1. **Call to Order:** The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) met on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at the RRWMB Office, Ada, Minnesota. President John Finney called the meeting to order. Members present were Greg Holmvik, LeRoy Ose, Dan Money, Jason Braaten, Roger Mischel, and Linda Vavra.

Others present included:
- Robert Sip, Executive Director, RRWMB
- Nikki Swenson, Executive Assistant, RRWMB
- Lisa Frenette, Legislative Liaison, RRWMB
- Andrew Graham, Red River Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Kevin Ruud, Administrator, Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD)
- Terry Sorenson, Manager, Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD)
- Ted Preister, Executive Director, Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) Via Conference Call
- Morrie Lanning, Consultant, Morrie Lanning Consulting
- Nate Dalager, Engineer, HDR Engineering Incorporated
- Tracy Halstensgard, Administrator, Roseau River Watershed District (RRWD)
- LeRoy Stumpf, Staff, Congressman Collin Petersons Office
- Chad Engels, Engineer, Moore Engineering Incorporated
- Jerry Bents, Engineer, Houston Engineering Incorporated
- Keith Weston, Executive Director, Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)
- Julie Goehring, Staff, Red River Basin Commission (RRBC)
- Henry Van Offelen, Clean Water Specialist, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
- Nick Kludt, Red River Fisheries Specialist, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Debra Walchuk, Red River Coordinator, National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
2. **Meeting Additions and Adoption of Agenda:** Mr. Sip indicated that there were several additions and adjustments to the meeting agenda and requested the following changes to the agenda:

- Discuss credit card payments as Item 6F.
- Include a WRWD flood buyout request under Item 7C after the Long-term Flood Solutions funding request of the RRBC.
- Discuss a request by the RRWD to have the RRWMB submit a letter of support for a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant application after the WRWD flood buyout request under Item 7C.
- Hold discussion by Mr. Money related to Technical Paper 14 of the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (FDRWG) Technical Advisory Committee (TSAC) after the Funding Strategy discussion (Item 8) on the agenda.
- Present the Funding Strategy and Star Value discussion before the RRBC request.
- Have all reports given before lunch and before the strategic planning session.

**Motion** to approve the Agenda with the additions, adjustments, and changes by Mr. Ose and **Seconded** by Ms. Vavra. Upon vote, motion **Carried**, 7-0.

3. **Closed Session Pursuant to MN Statute 13D.05, Subpart 3(a):** **Motion** to proceed into closed session for the purpose of receiving confidential legal advice related to an employment litigation matter with legal counsel via conference call by Ms. Vavra, **Seconded** by Mr. Money. Upon vote, motion **Carried**, 7-0. **Motion** to conclude the closed session and to return to regular open session by Ms. Vavra and **Seconded** by Mr. Braaten. Upon vote, motion **Carried**, 7-0.

4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** **Motion** by Mr. Holmvik to dispense with the reading of the minutes for September 17, 2019, **Seconded** by Mr. Mischel. Upon vote, motion **Carried**, 7-0. A **Motion** by Mr. Ose to approve the September 17, 2019 meeting minutes, **Seconded** by Mr. Braaten. Upon vote, motion **Carried**, 7-0.

5. **Financial Reporting:**
   A. **Treasurer’s Report:** Mrs. Swenson reported the previous month’s financial activity and bills of interest to the Managers. **Motion** to approve the September 17, 2019 Treasurer’s Report by Mr. Money, **Seconded** by Mr. Mischel. Upon vote, motion **Carried**, 7-0.
### B. Review and Approve Bills and Managers Vouchers:

