

10TH (PIRC) INVENTORY

PROBLEMS, IMPEDIMENTS, ROADBLOCKS AND CHALLENGES- A SUMMARY OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT HURDLES IN THE RED RIVER BASIN

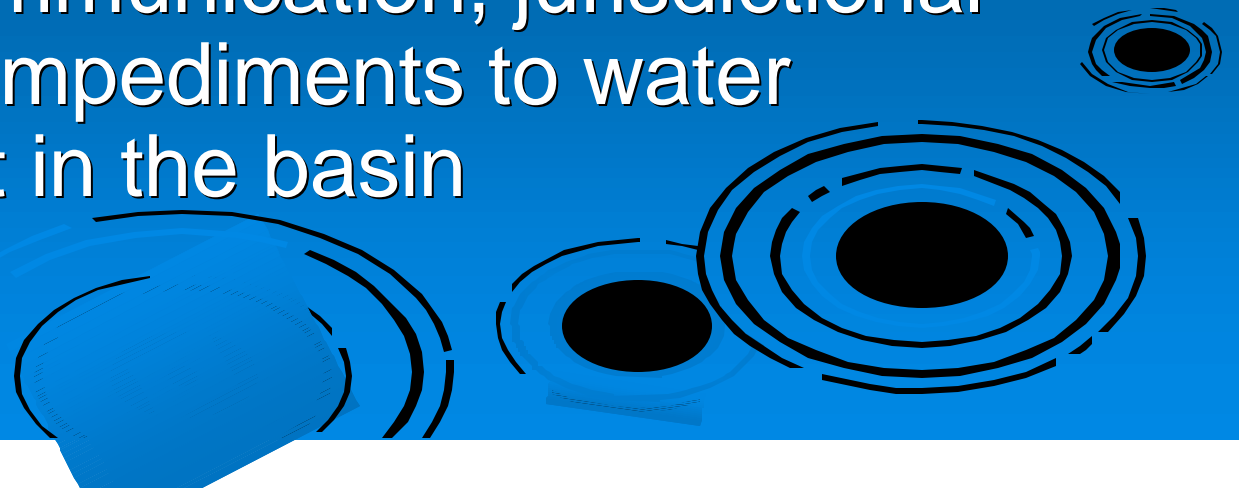


Conducted by the Red River
Basin Commission and
sponsored by the North Dakota
State Water Commission



BACKGROUND

- Effort to gain a basin-wide perspective on water management in the Red River Basin
- Interviews were conducted with 55 individuals involved in water management in the basin
- Individuals were asked to identify historical, communication, jurisdictional and political impediments to water management in the basin



HISTORICAL IMPEDIMENTS

- Conflict between social, economic and environmental interests
- Frustration over lack of continuity and lack of accomplishments
- Lack of communication, coordination and a basin-wide perspective
- Lack of resources and funding
- Mistrust of government agencies
- Political differences



COMMUNICATION IMPEDIMENTS

- Lack of communication and involvement of basin stakeholders-agencies, organizations and public
- Lack of coordination and a basin-wide approach
- Lack of education and information
- Lack of basin-wide water quality standards
- Resources are managed on political boundaries instead of watershed boundaries
- Unwillingness to compromise



JURISDICTIONAL/STATUTORY IMPEDIMENTS

- Differences in priorities and standards between local, state, provincial and federal units of government
- Inability to recognize differences across the basin
- Lack of single entity to oversee the basin
- Not a perceived problem



