



A BRIEF PRIMER WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Enabling Legislation:

The following is a reference to the enabling legislation that created the RRWMB in 1976 and subsequent changes to the legislation:

Laws 1976, chapter 162, section 1, as amended by Laws 1982, chapter 474, section 1, Laws 1983, chapter 338, section 1, Laws 1989 First Special Session chapter 1, article 5, section 45, and Laws 1991, chapter 167, section 1.

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Creation: The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) was created by the Minnesota legislature in 1976 to focus on basin-wide flooding. Historically, the activities of the RRWMB have centered on flood control. Previous efforts in dealing with continued flooding within the Red River Basin consisted of single projects within a localized area, planned with primary regard to local benefits. The RRWMB actively promotes a basinwide perspective for water management and past legislative changes have allowed the RRWMB to focus on other efforts and initiatives that benefit the Basin.

RRWMB Mission: To institute, coordinate, and finance projects and programs to alleviate flooding and assure the beneficial use of water in the watershed of the Red River of the North and its tributaries.

Supporting Objectives: The RRWMB has adopted several supporting objectives that relate to Coordination; financial support; basin planning; water quantity; water quality; erosion and sedimentation; education; research; public information; conflict resolution; and policies, rules, and regulations of other entities. These objectives are in no order of priority.

Governance: The RRWMB operates and functions according to a set of "Governing Documents" that provide a framework to review and fund flood damage reduction projects, educational efforts, research initiatives, hydraulic or hydrologic modelling and related studies, water quality monitoring, and other programs are of benefit to the Red River Basin. The Governing Documents can be found at this website:

<http://www.rrwmb.org/Policies.html>

RRWMB Members and Structure: The RRWMB is a joint powers agreement between seven Watershed Districts (WD) including the Bois de Sioux WD, Joe River WD, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers WD, Red Lake WD, Roseau River WD, Two Rivers WD, and Wild Rice WD. Each member WD appoints a Manager and an alternate to represent the local board on the RRWMB. The RRWMB meets monthly and has several internal committees that meet frequently. The RRWMB also has representation on several external boards and committees at the state, regional, and international level.

RRWMB Levy: Each of the local watershed district members of the RRWMB levy an "ad valorem" tax not to exceed 0.04836 percent of the taxable market value of all property within the district. The RRWMB sets the "Red River Watershed" levy each July and half of this levy is credited to the watershed district construction fund for the development, construction, and maintenance of projects and programs that benefit the local watershed district. The other half of this levy is credited to the general fund of the RRWMB to fund the development, construction, and maintenance of projects and programs that benefit the Red River Basin.

Benefits of RRWMB Membership: The RRWMB provides a unified voice for flooding, comprehensive water management, and natural resources issues at a basin level. The RRWMB provides lobbying services, tracking of regulatory issues, coordinates legal services for issues affecting all its members, and cost-shares for stream gauging efforts. The RRWMB has funded many efforts and projects over the last four decades and works collaboratively with its members.