The bills presented for approval as of October 15, 2019, were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Memo</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AmeriPride Services</td>
<td>10/02/2019</td>
<td>September Invoice</td>
<td>44.38</td>
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<td>Arvig</td>
<td>10/04/2019</td>
<td>Phone Bill</td>
<td>167.17</td>
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<td>Board of Water and Soil Resources</td>
<td>09/24/2019</td>
<td>BWSR Academy</td>
<td>45.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bois de Sioux Watershed District</td>
<td>10/09/2019</td>
<td>Reallocation of Surplus Mediation funds FY19 PT</td>
<td>19.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bremer Bank, N.A.</td>
<td>10/07/2019</td>
<td>9/4/19 to 10/2/19 Statement</td>
<td>1,277.64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dot.Com Connection</td>
<td>10/11/2019</td>
<td>September Website Services</td>
<td>135.00</td>
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<td>Erickson’s Smokehouse</td>
<td>10/11/2019</td>
<td>Meeting Lunch</td>
<td>382.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Further</td>
<td>09/23/2019</td>
<td>Claim Reimbursement</td>
<td>153.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Further</td>
<td>10/03/2019</td>
<td>Claim Reimbursement</td>
<td>86.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Further</td>
<td>10/08/2019</td>
<td>Participant Fee-Comp Paid</td>
<td>8.60</td>
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<td>HDR Engineering, Inc.</td>
<td>09/20/2019</td>
<td>TAC 8/21, FDRWG 8/29, and Budget-Finance 9/17</td>
<td>2,502.90</td>
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<td>Houston Engineering, Inc.</td>
<td>10/02/2019</td>
<td>TAC and Feasibility Study</td>
<td>1,851.97</td>
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<td>International Water Institute</td>
<td>08/28/2019</td>
<td>TSAC for FY19</td>
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<td>Logo 2 Promo</td>
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<td>Vinyl Logo</td>
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<td>McCollum Hardware</td>
<td>10/01/2019</td>
<td>Spray Bottle</td>
<td>2.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD</td>
<td>10/07/2019</td>
<td>Loan Advance - Newfolden - Engineering Expenses</td>
<td>150,000.00</td>
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<td>Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD</td>
<td>10/09/2019</td>
<td>Reallocation of Surplus Mediation Funds FY19 PT</td>
<td>8,787.64</td>
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<td>MN Life Ins Company</td>
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<td>Life Insurance</td>
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<td>MN PEIP</td>
<td>10/10/2019</td>
<td>11/1/19 to 11/30/19 Coverage</td>
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<td>Moore Engineering, Inc.</td>
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<td>TAC Mtg and Prep 8/21</td>
<td>900.00</td>
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<td>Morris Electronics Inc.</td>
<td>10/01/2019</td>
<td>WAP, Power Adapter, Cisco Catalyst 2960X-24TS-LL Switch and Install</td>
<td>1,654.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nikki Swenson</td>
<td>10/14/2019</td>
<td>Reimbursement</td>
<td>642.60</td>
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</table>
### Northwest Beverage
- **Date:** 10/07/2019
- **Item:** Water for Office
- **Amount:** 22.75

### Office Supplies Plus
- **Date:** 10/14/2019
- **Item:** Credit, Staples, Meeting Supplies, and Drainage Conf Folders
- **Amount:** 139.78

### Red Lake Watershed District
- **Date:** 10/09/2019
- **Item:** Reallocation of Surplus Mediation Funds FY19 PT
- **Amount:** 4,987.73

### Robert Sip
- **Date:** 10/14/2019
- **Item:** Reimbursement 8/19/19 to 10/12/19
- **Amount:** 923.88

### Roseau River Watershed District
- **Date:** 10/09/2019
- **Item:** Reallocation of Surplus Mediation Funds FY19 PT
- **Amount:** 789.60

### Sand Hill River Watershed District
- **Date:** 10/09/2019
- **Item:** Reallocation of Surplus Mediation Funds FY19 PT
- **Amount:** 103.71

### Smith Partners PLLP
- **Date:** 10/01/2019
- **Item:** Legal Services for September
- **Amount:** 607.50

### Verizon
- **Date:** 10/04/2019
- **Item:** Aug 29 to Sep 28 Cell Bill
- **Amount:** 72.64

### Widseth, Smith, Nolting and Assoc., Inc.
- **Date:** 09/27/2019
- **Item:** September TAC Services
- **Amount:** 1,114.77

### Wild Rice Watershed District
- **Date:** 10/01/2019
- **Item:** Hallway Signage
- **Amount:** 300.75

### Wild Rice Watershed District
- **Date:** 10/02/2019
- **Item:** Shared Services October Bill
- **Amount:** 278.14

### Wild Rice Watershed District
- **Date:** 10/09/2019
- **Item:** Reallocation of Surplus Mediation Funds FY19 PT
- **Amount:** 5,691.25

