Authority, Ellingson Drainage, Minneapolis Grain Exchange, Minnesota Crop Improvement Association, RRV Sugarbeet Growers, West Central Ag Services

Human Resource, Personal Growth & Motivation

Resilience Matters – Dennis Hoiberg, *The Resilience Whisperer*, Melbourne, Australia
Resilience is the missing link that hinders many people from positively responding to and thriving through change. In this engaging presentation, Hoiberg will present to the evidence that indicates resilience is a necessary skill and strategy for you to apply in your personal and business life. This session will also provide you with the opportunity to complete your own resilience plans.

Farm Business Management & Marketing

Highlights from the Tax Reform Act of 2017 – Greg Dvergsten and Ron Dvergsten, Farm Business Management Instructors, NCTC
Greg and Ron will discuss the implications of the many agriculture, business and personal tax law changes made by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, signed into law on December 22, 2017. It will help you with your year-end tax planning decisions. Don’t miss this update.

Primary and Alternative Crop Budgets and Markers for 2019 Planning – Josh Tjosaas and Jessica Hanson, Farm Business Management Instructors, NCTC
It’s not too early to start planning crop mix and marketing for the 2019 season. Jessica and Josh will discuss likely breakeven costs for our region’s major and alternative crops and some potential 2019 marketing strategies.

Soybean & Wheat Production

Come and hear results from 2018 wheat trials on: Intensive Fungicide Management, Topdress with 28% UAN, Seeding Rate, Plant Growth Regulator-Palisade, Variable Rate Nitrogen, Sulfur and On-Board Protein Analyzer. Their soybean trials include: Soybeans with Oats and Soygreen for IDC management and Seeding Rate. They will also talk about 2019 projects and beyond.

Nutrient Management for Increased Productivity and Environmental Benefits - Warren Formo, Executive Director, MN Ag Water Resource Center; Jeppe ‘Yebbe’ Kjaergaard, Research Scientist, MN Department of Ag and Jerry Nordick, Grower, Breckenridge, MN
Presenters will share long term nutrient loss data from Red River Valley tile drainage sites and discuss the benefits of various nutrient management strategies that fit well with tile drainage and the unique climate of our northern production region.

2019 Spring Wheat Variety Selection and New Variety Update – Dr. Jochum Wiersma, Small Grains Specialist, U of M Extension and Dr. Andrew Green, Spring Wheat Breeder, NDSU
This will be your earliest and best chance to hear from both the MN and ND public spring wheat breeding programs on their 2018 variety trials. Jochum and Andrew will share their multiple year and location yield data on public and private spring wheat varieties. It’s important information to help you pick the best varieties for your farm in 2019.

High Yield Soybean Management: Every Bean Counts – Peder Schmitz, ND Soybean Survey and Graduate Research Assistant, NDSU
Over a four season period, over 1000 soybean field observations were collected from participating growers. Best management practices were distilled from this data set providing very practical information about the relationship of soybean yield and previous crop, variety selection, planting data, seeding rate, fungicide seed treatments, row spacing and various other management factors. This discussion will be packed with relevant management tips to improve production in 2019.

Sunflower, Barley and Cover Crop Production

Cover Crops – Getting Started with Goal Driven Practices - Jessica Newman, Director – Dr. Sam Markell, Plant Pathologist, NDSU
Markell will discuss identification and management updates of several important diseases of sunflower, with emphasis on Phomopsis stem canker, downy mildew and rust.

Sunflower Disease Management for Profitable Production – Jessica Newman, Director – Dr. Sam Markell, Plant Pathologist, NDSU
Markell will discuss identification and management updates of several important diseases of sunflower, with emphasis on Phomopsis stem canker, downy mildew and rust.

Barley Production and Marketing: Become Part of a Dynamic Changing Industry – Jessica Newman, Director of Agro, AB InBev; Fred Lukens, Stoller USA and Christine Spassoff, Syngenta Canada
Presenters will discuss barley marketing opportunities for 2019; Start/6-row/Finish; how to build a better crop with Stoller USA and new products being developed by industry for crop production will be highlighted.

