

RED RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Plan Management Committee Minutes

February 3, 2005
10:30 A.M. – 2 P.M.
Grand Forks, ND

In Attendance:

Don Buckhout-MN Department of Natural Resources, Brian Dwight – Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources, Roger Hollevoet – US Fish and Wildlife Service, Lee Klapprodt-ND State Water Commission, Molly MacGregor – Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Herm Martens RM of Morris, Sam Schellenberg-Pembina Valley Water Cooperative, Muriel Smith – Manitoba at-large, Genevieve Thompson -Audubon Dakota, Dan Wilkens-Red River Watershed Management Board

Staff: Lance Yohe, Harold Taylor, April Kiers North

1. Call to Order 10:40 AM

Chair Schellenberg asked the committee to consider nominating a new Chair for the Plan Management Committee at our next meeting. Suggestion to rotate the Chair between Manitoba, Minnesota and North Dakota.

2. Natural Resources Framework Plan: Conference and other feedback

Discussion re: timeline to obtain public feedback and then finalize the NFRP. Originally, intent was to finalize at March or June Board meeting, but committee generally consented to the suggestion to maintain this as a working draft for the year, then re-evaluate and have the Board finalize in 2006. This year will be important: how will the annual RRBC staff workplan develop, and how will implementation of the NRFP proceed?

Partnerships between the RRBC and groups capable of implementing the NRFP need to be identified and supported. This is particularly important with respect to some of the negative comments we've received regarding the Action Agenda – some groups are concerned the RRBC wants to take control of their existing efforts. Need to re-word the Action Agenda and NRFP to make it clear that we are here to support their efforts.

A suggestion was made to send a letter to agencies and others requesting feedback. This would allow agencies to assign appropriate staff time to thoroughly review relevant sections or all of the NRFP.

Another suggestion was made to have a signatory page of some kind. Ask different levels of government to agree to work towards the 13 goals, at the very least?

Discussion re: public feedback strategy. Should we use an approach similar to the Face to Face Forums, or focus on obtaining feedback from people/groups who WORK in water? Either way, this will take the better part of 2005. Suggestion that the RRBC board members need to get involved in the feedback strategy. Need to develop an executive summary to distribute at these meetings and to the media.

3. Natural Resources Framework Plan: Implementation (Lance Yohe)

Additional discussion: development of RRBC Annual Staff Work Plan. Suggestion to develop a matrix for the Action Agenda, identifying lead agency, support agencies, etc.

Discussion: how does the RRBC project approval process contribute to implementation of the NRFP? Why would project proponents want to obtain RRBC “approval” unless they've hit a roadblock in the existing approvals process? This committee should be PROACTIVE, and use

the NRFP to support projects that move us forward. There have been attempts to develop a facilitation/mediation role for the RRBC – is this something the board should attempt again?

Role of Plan Management Committee: help further define the Action Agenda, inventory who's doing what in the basin?

Comprehensive Flood Mitigation Plan (IJC):

How do we link this effort to the NRFP? The RRBC should have a coordinating role.

The IJC recommended at the January conference that the governors/premier meet to discuss the CFMP, and designate it as part of the NRFP.

Plan Management Committee resolution (to be brought to the Board March 3, 2005):

Consistent with the RRBC Natural Resource Framework Plan Goals and Objectives 2.1.4, 5.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.2, 7.1 and 10.3, the RRBC should designate as a priority task for the 2005 Work Plan the development of a comprehensive flood mitigation plan for the Basin. The CFMP should be as outlined by the IJC 12 Jan 05 proposal, with the exception that the RRBC should be responsible for coordinating the task force that will develop the plan. The RRBC Executive Director should allocate in the workplan sufficient staff resources to accomplish this priority task.

4. Other Business

- Next meeting Thursday March 3, 2005

5. Adjourn 2:05 PM