### Wild Rice Watershed District
- **Date:** 10/11/2019
- **Item:** Pay Request 4 - Hendrum
- **Amount:** 436,469.73

**TOTAL**
- **Amount:** $625,682.45

**Motion** to approve and pay bills along with Manager vouchers presented by Mr. Ose, **Seconded** by Ms. Vavra. Discussion: None. Upon vote, motion **Carried**, 7-0. For further reference, copies of the bills approved are attached hereto in the Treasurer’s Report as Exhibit A.

**C. Review Funding Commitments:** Mrs. Swenson presented the October 2019 funding commitments spreadsheet and stated that the updates from the previous month were the funds on hand to reflect the current balance in the money market account and the loan advance to Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District (MSTRWD) for the Newfolden Project in the amount of $150,000. In addition, Mrs. Swenson stated that the funding commitment spreadsheet now also includes pay request 4 of $436,469.73 to the WRWD for the City of Hendrum Flood Levee Improvement Project, which is the remaining amount of the commitment from the RRWMB to that project.
D. CD Renewals: Mr. Sip stated that one of the two CD’s that the RRWMB currently has will be maturing on October 28, 2019 with the other one maturing in January 2020. Mr. Sip mentioned that he spoke with Bremer Bank staff before the meeting to inquire on the current CD rates, who indicated that rates for the money market account were 2.0 percent and CD rates were as follows:

- 3 Month CD – 1.42 percent.
- 6 Month CD – 1.54 percent.
- 12 Month CD – 1.70 percent.

Mr. Sip inquired with the Managers about their thoughts on the matter and discussion was held. Mr. Money made a Motion to close the CD, to move the funds to the money market account, and to have Mr. Sip request Bremer Bank to make the changes, Seconded by Mr. Mischel. Upon vote, motion Carried, 7-0.

E. Credit Card Bill: Mrs. Swenson spoke to the Managers regarding the company credit card and she said that due to timing of regular RRWMB meetings and sending checks in the mail for payment, the RRWMB has missed the due date the last two months and have incurred late fees. Mrs. Swenson indicated that the late fees would be waived, and the credit card company suggested either putting the account on autopay or paying the amount due via phone or online. Mrs. Swenson stated that due to timing of the payment being processed and registering for conferences there was also an over credit limit fee charged, and this fee was also waived. Mr. Sip stated that a request to raise the credit limit of the account had been denied. Discussion was held and it was Manager consensus to call Bremer Bank for assistance in getting the credit card limit increased. Motion by Mr. Ose to put the credit card bill on autopay, Seconded by Mr. Braaten. Upon vote, motion Carried, 7-0.

6. Funding Requests:
   - **Project Step Applications:** Mr. Sip indicated that there were no applications this month.
   - **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Recommendations:** Mr. Sip indicated that there were no TAC recommendations this month.
   - **Goose Prairie WMA Funding Agreement:** Mr. Sip indicated that the funding agreement and Resolution 2019-22 were not ready at the time the meeting packet was distributed. Mr. Sip provided copies of Resolution 2019-22 and projected the funding agreement for both the Managers and audience to view. Mr. Sip indicated that the funding agreement template was the standard template that has been used several times in 2018 and 2019 and that he had been working with the WRWD and their engineering consultant in reviewing the language in both the resolution and funding agreement. Mr. Sip stated that the RRWMB had previously made a funding commitment to the project and that this step
had not yet been completed.

The Managers reviewed Resolution 2019-22 and held discussion. **Motion** to approve the funding agreement for the Goose Prairie WMA Project for $400,000.00 by Mr. Holmvik, **Seconded** by Mr. Mischel. Mr. Finney asked Mrs. Swenson to conduct the roll-call vote indicating Manager approval of the funding agreement for the Wild Rice Watershed District Goose Prairie WMA Project via Resolution 2019-22:

**Resolution 2019-22 Roll-call Vote:**

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Upon the roll-call vote for the Goose Prairie WMA Project funding agreement, the motion **Carried, 7-0** via Resolution 2019-22.

