



Red River Basin Commission

www.redriverbasincommission.org

Vision: *A Red River Basin where residents, organizations and governments work together to achieve basin-wide commitment to comprehensive integrated watershed stewardship and management.*

Mission: *To create a comprehensive integrated basin-wide vision, to build consensus and commitment to the vision, and to speak with a unified voice for the Red River Basin.*

August 17, 2010

DREDGING OF THE RED AND LAKE WINNIPEG:

RRBC has had several meetings and a tour of the old dredging equipment and various sites on the river and lake. Dialogue is underway at the Provincial level with MLA's and Water Stewardship and at the federal level with MP's and Environment Canada and Western Economic Diversification to determine what can be done and how best to accomplish it. Discussions are underway related to developing recommendations for action and also for a pilot project to see if the Amphidex can be used in dredging.

NRCS ACTIVITIES:

RRBC has been assisting NRCS in several areas.

1. **Next U.S. Farm Bill:** RRBC has been assisting with names for the preparatory efforts to begin working on the language and program criteria for the next U.S. Farm Bill. The first technical meeting will be on September 2, 2010 in the afternoon.
2. **October 2010 WRP Pilot Projects:** NRCS is seeking funding for a pilot project in MN and ND if funding can be secured in the next federal fiscal year. The projects would relate to flood storage on wetlands. This would fit nicely with discussions that the RRBC SVI has had in the past for storage in the SW corner of the RRB.
3. **AWEP Funds:** There were no additional AWEP funds for this current fiscal year after the July 2, 2010 cut-off. We are hoping there will be new funds for the RRB after October 1, 2010 that can be used as we projected in the proposal. MN Tim Koehler is preparing a report of what projects/activities received funding in 2010 in MN, ND, and SD portions of the RRB under AWEP.

LONG TERM FLOOD SOLUTIONS (LTFS) PROJECT REPORT

The LTFS Project continues progressing through RRBC's committee and working group structure as we work through issues such as impediments, funding, governance challenges, and economic impact of the basin and what we aim to protect here. We acknowledge that the project's success depends heavily on the experts around the basin that means your continued involvement in this process, so THANK YOU to so many of you who have loaned us your time and talent.

1. The LTFS Technical Sub-Committee met August 16, 2010 and discussed the 1997 and 2009 floods, discharge/frequency and the full period of record data versus the recent wet cycle, a process for screening alternatives, evaluation criteria for options and strategies, and the list of options/strategies/ and alternatives. A working group to further discuss and bring back recommendations at the next meeting September 20, 2010 has been established.
2. The LTFS Policy Sub-Committee met August 16, 2010 and reviewed the newest draft of the final report. They also reported on efforts by their working groups and further discussed the PIRC efforts, permitting, funding, and economic analysis. They will next meet in October as a group.

Basin Modeling: The MN and ND watersheds districts and boards are all in the process of modeling storage potential in their jurisdictional area. This modeling is scheduled to be completed by the end of October, so that it can be entered into the Mike 11 model to address the basin flow goals. This information will also assist in the LTFS Report in the development of criteria for water retention site selection, review of flood reduction goals, development of stage storage discharge relationships for potential sites, and the identification of potential storage sites similar to the 26 sites already identified in the Bois de Sioux Watershed District. When all constructed, it will result in that watershed meeting their basin-wide 20 percent mainstem flow reduction targeted goal.

1. Underway: MN-Buffalo-Red, Sand Hill, Wild Rice, Red Lake, Two Rivers, and Middle River/Snake Watershed Districts. ND- Wild Rice, Maple, Lower Sheyenne, Elm, Goose River, Pembina and Park River watersheds.
2. Linked to Manitoba: Pembina, Roseau and Joe River Watersheds. Discussion in MB underway.

Basin Economic Analysis: The economic analysis of the entire Red River basin to show what the economic impact of the region is to each state is being developed with the assistance of the F-M Economic Development Authority.

Final Report: The final report is beginning to take shape. A contract for the funding section and the section related to FEMA and floodplain issues are underway.

MB Floodway & Metro Flood Study Work Group Dialogue: This meeting is being planned for late September. The goal will be to bring MB Floodway technical and policy personnel to the Fargo-Moorhead area for a day long dialogue related to: technical issues, funding, policy and other related issues to share what MB learned from its two efforts - the building and then the expansion of the floodway around Winnipeg.

