

Ripple Effect # 52 – The Dream Began with One Flood Too Many

With the spring melt, we are reminded of the beginnings of the Red River Basin Commission - the RRBC - almost 30 years ago. The flood of 1979 had capped off a series of floods in the Basin. People were tired of fighting floods on their own—most communities back then were left to their own resources during floods. So when a group of citizens organized “flood” meetings up and down the Valley, many people showed up.

These “flood” meetings continued until an organization emerged. That organization, the RRBC continues to address flooding by helping Basin communities work together.

Communication is key—communities in the Basin need to know what others are doing. The RRBC’s 2007 Flood Damage Reduction Report listed close to 30 new projects up and down the Valley – and this number did not include over 260 new ring dikes.

Today the RRBC works with many water issues. But it will never forget the dream of the early organizers: to bring together the whole Basin despite government borders in order to reduce flood damage. And in this way to make life better for all of its citizens.

This Ripple Effect is brought to you by the Red River Basin Commission.