Policy Impacting Your Farm

Outlook for the 2019 North Dakota and Minnesota Legislative Sessions – Dan Wogsland, Executive Director, North Dakota Grain Growers and Bruce Kleven, MN Wheat Growers Legislative Strategist
Dan and Bruce will share their insight on 2018 election results and how it may impact important agriculture issues in our states. They will look ahead and discuss the most likely issues to impact your farm operations and businesses. Bring your questions and input.

Breakout Session Sponsors

Sunflower Program Supporters: CHS Sunflower-Grandin, D & D Commodities, FMC Corporation, Northern Sun ADM, Pioneer, SunOpta and Scoular
BUSINESS MEETINGS & PRE-CONFERENCE BANQUET:

MAWG, MBGA, MSRPC, NDGGA, NDBC, MNFB, and NCTC-FBM members, exhibitors and sponsors are invited to attend our Business Meetings and Pre-Conference Banquet on December 12th.

This is FREE for members to attend ~ an RSVP for the banquet is required by December 5th.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS - Room block information:
- Canad Inn, 701-772-8404, $99.00/nt, Block #471311 (based on availability only)
- Sleep Inn and Suites, 701-757-2900, $83.70/nt, ask for Prairie Grains Conference Special (based on availability)
- Expressway Suites, 701-757-2900, $74.95/nt, ask for Prairie Grains Conference Special (based on availability)

CEU CREDITS:
CEU credits will be available for most sessions; including general, research and breakouts. Sign-in sheets will be at the back of each room.

DON'T MISS OUT ~ 2018 Prairie Grains Conference

As always, the Prairie Grains Conference has a variety of educational sessions that will help you on your farm.

Pre-Registration is encouraged!

ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Download the mobile guide to enhance your experience at the 2018 Prairie Grains Conference. You'll be able to plan your day with a personalized schedule, browse exhibitors, speakers and more.

To connect the guide choose from one of the following:
- Download Guidebook from your phone’s mobile app store
- Visit http://guidebook.com/getit from your phone’s browser
- Scan the QR code below using your phone’s QR Scanner

To login in, use Passphrase: thiommrp

We hope you enjoy this way to connect to the conference!

** To register for the Pre-Conference Banquet & the Conference:
Visit www.smallgrains.org or call the MN Wheat office at 800-242-6118 ext 3.

Pre-Registration is encouraged!

Visit www.mswmallagresz.org or call the MN Wheat office at 800-242-6118 ext 3.

To register for the Pre-Conference Banquet & the Conference:

** Non-member Wednesday banquet tickets - $30; Non-member Thursday conference fee - $25.

The 2018 Prairie Grains Conference has gone mobile using Guidebook.

Hotel Accommodations - Room block information:

This is FREE for members to attend ~ an RSVP for the banquet is required by December 5th.

Pre-Registration is encouraged!

Visit www.mswmallagresz.org or call the MN Wheat office at 800-242-6118 ext 3.

To register for the Pre-Conference Banquet & the Conference:

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Visit www.mswmallagresz.org or call the MN Wheat office at 800-242-6118 ext 3.

To register for the Pre-Conference Banquet & the Conference:

**
These meeting notes are provided as a record for this meeting. *Action items are indicated in bold italicized text.*

**Work Group members present:** Jerome Deal, Eddie Bernhardson, Greg Holmvik, Jim Ziegler, Theresa Ebbenga, Rob Sip, Rodger Hemphill, Dan Money, Nicole Bernd, Deb Walchuk, Gerald Van Amburg

**Guests present:** Keith Weston, Tony Nordby, Myron Jesme, Nate Dalager, Blake Carlson, Danni Halvorson.

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

**Review and approve May meeting notes** Highlights of the August meeting notes were reviewed and approved.

**Update on FDRWG strategic plan** The FDRWG reviewed the committee assignments from the previous meeting. The review sub-committee provided an update on the progress of the review of the mediation agreement. The FDRWG continued a discussion about the mediation agreement including the history of the agreement and possibilities of what change could be and mean. One key thing that was brought up is the FDRWG needs to try to engage the environmental groups in the basin if the agreement is going to changed or amended.

**Discuss Plan for prairie grains** The December meeting will be held at the Prairie Grains Conference in Grand Forks. Rob Sip has been coordinating with the conference organizers. Rob reported that the ag groups are suggesting the FDRWG hold a normal meeting rather than trying to engage the ag groups directly. The work group decided that the next meeting should stay focused on the our current tasks at hand and special presentations will not be including in the next agenda.

