



FUNDING OF FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECTS IN THE RED RIVER BASIN

The **Mission** of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) is 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.

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Project Funding: Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) projects in the Red River Basin (RRB) of Minnesota are primarily funded through a combination of funds from the following entities:

- **State of Minnesota** – Projects are funded through the Flood Hazard Mitigation Program that is administered by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Bonding funds are allocated to the Program by the legislature.
- **RRWMB** – Funds from the “Red River Levy” are managed and distributed by the RRWMB using a Step Process as outlined on the backside of this factsheet.
- **Watershed Districts** – Minnesota Watershed Law, Minnesota Statutes 103D allows for specific types of levies for various types of local watershed activities and projects. Watershed districts that are members of the RRWMB through the RRWMB Joint Powers Agreement are eligible for funds through the Red River Levy.

Other Funding Partners: Certain types of FDR projects may involve partners such as the following entities:

- **Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)** – Funds can be received for fish and wildlife habitat components of FDR projects through the LSOHC.
- **Minnesota Department of Transportation (DOT)** – Watershed districts partner with DOT on certain types of FDR projects where there is mutual benefit to reduce impacts to transportation and other public and private infrastructure.

What is the Red River Levy? Each of the local watershed district members of the RRWMB may also levy another “*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:

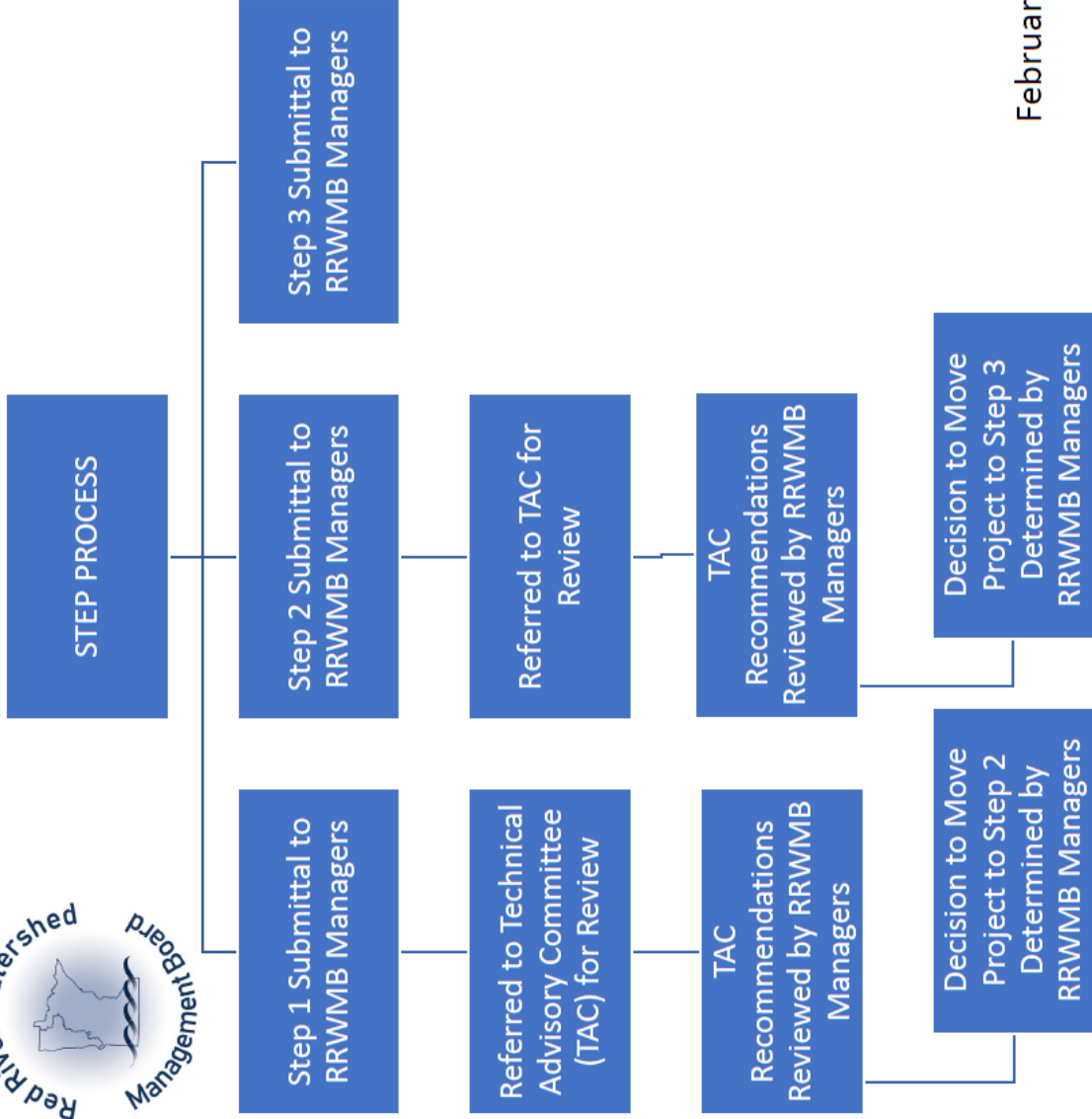
- Half of this levy is credited to the watershed district construction fund for the development, construction, and maintenance of projects and programs that benefit the **local** watershed district.
- The other half of this levy is credited to the general fund of the RRWMB to fund the development, construction and maintenance of projects and programs that benefit the **RRB**.

Non-traditional Funds: Watershed districts in the RRB may also apply for funds from other local, state, federal, or private funding partners for specific project components.

The 1998 Mediation Agreement: The Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (FDRWG) is responsible for implementing the Agreement in the RRB. All watershed districts in the RRB are eligible for the following types of assistance:

- **Project Team Support** – Funds can be applied for to offset the costs of local Project Team activities.
- **Project Acceleration Grants** – Funds are available for specialized studies, modeling, data collection efforts, or research.

The DNR, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency support the Agreement and are members of the FDRWG.



February 2020

Step 1:

- A tour of the proposed project must take place during Step 1.
- Step 1 must progress to Step 2 within three years.
- Project Evaluation Worksheet to be completed.
- Star Value Calculation Worksheet to be completed.

Step 2:

- Step 2 shall progress to Step 3 within five years.
- Engineers report to include DNR and BWSR comments.
- FDRWG recommendations to be considered.
- Revised Project Evaluation Worksheet to be submitted.
- Revised Star Value Calculation Worksheet to be submitted.

Step 3:

- Summary report to be submitted including updated cost estimates and changes in plan design.
- Revised Project Evaluation Worksheet to be submitted.
- Revised Star Value Calculation Worksheet to be submitted.