



Time for a Unified Voice

Problems, Impediments,
Roadblocks & Challenges



Response to the PIRC Report

■ Impediments

- Historical
- Communication
- Jurisdictional/Statutory
- Political
- Other



Greatest Impediments

- Communication
- Turf protection/Private agendas
- Lack of funding
- Willingness to compromise
- Lack of trust
- Members need to represent the basin RRBC, not just their agency or group.



How to use the PIRC Report

- Ideas to Actions, not just words
- Centers of Activity
 - Leadership
 - Partnership
 - Communication
 - Technical



Time for A Unified Voice

Leadership

Partnership



Communication

Technical



Responses

- Suggestion that board members try and do a role reversal exercise where, for example, an American take the Canadian position on a Devil's Lake outlet and a Canadian takes the North Dakota position on a Devil's Lake outlet-this could be an exercise for the board retreat
- Continued leadership development and training of board members
- Lobby state, provincial and federal governments to transfer authorities and implementation dollars to local units of government (water authorities)
- Embrace economic and scientific evaluation to focus our work and measure progress
- Evaluate the mailing list for the "Around the Basin" newsletter to make sure that everyone that needs to is receiving it



Responses

- Government needs to allocate more resources to staffing so that they are maintaining contact with the public-get out on the landscape to improve communication
- RRBC could foster the development of more local water management teams such as the one that formed in Barnes County-this would be another method to better develop communication between the RRBC and local stakeholders
- RRBC needs to develop an overall basin water management plan that would have input from local stakeholders
- RRBC should work to be recognized with legislative language at state, provincial and federal levels as well as recognized officially at the local unit of government level via resolutions



Responses

- Compliments to the City of Winnipeg (Doug McNeil) for listening to the rural voices north and south of the city-we can find solutions if we work together
- RRBDIN is important and should be expanded to facilitate sharing of information and data-we especially need to share information across the international border
- A set of water quality standards for the entire basin may provide a common goal for the entire basin to work towards-by having a common concern or goal, it may be easier to request and receive funding
- We need to focus on the water supply issue for the entire basin instead of just North Dakota-we should also consider taking a look at tourism
- Our mission statement refers to working towards a common vision-the common vision needs to be developed so that we can have a unified voice



Responses

- We have to make sure that the international border does not get in the way-water does not recognize jurisdictional boundaries-the basin needs to set an example of how to create a unified voice
- Annually, select 5-10 projects that are the highest priority and focus on those-have a mix of short and long-term projects
- Annually, identify any impediments that have not been addressed and focus on those
- Identify a “champion” for each project that we work on or support-someone to be a spokesperson
- Present to authorities (the funders) evidence of technical and public support for projects and act as a strong lobbyist for those projects



Ideas to Actions

- The responses will be assigned to one of the four Activity Centers.
- Action Items will be developed.
- The Centers will include these in their workplan for the year.
- Action Items should be reported on at the next conference.