**Discussion on communication plan** The work group reviewed the recently adopted RRWMB communication plan. The work group discussed the presented example plan and in the discussion it was mentioned the FDRWG had started to develop a plan four or five years ago but it was never finished. Rob and Rodger were instructed to bring this to the communications committee. The work group also gave the suggestions to review who the target audience is, make a point to reach out to new agency leadership and work to get better participation out of the existing membership.

**Project readiness form update** The work group reviewed the discussion from the previous meeting. Rob and Rodger will coordinate with the sub-committee to pole form users and develop a draft of the updated form to present to the work group at the February meeting.

**Annual report presentation** The FY 2018 Report to the Legislature that was submitted was presented to the work group. The work group reviewed and discussed the report and the
improvements made to the report this year. The group discussed timing of when and how the report would be used and suggestions for modifications and additions that could be made to attract more attention.

Committee updates and reports
- Communications – A brief recap of the Annual conference was given.
- TSAC update – nothing new to report.
- Monitoring Committee - Reported they had a RRBMAC meeting coming up in the next few days.

Watershed District Project Team Updates
The watershed updates were provided by representatives present from each watershed district.

Agency and Organization Updates
The agency and organization updates were provided by agency representatives.

Other Items

Meeting Adjourned at 1:30
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Contact Information

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mndnr.gov
Dedication of Fiscal Year 2018 Report

This annual report is dedicated to the memory of Don Ogaard, who was instrumental in developing the 1998 Flood Mediation Agreement in the Minnesota portion of the Red River Basin. He was also a visionary leader that formed the Red River Watershed Management Board. Mr. Ogaard was well known within the water management arena and he was also a Norman County farmer and landowner. Mr. Ogaard passed away in 2017 and below is a weblink to a newsletter article about his water management activities in the Red River Basin:

http://www.rrwmb.org/Newsletters/2017/JULY%202017%20NEWSLETTER.pdf
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**Background:** The Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (FDRWG) was originally formed in 1998 to address issues related to the development of flood damage reduction projects and natural resource enhancement projects in the Minnesota portion of the Red River of the North Basin. The FDRWG was formed by a mediated agreement between watershed districts in Northwest Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources along with a number of environmental groups. Watershed-based work under this agreement has led to the development of numerous projects that provide local and regional benefits to help reduce flood damages, improve habitat, and improve water quality.

The FDRWG works to ensure the full implementation of the 1998 Red River Mediation Agreement along with the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB). The RRWMB is the fiscal agent for the FDRWG and works closely with the FDRWG to manage the funds allocated for this effort. This report to the Legislature provides an overview of the accomplishments achieved in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 with state funding ($264,000) granted for implementation of the Red River Mediation Agreement.

The RRWMB funds a Red River Basin Coordinator position jointly with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This position exists to provide immediate support for the FDRWG and is a liaison to the RRWMB staff and Managers. This position has been in existence for many years to enhance communication between the two entities. The FDRWG is comprised of individuals that represent several entities, non-governmental organizations, and local, state, and federal agencies. Appendix A provides current membership information for the FDRWG.

**FY 2018 Accomplishments:** The FY 2018 spending plan approved by the FDRWG allocated $264,000 this fiscal year to support collaborative watershed-based efforts to implement the 1998 Mediation Agreement. An equal funding match was required from individual watershed districts or the RRWMB. Funds were allocated and expended to plan and implement projects to achieve flood damage reduction and natural resource enhancement goals in the following budget categories:

A. **Project Team Support:** This budget items includes activities that directly support activities of watershed-based project teams to develop and implement projects. In FY 2018, funds were allocated to eight watershed districts with several project teams investigating the following projects:

- **Bois de Sioux Watershed District:**
  - Bois de Sioux Direct Project

- **Buffalo Red River Watershed District:**
  - South Branch of the Buffalo River Restoration Project
  - Wolverton Creek - Comstock Coulee Restoration Project
  - Stoney Creek Project
  - Barnesville Township Project
Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District:
- Middle River Watershed Project
- Swift Coulee Watershed Project
- Newfolden Flood Damage Reduction Project
- JD 14 Project
- JD 19 Project

Red Lake Watershed District:
- Pine Lake Watershed Project
- Four-legged Lake Watershed Project
- Black River Impoundment Project