F-M Metro Study Downstream/Upstream Activities:

1. Metro Flood Work Group Meeting August 5, 2010: Motion passed: Move the Red River Basin Commission (working with the Cass Joint Water Boards and the Buffalo-Red Watershed District) be designated to gather information and develop an inventory of community flood protection needs as it relates to downstream impacts from the F-M Diversion from Fargo-Moorhead north to Thompson, ND, including what modifications and funding is necessary to implement. The Red River Basin Commission shall work with affected federal and state agencies and area stakeholders and report back to the Metro Flood Study Work Group in September 2010.
2. Community Meetings: RRBC is arranging meetings with F-M downstream community leadership (12 communities) over the next several weeks to gather information and provide an update on what RRBC has been asked to accomplish related to community levee status and needs.

3. Funding: The Cass Joint WRD voted on August 13, 2010 to fund efforts to address the above motion.
4. Gathering Community Protection Data: RRBC is contracting with HEI, Inc. to gather community protection data from Georgetown, Perley, Hendrum and Halstad in 2010. Additional downstream communities Shelly, Nielsville, and Climax are anticipating initial data to be ready in early 2011, when RRBC and Cass Joint will explore additional work for these communities.
5. Public Engagement Process: RRBC will begin a public engagement process for the remainder of 2010 in several locations surrounding F-M to maintain open communication with downstream/upstream interests and to gather additional information. Additional efforts related to media strategies, web, and print material will also be developed.
6. Rural Resident and Farmstead Data: RRBC will contract with HEI, Inc. to gather additional data on rural resident needs downstream from Halstad to Thompson, ND if the F-M Metro Study Working Group approves the effort. Funding will be provided by Cass Joint WRD.
7. Upstream Storage: RRBC is working with the Engineering firms and the ACE to determine what modeling is needed to help assess the impacts of storage for the mainstem and also for the F-M area.

WATER SUPPLY: REPORT

[Drought Scoping:](#)

The Drought Scoping Document was completed in January 2008. The Red River Basin Commission funded this Red River Basin Drought Preparedness Strategy Scoping Document ("Scoping Document") to outline what a fully developed basin-wide drought strategy could include and the resources needed to prepare such a strategy.

The Water Supply Working Group has recently completed the Jurisdictional Process and Conservation Reports as the first two phases of the Red River Basin Drought Preparedness Strategy. Both reports provided a number of recommendations to move forward.

The Water Supply Working Group will now evaluate all the recommendations from both reports and put together a work plan on how to move selected recommendations forward. This work plan will be presented to the RRBC board for approval and feedback.

CONSERVATION:

The RRBC Jurisdictional Conservation group is preparing for a meeting to discuss the AWEP program, the future NRCS efforts in the next U.S. Farm Bill, and how this might be related to Manitoba and Canada.

WATER QUALITY: JURISDICTIONAL REPORT

This effort is the final stages of review and will identify a path forward for the three jurisdictions on water quality issues.

MEETINGS/TOURS

[BWSR Tour:](#)

The RRBC is helping BWSR coordinate their summer tour which will be hosted by the Buffalo-Red River

Watershed District and the Becker, Clay and Wilkin SWCDs. The tour will be held August 25 & 26 starting at the Courtyard by Marriot in Moorhead. Stops will include the Manston Slough Restoration Project; South Branch of the Buffalo River Restoration Project; Lawndale Trout Stream Restoration; Deerhorn Creek Flood Control Levees; Whiskey Creek Tributaries Project; Hay Creek/Stinking Lake Sediment Retention Project; LaBelle Lakes Highwater Outlet; Hawley Buffalo River Restoration Project; Brantner Wetland Bank/Pilot Grazing Site and the Oakport Flood Mitigation.

[River Runs North:](#)

RRBC is in the process of updating and reprinting the River Runs North book by Jay Leitch and Gene Krenz. We are working with ND State Water Commission, MN Department of Natural Resources, MB Water Stewardship, the River Keepers and Leitch to make revisions and additions.

[RRBC Ex-Officio Meeting:](#)

The RRBC Board meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on September 2 at the Ramada Plaza Suites in Fargo. This meeting will include Federal Representatives from the US and Canada. A draft agenda will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

[RRBC Annual Conference](#)

Mark your calendar for the RRBC's 28th Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference January 18-20, 2011 at the Ramada Plaza Suites in Fargo.

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