Meeting Highlights – March 10, 2020

1. Annual Appointment of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC): The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) approved Resolution 2020-09 appointing the TAC as a standing committee. The TAC appointment will now be done each January during the annual RRWMB reorganizational meeting along with other regular resolutions.

2. Results of the 2020 Drainage Conference: The RRWMB Managers heard about results of the event that was sponsored by the RRWMB on January 27, 2020. Approximately 75 people attended the event and it was reported that the budget for the event was $12,000, with total expenses to date of $11,320.19. It was reported that $3,486.52 in registration fees were collected, thus reducing the overall cost of the event to $7,833.67. The Managers were also provided a compilation of information and comments received about the event.

3. National Weather Service (NWS) Update: Greg Gust of the NWS provided updates about the current 2020 flood outlook for the Red River Basin. Mr. Gust indicated that the next flood forecast would be available on March 12, 2020 and that he would be presenting information during the 22nd joint annual conference of the RRWMB and Flood Damage Reduction Work Group.

4. Water Quality Funding: The RRWMB Managers were presented with a draft application packet for a new water quality program. Robert Sip, RRWMB Executive Director, reviewed the draft packet with the Managers, who then held additional discussion about cost-share rates and overall programmatic issues. Members of the RRWMB Water Quality and Monitoring Advisory Committee were also in attendance and provided additional comments. The Managers approved the program and application packet, which will be communicated to member watershed districts in the coming weeks.

5. Member Watershed District Reports: Written reports were included in the March 10, 2020 RRWMB regular meeting packet. These reports will now be included quarterly in the RRWMB regular meeting packet and provide more detailed information and highlights about the activities of RRWMB member watershed districts.

6. Overview of 22nd Joint Annual Conference: Information was provided to the Managers about the radio shows that would be broadcast live from the joint annual conference with the FDRWG. It was indicated that Don Wick from the Red River Farm Network and Joel Heitkamp of KFGO Radio would be holding their radio shows during the event. It was also stated that local television stations were also notified of the event but that it was unknown which stations would be attending.

7. RRWMB Special Meeting: The Managers directed staff to schedule a special meeting in April 2020 in Moorhead for purposes of discussing a funding strategy, funding agreements, increased funding prior to Step 2, and overall issues related to funding. This special meeting will not take place in April 2020.

8. Next RRWMB Regular Meeting: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 10:00 AM. However, this may change due to the current pandemic situation. More information will be forthcoming.