Roseau River Watershed District:
- Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project
- Whitney Lake Project
- Beltrami Area Project

Sand Hill River Watershed District:
- Sand Hill Watershed Upper Detention Project

Two Rivers Watershed District:
- Klondike Clean Water Retention Project

Wild Rice Watershed District:
- Lower Wild Rice Corridor River Rehabilitation Project
- Goose Prairie March Wildlife Management Area Enhancements Project
- Green Meadow Subwatershed Project
- Moccasin Creek Project
- South Branch of the Wild Rice River Project

A total of $143,478 was disbursed to seven watershed districts in project team support at a 50% match. Total requests for project team support was $668,107, which far surpasses the disbursements, thus demonstrating a continued need for current funding levels and potential increased funding. Some of the project team support funding helped enable development of proposals for funding through the Outdoor Heritage Fund. These projects included the Wolverton Creek Restoration and Sediment Reduction Project, Lower Wild Rice Corridor River Rehabilitation Project, and the Whitney Lake Project, which secured project specific funding through the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Several of these projects are also being partially funded by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) for Red River flood water retention (Figure 1). This initiative will use the Small Watershed Planning Program to develop comprehensive solutions to solve resource concerns. A listing of projects completed since 1995 is also included in Appendix C. It should also be noted that several flood reduction projects were completed prior to 1995 and those projects are not included on the map in Appendix C. Over 40 projects have been constructed since the late 1970s and early 1980s.
A. **Project Acceleration Funding:** This budget item typically funds engineering efforts above and beyond those that are routinely expected in the project team process. In FY 2018, the Swift Coulee Watershed Project was allocated $10,000 and the Black River Impoundment Project was allocated $13,000 to accelerate project development, for a total of $23,000 being distributed to these two projects.

B. **Project Monitoring:** This budget item primarily supports water quality monitoring of mediation projects, water quality monitor training, reporting, and monitoring coordination. In FY2018, $85,000 in funding was used to:

- Implement a nutrient and sediment load monitoring strategy.
- Conduct Rapid Floristic Quality Assessments at the Klondike project site in the Two Rivers Watershed District.
- Develop a “story map” based reporting strategy/method to encompass all project monitoring efforts (e.g. habitat establishment, water quality, floristic quality) to aid in the writing of State of Minnesota environmental assessment worksheets, Federal environmental assessments, and other permits that will be required.
- Hold quarterly Red River Basin Monitoring Advisory Committee meetings.
- Train 31 (professionals + volunteer) water quality staff that collect data at sites around the basin.

Note - These funds leveraged $85,000 in matching funds from the RRWMB.

C. Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC): The TSAC provides technical and scientific advice to the FDRWG. Several important technical papers have been developed since 1998 and some of this information has statewide importance. Attached in Appendix A is a factsheet that was recently created to illustrate TSAC technical papers that have been developed since the late 1990s. TSAC membership includes a range of disciplines from hydrology and engineering to ecology, wildlife, soils, wetlands, and water quality. In FY2018, the TSAC did not hold any meetings and funds for this line item were reallocated to Project Team expenses.

D. Communication and Outreach: The FDRWG created a Communications Committee approximately five years ago to address specific communication needs and issues. This committee meets four to six times a year and is comprised of FDRWG members and their staff. Funds for communications and outreach typically cover costs incurred to plan and host an annual conference each March, develop fact sheets and other basic communication materials, and to develop and administer surveys to gain insight into specific communication issues as requested by the FDRWG.

In March 2018, the FDRWG and RRWMB hosted the 20th annual joint conference in Moorhead. The conference agenda provided an opportunity for watershed districts, state and federal agencies, local governments and citizens to review accomplishments, increase their understanding of ongoing flood damage reduction and natural resource issues, and discuss future projects.

The conference was held jointly with the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, which held their regular monthly meeting as part of the conference. Several other groups met during this conference including the Red River Retention Authority and Northwest Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Approximately 170 people registered for the event with about 150 people attending the conference, which was record attendance. 2018 marked the 20th anniversary of the Mediation Agreement.