- **Funding Strategy and Star Value:** Mr. Sip reviewed the discussion recently held at the RRWMB Budget and Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Finney provided additional background and discussion about the recent Committee meeting that had been held to discuss RRWMB funding strategies, the Star Value Calculation, and related matters. Mr. Finney stated that originally, the Managers had asked the TAC to review the matter, but the TAC felt that the discussion was better suited for the Budget and Finance Committee. Mr. Sip indicated that copies of the Committee recommendations along with supporting information would be placed on the table in the back of the meeting room during the refreshment break, which included the following:

  a. Develop a capital outlay budget and forecast spending up to ten years in the future.
  b. Consider increasing the RRWMB share of local project costs. Consider funding projects at $40/star or higher.
  c. Request the State of Minnesota (DNR) to ensure funding commitments for projects without Natural Resource Enhancements (NREs) but potentially at a lower funding percentage. Projects with designed NREs should remain at 75 percent cost-share.
  d. Increase communication to funding partners about the RRWMB and FDRWG funding processes and Minnesota Red River Basin (RRB) financial needs.
  e. Request member watershed districts to sign off on final dollar amounts needed for projects to eliminate or lessen confusion of final dollar amounts agreed upon.
f. Obtain 2019 flood damage information from member watershed districts, counties, Minnesota Department of Transportation, and other local partners.
g. RRWMB to comment on One Water One Plan (1W1P) and local plans regarding RRWMB goals.
h. Water quality, habitat, and NREs should be RRWMB priorities in addition to flood damage reduction.

Mr. Finney stated the Committee discussed obtaining funding from outside sources and that the RRWMB has discussed getting projects done at a heightened pace, which means the RRWMB may need to allocate higher levels of funding. Mr. Dalager stated the need to have funding packages and cost share adjusted to allow for this. Mr. Bents stated that the cost per Star Value should be looked at holistically to project cash flow and he felt that the story being told to legislators is not solid on all the benefits that a project creates statewide. Discussion was held regarding these ideas. Ms. Halstensgard spoke to the Managers about options to structure communication the RRWMB tells at the state level.

Ms. Frenette spoke to the Managers regarding her conversations with legislators and that regional projects are becoming more difficult to get funded. Ms. Frenette stated that communication is key and needs to improve with partners, member watershed districts, and funding sources. Ms. Frenette said that Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) is likely going to scrutinize projects more closely and that all documents and processes need to be in order for MMB to approve funding. Ms. Frenette indicated that sharing economics and damage information is important to highlight for projects in rural areas.

Mr. Finney asked Ms. Frenette to provide additional comments and she stated that the DNR is requesting only $20 million for 2020 for flood hazard mitigation bonding. Ms. Frenette said that effectively communicating RRB flood damages will be critical this coming legislative session. Ms. Frenette also discussed an upcoming training session for RRWMB member watershed districts related to the DNR, BWSR Clean Water Fund, Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, and MMB funding processes and that the event would be held during the 2020 Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) legislative conference.

Ms. Halstensgard stated that reaching out to agricultural groups in the coming months would be helpful for the 2020 legislative session related to RRWMB priorities. Mr. Money made a reference to Minnesota Statutes 103F.161 related to RRB flood projects and 75 percent cost-share. Mr. Stumpf stated that the 75 percent cost-share rate was included in legislation in 1997 and he suggested that a regular appropriation for flood projects is needed and that the amendment funds have opportunity for the RRWMB. The Managers held additional discussion and agreed that a funding strategy should be further
developed.

- **Long-term Flood Solutions Funding Request:** Mr. Sip indicated that Mr. Preister was unable to be at the meeting in person and he then called Mr. Preister, who spoke to the Managers via conference call. Mr. Preister stated that in Fall 2018, he presented this request to the RRWMB asking for $12,500.00 for the first year, with approximately $62,500.00 remaining to complete the project. Mr. Finney asked what the update was or how it was going to benefit the RRB and Mr. Priester said that it will add in the years since the last flood and that 2009 and 2011 flood events are not currently included. Mr. Preister stated that the project would also expand the 100-year flood information to include 200 and 500-year flood levels. Mr. Finney asked Mr. Bents to provide additional comments and he indicated that this effort should not be confused with the RRB Feasibility Study, which is a separate activity. Mr. Bents discussed the difference between the two efforts from a technical standpoint.

