

RED RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Plan Management Committee Minutes

February 26, 2003
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Grand Forks, ND
Ramada Inn-Bravo Room

Members Present: Don Ogaard- at-large member, Lee Klapprodt-ND State Water Commission, Joe Belford-Ramsey County, Sam Schellenberg-Pembina Valley Water Coop, Dan Wilkens-Red River Watershed Management Board, Dwight Williamson-Manitoba Conservation, Mike Ell-ND Department of Health, and Genevieve Thompson-Audubon Dakota.

Others Present: Jon Roeschlein-Bois de Sioux Watershed District, Dave Rush-Pembina River Watershed, Connie Triplett-Grand Forks County, Bill Turner-Deerwood Soil and Water Management Association and Bryan Osborne-Panterra Management.

Staff Present: Lance Yohe, Kevin Scheidecker and Harold Taylor.

Call to Order

Chair Schellenberg called the meeting to order at 10:09.

Approve December 2002 Minutes

Moved and seconded to approve the December 2002 minutes with changes made to the wording of the Maple River Dam discussion.

Update on City of Winnipeg Wastewater Pollution Prevention Plan

An update was provided on the status of the Clean Environment Commission hearings that were held in Manitoba. The hearings have been delayed until April in an effort to allow others to comment on the city's wastewater pollution prevention plan. Chair Schellenberg suggested that information that comes out of this process be shared with the Plan Management Committee members so that we can develop a strategy for what our role should be in this process. Dwight Williamson stated that clear goals have been set by the Province for the outcomes of the process.

Update on Lake Agassiz Water Authority

An update was provided on the legislation that was making its way through the ND legislature. Questions were raised regarding if and at what point the Commission should support a project like this. There was discussion about the Commission providing support to the Agassiz Water Authority prior to the completion of the water supply study that is being conducted. Consensus of the group was to not take action and allow the process to evolve on its own.

Review and approve changes to Red River CREP application

An update was given on the CREP application in both Minnesota and North Dakota. The changes that are being proposed to the MN CREP were outlined. Discussion revolved around the benefits and costs of not submitting the applications at the same time. The consensus was to delay submittal of the Minnesota application until the April board meeting to give North Dakota an opportunity to make more progress.

Discuss endorsement of Comprehensive Plans for Bois de Sioux Watershed District and Wild Rice Watershed District

Jon Roeschlein provided a review of the Bois de Sioux watershed management plan. Executive summaries were distributed for both plans. The PM committee held a discussion about its role in the comprehensive planning process going on with the Minnesota Watershed Districts. The consensus of the committee was to support the efforts of the watershed districts that are developing comprehensive basin plans. A letter of support will be sent to both districts.

Proposed Provincial Dredging Study

Harold reviewed what action has been taken so far by the RRBC on dredging. The Province of Manitoba is proposing a study that would look at the environmental and economic impacts of dredging on the Red River in Manitoba. This \$100,000 study would be funded by local, provincial and federal units of government. It is proposed that the RRBC coordinate the study. There was some concern expressed about the RRBC being involved in the dredging issue. The PM Committee consensus was to develop a resolution on dredging, have it reviewed via e-mail by the PM Committee and have it presented at the March 6th RRBC meeting.

Pembina River Basin Management Plan

Dave Rush presented a summary of the Pembina River Basin Framework Document. The Pembina River Basin group is asking for support for the implementation of their plan. The consensus of the PM Committee was to endorse the Pembina River Basin Management Plan effort to carry their process forward to complete a comprehensive water management plan and

encourage their continued efforts to engage all stakeholders involved in that area. Dwight Williamson of Manitoba Conservation wished to have the minutes note that his agency is opposed to this endorsement due to Cavalier County's opposition to the project.

Tobacco Creek Model Watershed Project

Bill Turner, Deerwood SWMA and Bryan Osborne, Panterra Management representing the South Tobacco Creek project presented information on their project. It was suggested that the RRBC could assist this project by creating linkages to RRBDIN and RRBI. The consensus of the PM Committee was to send a letter of support encouraging the continuation of their project and initiative.

Review proposal for next phase of PIRC Inventory

The draft PIRC work plan was reviewed by the PM Committee. The first bullet on the work plan was struck after discussion by the PM Committee. The remainder of the work plan will be submitted to the ND State Water Commission for approval.

IJC/IRRB/RRBC Joint Basin Project

Lance reviewed the outcomes of the IJC/IRRB/RRBC meeting that was held at the RRBC Annual Conference. The IJC is proposing that the RRBC develop a basin overview outlining the next steps to flood control in the basin. Lance will have a full report ready by the RRBC Board Meeting on the 6th that will outline the next phase of this project with the IJC.

Other Business

Genevieve Thompson reviewed a resolution passed by the ND Legislature regarding state water projects. Lance discussed how new committees will be appointed to the RRBC.

Adjourn

Next meeting will be held in conjunction with the April board meeting.