The conference included special sessions on project development to meet regional flood damage reduction goals through distributed storage, a drainage seminar, and the use of conservation funding for project development. Former Minnesota State Senator Roger Moe was a guest speaker during an evening banquet that was held to honor Don Ogaard, who was instrumental in forming the RRWMB in 1976 and developing the 1998 Mediation Agreement. Mr. Ogaard was the original executive director of the RRWMB and the 2018 conference was dedicated to Mr. Ogaard and his many accomplishments in the water management arena.
**FDRWG Meetings:** The FDRWG held five meetings during FY 2018. FDRWG meetings included a review of finances, discussion of pertinent issues and projects, and review of ongoing projects in development. Meeting materials are available at the following website: [http://www.rrwmb.org/FDRWG.html](http://www.rrwmb.org/FDRWG.html)

The FDRWG hosted a technical training session in December 2017 for local units of government and state agency staff to provide information about the Mediation Agreement. Continual training and education about the Agreement will be necessary as knowledge is lost at all levels due to retirements. Newer, inexperienced water management professionals need to be aware of the Mediation Agreement and the framework that it provides to develop collaborative flood damage reduction projects in the Red River Basin.

**Strategic Plan:** The RRWMB and FDRWG 20th Annual Conference, held in March 2018, was themed “Past, Present, and Future”. This event highlighted accomplishments in the last 20 years including current methods and associated outcomes and looked to define future opportunities for both the RRWMB and FDRWG. Approximately 170 people registered for the conference, and about 90 people participated in a facilitated discussion that sought input on the accuracy of FDRWG goals in today’s world, what the most important issues related to water and resource management are now, and how limited funding resources should be prioritized.

The results of the facilitated discussion were shared with both the RRWMB and FDRWG members and stakeholders. FDRWG members used this feedback to develop a plan to review current resources and processes used by the FDRWG. FY18 ended with the creation of a sub-committee that will work with the FDRWGs Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC) to update current technical papers, and possibly identify new topics for which technical papers should be researched and written, and a plan to review the Mediation Agreement to consider updating processes in an effort for continuous improvement.

The 21st Annual Conference, scheduled for March 2019, is themed “Innovation and Change”. An update will be shared from the RRWMB and FDRWG on how the feedback from the participants in 2018 has been used to guide action. It is planned that implementation of change(s), as defined by the continuation of the review process, will be launched in 2019.
APPENDIX A
Current FDRWG Membership

Co-chairs:
- Jerome Deal – RRWMB
- Rita Albrecht - MN DNR

RRWMB:
- Dan Money
- Greg Holmvik
- LeRoy Ose
- Roger Mischel – RRWMB Alternate
- Jason Braaten – RRWMB Alternate

Local Government:
Vacant - County Government Representative

Citizens and Landowners:
Vacant - Citizen and Landowner
Eddie Bernhardson - Citizen
Gerald Van Amburg - Citizen
Chuck Fritz - Citizen Alternate

Agricultural Groups:
Brian Lacey

Tribal Organizations:
Shane Bowe- Red Lake Nation

Environmental Groups:
Vacant – Environmental and Conservation Organizations

State Agencies:
Theresa Ebbenga - MN DNR
John Jaschke - MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
Henry Van Offelen - MN BWSR Alternate
Jim Ziegler - Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
Jim Courneya - MPCA Alternate
Stefan Bishof - Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)
Jeppe Kjaersgaard - MDA Alternate

Federal Agencies:
Craig Jarnot - St. Paul District, US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)
Vacant - St. Paul District, US ACOE Alternate
Ryan Frohling - US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Laurie Fairchild - USFWS Alternate
Debra Walchuk - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Kelly Turgeon - USDA Farm Services Agency
APPENDIX B
TSAC Technical Papers

Red River Basin
Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee

The Flood Damage Reduction Work Group has relied on a Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC) to provide technical and scientific information and analysis in support of the mediation effort. The TSAC represents a range of disciplines, including hydrology, engineering, ecology, soils science, and economics.

TSAC has developed a series of working papers to address key topics associated with flood damage reduction and modeled the use of different strategies for flood damage reduction. TSAC has completed its work based on consensus, and its work products reflect consensus recommendations to the Work Group. This document includes a list of the technical papers that have been developed since 1998:

Technical Paper No. 1 An Overview of the Impacts of Water Level Dynamics ("Bounce") on Wetlands - Apfelbaum and Lewis (December 8, 1998).


Technical Paper No. 4 Siting and Design of Impoundments for Flood Control in the Red River Basin - Anderson and Lewis (December 8, 1998).