Mr. Money asked about how the update to the Long-term Flood Solutions would be used and who the intended audience would be. Mr. Preister responded that users of this would be individual and organizations in the RRB working on flood control and water management. Mr. Preister provided additional explanation and Mr. Finney requested that Mr. Priester attend the upcoming TAC meeting to better explain what the funds will be used for. Mr. Finney stated that the TAC would discuss and will make a recommendation to the RRWMB Managers at an upcoming regular meeting and Mr. Preister agreed with this approach. Mr. Sip suggested that the Managers defer the discussion to the TAC for further review and to make a recommendation back to the RRWMB Managers at the November 2019 RRWMB regular meeting. It was Manager consensus to have the TAC review the matter and to report back to the November 2019 regular RRWMB meeting for a clearer picture of where funds will be spent, who will benefit from the update, and if RRWMB investment is warranted.

- **Technical Paper 14:** Mr. Money spoke to the Managers about the upcoming FDRWG discussion on Technical Paper 14 related to NREs. Mr. Money provided some historical background on the correspondence between the RRWMB and FDRWG regarding this matter in previous years. Mr. Money discussed the current situation related to changes over time in staff positions at all levels and how this has contributed to loss of knowledge about the 1998 Mediation Agreement and its contents. Discussion was held by the Managers and Mr. Money indicated that the RRWMB had asked the FDRWG to address several NRE matters in a letter from 2012. Mr. Money stated that now as a co-chair of the FDRWG, that he would work with the FDRWG to address the 14 items discussed in the RRWMBs 20102 letter to the FDRWG related to NREs.
• **WRWD Flood Buyout Project:** Mr. Ruud stated that the WRWD has a property that is not conducive to a ring dike and the owner is now looking for a buyout option. Mr. Ruud said that the federal government Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) could contribute funding of 75 percent while the State of Minnesota share would be at 12.5 percent and that the WRWD is requesting the RRWMB to consider partnering with the WRWD for the remaining 12.5 percent. Discussion was held by the Managers and it was indicated that the Project had not yet been proposed to the Norman County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Holmvik stated that more information should be obtained before the RRWMB Managers make a final decision. It was Manager consensus to table the decision until more information was available from the WRWD.

• **Roseau River RCPP Support Letter:** Ms. Halstensgard spoke to the Managers regarding the Roseau Lake Project RCPP support letter and she asked the Managers to submit a letter of support. After brief discussion it was Manager consensus to have Mr. Sip draft a letter of support for the RRWD for their RCPP application. Ms. Halstensgard indicated that the deadline for RCPP submittals is December 3, 2019.

7. **10 Minute Refreshment Break:** Mr. Finney called for a break at approximately 11:39 am. Mr. Finney reconvened the meeting at approximately 11:50 am.

8. **Progress Indicators:** Mr. Sip suggested that the progress indicator discussion could be moved to the strategic plan discussion after lunch and the Managers affirmed this minor change to the agenda.

9. **Reports:**
   A. **Red River Basin Coordinator Report:** Mr. Graham provided brief comments and stated that his written report was included in the meeting packet. Mr. Graham also introduced the new Red River Fisheries Specialist Nick Kludt to the Managers.

   B. **Executive Director Report:** Mr. Sip presented information about the RRWMB potentially holding listening sessions in the RRB this winter to gain insights into flood reduction and drainage needs of farmers and landowners. Mr. Money stated that he felt that the local member watershed districts should hold the sessions and not the RRWMB. Mr. Braaten stated that the RRWMB needs to think proactively and that listening sessions would be helpful, and Mr. Finney said that timing of any such sessions would be important to ensure attendance. Discussion was held by the Managers and Mr. Sip suggested that the RRWMB Communication and Outreach Committee could discuss and bring forth a recommendation to the Managers, who affirmed this approach.
Mr. Sip discuss quorum and open meeting law matters and indicated that RRWMB legal counsel had submitted a memorandum related to RRWMB committees and quorums. Mr. Sip stated that this was related to discussions the RRWMB has held in 2019 regarding committees and quorums and that the Managers had requested legal counsel review and respond to the issue earlier in the year. Mr. Sip stated that the document would be shared with member watershed districts and that the document was available on the table in conference room as he had just received it the day before the meeting. Mr. Sip provided other updates related to the Drainage Work Group, the 2020 Drainage Conference, and the proposed rules regarding Class 2/7 Waters being developed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

C. Internal RRWMB Committees:
   • **Legislative Report:** Mr. Sip indicated that the Legislative Committee will be meeting this afternoon and that meetings were upcoming for the Water Quality and Monitoring Advisory Committee and the Communication and Outreach Committee in late October 2019.

D. Member Watershed Districts: No additional verbal or written reports were provided.

E. External Committees: Mr. Sip indicated to the Managers that no additional meetings have been held since the September 2019 regular RRWMB meeting.

F. Agency and Partner Reports:
   • **International Water Institute:** Mr. Sip indicated that a written report was included in the meeting packet.
   
   • **RRBC:** Mrs. Goehring provided an update to the Managers and shared information about the RRBC annual conference to be held in Fargo in January 2020.
   
   • **RRRA:** Mr. Weston submitted a written report that was included in the meeting packet and he provided several updates to the Managers. Mr. Weston said that the National Watershed Coalition Conference was held in Kentucky and he attended the event. Mr. Weston mentioned that the RRRA has funds available to work with KFJO Radio to discuss flood related issues. Mr. Weston discussed a 2012 FEMA document that Mr. Sip recently located related to benefit cost analysis and an associated computer program related to ecosystem service benefits. Mr. Weston discussed several other updates and referred the Managers to his written report.
• **BWSR:** Mr. Van Offelen reported that Rita Weaver replaced Al Kean as the BWSR chief engineer and that BWSR is reviewing what the role is of the position and he stated that Mr. Kean may be coming back assist with some training for that position. Mr. Van Offelen discussed recent Clean Water Fund allocations and 1W1P activities of the BWSR and watershed districts in the RRRB. Mr. Van Offelen also spoke about a recent BWSR cover crop initiative.

• **NRCS:** Ms. Walchuk also spoke to the Managers about the benefit cost analysis tool that Mr. Sip had shared from FEMA and she stated a concern about using this tool is that it negates the ability to request an exception from NRCS related to economic requirements and analysis. Ms. Walchuk discussed an upcoming RCPP webinar related to use of the new RCPP application portal to submit applications

10. **Lunch Recess:** Mr. Finney called for a lunch recess at 12:29 PM. Mr. Finney reconvened the meeting at approximately 1:15 PM.

11. **Strategic Plan Discussion:** Mr. Sip indicated that copies of the draft progress indicators were located on the table in the back of the conference room. Mr. Sip discussed the purpose and need for the progress indicators and stated that the information would be shared at upcoming events, conferences, and trade shows. The Managers held brief discussion and Ms. Vavra made a Motion to approve the progress indicators and Seconded by Mr. Ose. Upon vote, motion Carried, 7-0. Mr. Sip stated that the draft progress indicators would be finalized and would be shared with partners and stakeholders via Constant Contact.

Mr. Lanning and Mr. Sip spoke to the Managers about the strategic planning process, timeline, and progress that has been made to date. Mr. Lanning and Mr. Sip gave a brief overview of the draft strategic plan that was previously sent to the Managers in August and in preparation for this discussion. Mr. Sip stated that copies of the draft plan were available on the table in the back of the conference room for the audience. Mr. Lanning said that today he will go through the priorities one by one and will have the Managers decide if each one is accurate and correct. Mr. Lanning stated that the development of specific language should not be done by a committee of the whole and that Mr. Sip should be the editor of the draft document to avoid getting mired in minor details. Mr. Sip stated that the draft document is a starting point only and that it is subject to change by the Managers. The Managers held the following discussion related to the draft priorities with Mr. Lanning facilitating:

• **Membership:** Mr. Finney, Mr. Ose, and Mr. Sip were tasked with growing and retaining RRWMB membership. Discussion was held regarding the RRWMB membership and how to increase it. Some suggestions were to have a different type of membership, to add
incentives to join, and to further illustrate benefits of membership and services provided to members. The importance of a basin-wide approach and perspective was also discussed.