Technical Paper No. 7 Flood Frequency Based Design - St. Germain and Woodbury (December 8, 1998).


All TSAC Papers can be found at: http://www.nrwm.org/FDRWG_Committees.html

May 2018
APPENDIX C
Completed Flood Damage Reduction Projects

Flood Damage Reduction Projects 1995 - 2018
Red River Basin

Project Type

Channel Rehabilitation
Impoundment
Diversion

Impoundment

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<th>#</th>
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Diversion

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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Deerhorn Creek</td>
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WGS 1984 UTM Zone 15N
March 2018
Bois de Sioux

**Redpath** – No significant events have taken place. We continue to secure permits; land acquisition and securement of funding remain.

**Traverse County Ditch #52** – We will be holding a public hearing on January 17th to establish part of the trouble area as a Water Quality Enhancement Project.

**Bois de Sioux RCPP** – NRCS Review Points #1 - #3 are complete; Review Point #4 has been submitted.

**Clean Water Ditch Retrofits** – Wilkin County Ditch #8 will be closed-out in 2019. We are waiting to hear the results of our $350,000 Multipurpose Drainage Grant application for WCD #9 & #10. In the meantime, on January 17th, we will hold final hearings on the improvement petitions, detailed survey reports, and the viewers’ reports of redeterminations.

Buffalo – Red

Will provide update at the meeting.

Wild Rice

**RCPP**. The South Brand of Wild Rice River and the Moccasin Creek Interdisciplinary teams met as part of the process November 27th. Additional studies are being done by Houston Engineering to develop potential solutions.

Red Lake

**Black River Impoundment Project**

Project Readiness form was updated 12-7-19 along with an updated fact sheet and was submitted to DNR, RRWMB as well as RRFDRWG for review. We are nearing completion of the final plans and specification as well as final phases of USACOE permitting. We anticipate being ready for construction this spring/summer assuming all funding can be obtained. A Hearing for the plan update on the Red Lake River 1W1P, for the establishment of a Water Management District, will be held December 19th. The upcoming hearing is the final steps in securing the local funds needed to construct this project. To date we are waiting for State funding to be approved which is the only item holding up the construction which could occur in summer 2019.
**Project:** Black River Impoundment Project

**Proposer:** Red Lake Watershed District

**Description/Location:**
Black River Impoundment Project is located in northwestern Minnesota within Pennington County. The proposed project would include the construction of an impoundment as well as diversion ditches that would divert waters from a 16.8 square mile drainage area which presently drains into a legal public drainage system, Judicial Ditch 25-III. The public drainage system is located on a dredged portion of the Black River system which continues into Red Lake County and ultimately outlets into the Red Lake River.

**Project Benefits:**
- Flood Control
  - Reduce sub-watershed peak volume and flows
  - Reduce risk of road damages
  - Reduce upstream and downstream agricultural and private land damages
  - Improve hydrologic conditions within the sub-watershed
- Habitat Restoration
  - Protect and/or enhance existing upland and aquatic habitats
  - Maintain and enhance waterfowl habitat diversity
  - Improve water quality
- Erosion Reduction
  - Improve stability of watercourses as well as collecting agricultural drainage prior to waters entering the Black River.

**Additional Details:**
- Project Cost = $8,064,000
- Funding: State 50% / Non-State 50%
- Status: Proposed
- Partners:
  - Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB)
  - State of Minnesota Flood Damage Reduction Program

**Project Schedule:**

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prelim Engineering</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Construction</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Activities as of December 2018**
- Final Design Nearing Completion
- Impoundment Site Land Acquisition completed
- Permitting Nearing Completion

**Next Steps**
- Permitting Approval
- Diversion Ditch Easements
- RRWMB Step III Submittal

**Project Readiness**
- FDR Compatibility
- NRE Compatibility
- Project Readiness
- External Support

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**Sand Hill**
No update provided.