- **Protection of Farmland:** Mr. Holmvik and Mr. Mischel were asked to provide discussion about farmland protection and how it fits into the future of the RRWMB. Suggestions were to help farmers improve drainage and discussion was held about providing protection from 10-year storm events. Mr. Holmvik stated that storm event levels are increasing, and that middle water needs to be retained better. Ms. Vavra suggested that we should consider how two-stage ditches, culvert sizing, land use, and working with partners could be better utilized. It was mentioned that soil health should be highlighted in the document. Mr. Lanning suggested partnering more with other organizations and to help achieve this goal. Mr. Money feels there should be more action steps for this priority and Mr. Weston suggested that BWSR and SWCDs may be of assistance for this priority. Mr. Van Offelen asked if the RRWMB wants to protect all agricultural lands, pasture, and grassland areas and the Managers affirmed that this statement should be adjusted. Mr. Van Offelen suggested mapping out all 10-year flood event areas as an action item.

- **Funding:** Mr. Money discussed this priority and provided thoughts in relation to the 20 percent flow reduction goal and that there is a need to lobby at the state, federal, and regional level for funding. Mr. Money discussed the methods allowed by state law for watershed districts to levy or tax for a variety of purposes and that better information is required about financial needs related to flow reduction goals. Mr. Lanning suggested an action item related to spending down RRWMB financial reserves. Discussion was held regarding future state bonding and historical projects receiving 75 percent cost-share. Ms. Frenette suggested that $30 million each bonding cycle is needed statewide. Mr. Lanning suggested further relating the effect of flooding on the agricultural economy and that it would be a major selling point along with water quality. Mr. Money stated that perhaps the RRWMB could front-load project development by funding engineering to speed up this part of overall project implementation. Brief mention was made about funding commitments in relation to RRWMB financial reserves. Mr. Sip discussed the importance of understanding that when funding commitments are made, that funding agreements are a legally binding document.

- **Drainage Management:** Ms. Vavra provided comments on the drainage management priority and how this priority should fit into the RRWMB’s future of funding and projects. She stated that the TAC will be needed to help with this in reviewing technical papers and the development of new drainage techniques. Ms. Vavra stated that proper drainage management can help with water quality and holding back sedimentation. Mr. Sip suggested that the recently approved Comprehensive Water Management Plan for the RRB could be referenced in the RRWMB strategic plan. It was Manager consensus to have the TAC review and work with Ms. Vavra on this priority.
• **Project Implementation:** The Managers held brief discussion on this priority related to shovel ready projects. Mr. Money discussed the importance of being able to better brand or re-brand projects.

• **Flood Control and Protection:** The Managers held brief discussion on this priority and Mr. Lanning suggested that the Managers should contact Mr. Sip with additional comments.

• **Water Quality:** Discussion was held regarding how to fund water quality projects. It was suggested that applicants could possibly apply in a similar format following or in conjunction with the current RRWMB Step process. It was also stated that there is a need for some sort of measurement to know if projects are successful. During the discussion it was noted that the Buffalo Red River Watershed District uses high school students to collect water samples via the River Watch Program. The Managers affirmed that an action step for the River Watch Program should be included. Mr. Money asked for additional clarification on draft language and Mr. Sip provided explanation related to the Minnesota Agricultural Water Certification Program and NRE/nutrient trading potential.

Mr. Lanning stated that draft 2.0 of the strategic plan would be provided at the November 2019 regular RRWMB meeting and that the Managers should consider approving the document at the December 2019 regular meeting. Mr. Lanning also congratulated the Managers and staff on the progress indicators.

**12. Upcoming Meetings:** Mr. Finney announces that the next regular meeting of the RRWMB will take place on November 19, 2019 and will be held at the RLWD office in Thief River Falls, MN at 9:30 AM.

**13. Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

LeRoy Ose  
Secretary

Nikki Swenson  
Executive Assistant