**Middle Snake Tamarac**
RCPP - Judicial Ditch #19 Watershed Planning
Review Points 1 – 3 have been submitted to NRCS. Currently Houston Engineering is performing Hydrologic & Hydraulic (H&H) modeling on alternatives that were discussed at the last project team meeting. The project team also discussed the existing East Park WMA (Nelson Slough) operated by the DNR and what possible changes could be made for additional FDR benefits. The MSTRWD met recently with DNR staff to discuss possible changes to strategies for FDR at the Nelson Slough site. The DNR asked the MSTRWD to assemble an FDR strategy that the MSTRWD would like to see implemented at Nelson Slough. The MSTRWD has submitted that strategy and is waiting for a response from the DNR.

RCPP - Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed Planning

Review Points 1 – 3 have been submitted to NRCS. Currently Houston Engineering is performing Hydrologic & Hydraulic (H&H) modeling on alternatives that were discussed at the last project team meeting.

Swift Coulee/Marshall County Ditch #3

Concurrence Point #1, which includes the purpose and need statement was submitted to the USACE. Houston Engineering has assembled an H&H model for the entire Swift Coulee sub-watershed. At the last project team meeting, existing conditions H&H modeling results were presented to the project team and significant agricultural damages were evident within the sub-watershed. Currently Houston Engineering is exploring alternatives within the sub-watershed through H&H modeling efforts.

Newfolden / Middle River Flood Damage Reduction Project

Since the placement of a significant portion of the town of Newfolden in the 1% Annual (100-Year) Chance Floodplain by FEMA, the focus of the project has been Newfolden and the surrounding areas. The floodplain designation is largely due to flow restrictions through a railway crossing within the Middle River running through the center of town.

As of to date, Preliminary Engineering is in progress, field surveys and soil borings have been completed, and a Step 1 to the RRWMB has been approved. Discussions with landowners at each of the sites continue to take place and have been positive. The updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and Study (FIS) are still pending at this time. It is anticipated that the Preliminary Engineer’s Report will be finalized early 2019. HDR is providing engineering services for this project.

Two Rivers

Klondike Clean Water Retention Project #11

Project design is continuing with detailed designs. The project has been broken down into 5 phases, with phase 1 being dike embankment to store 20,000 acre feet, phase 2 completion of the diked inlet and associated structures, phase 3 further diking to increase storage to 30,000 acre feet, phase 4 increase to 40,000 acre feet, and phase 5 construction of several inlet/diversion channels. The project is designed to reduce peak flows on the South Branch Two Rivers at Lake Bronson by 13% and reduce the Two Rivers contribution to the Red River by 20%.

Natural resource enhancements being considered include protection and enhancement of an adjacent prairie rich fen, reduction of sediment and phosphorous to Lake Bronson, low flow augmentation, and addressing water quality impairments on Two Rivers. The TRWD and DNR jointly completed a fen plan for the Beaches Lake Area Fen, which according to DNR is one of the largest fens of its kind within the lower 48 states. Lake Bronson is located downstream at Lake Bronson State Park and currently undergoes harmful algal blooms. Impairments for fish and biota have been identified with excessive sediment being a factor and during dry times all 3 branches of the river Two Rivers partially dry up.

The project has been approved for review point 2 of the RCPP process and the District will be submitting review point 3 in the very near future. In addition, the project has been approved for
concurrence point 2 with the US Army Corps of Engineers wetland permitting. Future permits that will be needed include a State of Minnesota environmental assessment worksheet, wetland conservation act permit, ditch permits under statute 103E, road authority permits to alter township roads, and various others.

Other project management features being considered at this time are a land exchange with the MN DNR and applications for funding the various stages of construction. Final construction plans have been ordered, and negotiations for right of way along the diked inlet are being held. A public meeting was held on November 14th to update citizens and agencies on the project, and a presentation was given followed by an open house format. The MPCA is currently working on a ‘SAM’ water quality model to help identify nutrient and sediment reduction targets. Early in 2019 a technical advisory / project team meeting will be held to delve into some of the details regarding the natural resource enhancements.

**Joe River**
Nothing to report

**Roseau River**

**Whitney Lake:** The Project Team met on November 15th and chose a preferred alternative. There was extensive discussion on the Benefit/Cost ratio for the project as well as moving the project forward with using the traditional funding & permitting processes. Landowners are very anxious for the project to proceed with whatever means are most expeditious.

A public open house will be held in February to further public outreach.

**Lake Bottom:** We will be reaching out to landowners individually in the next few weeks to discuss how the project will be impacting their properties. We expect to have the Engineer’s Report completed and begin submitting permit applications early 2019.