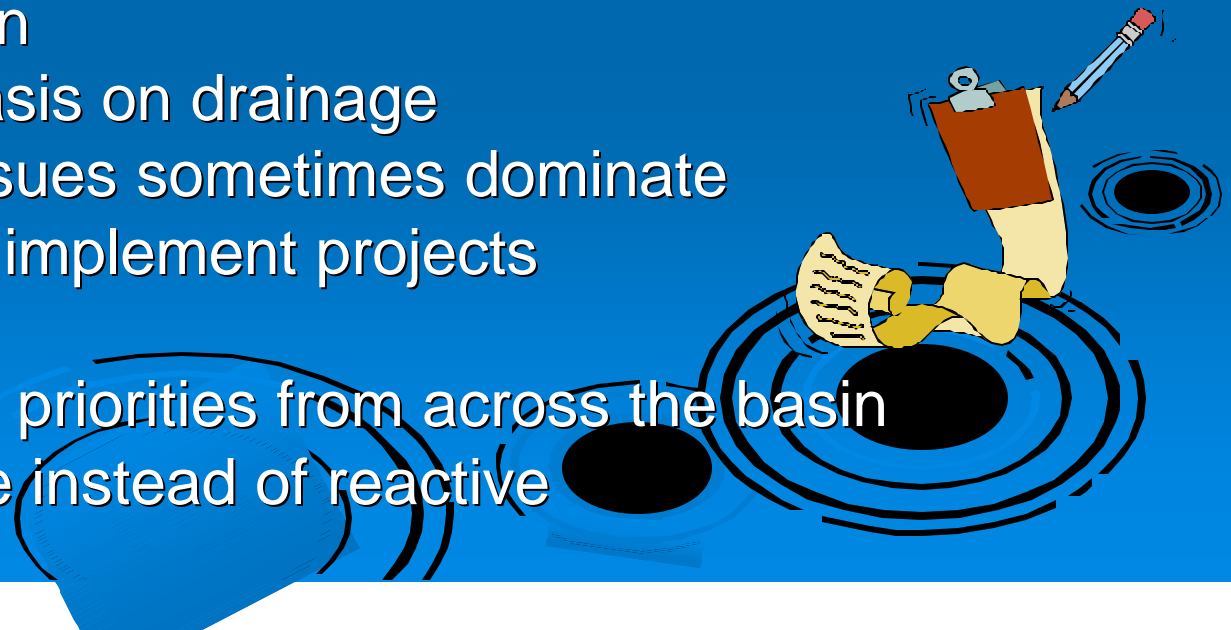
POLITICAL IMPEDIMENTS

- Differences have developed in water management in each state and the province
- Not all differences are negative/some are minor
- Politics tends to focus on the short term
- RRBC funding
- Urban needs often take priority over rural needs
- Vocal minority of constituents can drive the process
- Water can't be managed on political boundaries



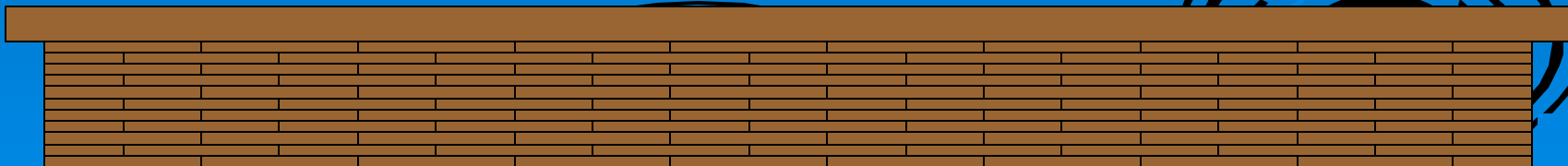
ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

- Red tape and bureaucracy
- Need for strong leadership in the basin
- Need stakeholder involvement
- Influence of non-basin entities
- Lack of the ability to set-aside individual priorities versus basin-wide priorities
- Lack of understanding of the social and economic needs of the basin
- Too much emphasis on drainage
- Environmental issues sometimes dominate
- Length of time to implement projects
- Polarization
- Need to integrate priorities from across the basin
- Must be proactive instead of reactive



GREATEST IMPEDIMENTS

- Communication issues
- Lack of funding
- Lack of willingness to compromise
- Need to show accomplishments
- Lack of trust among stakeholders, agencies and other groups
- Maintaining RRBC credibility based on action/no action on projects
- RRBC board members must represent the basin and not just their agency, unit of government or group
- Turf protection and lack of open/honest discussions (private agendas)



Meetings to enhance the Basin Vision

To communicate the RRBC story

To gather stakeholder input

LOCAL

- ✓ Counties/Rural Municipalities
- ✓ Water Resource Districts/Watershed Districts
- ✓ Conservation Districts

STATE/PROVINCIAL

- ✓ Red River Water Resources Council
- ✓ 4 meetings per year integrated with RRBC Meetings
- ✓ Legislative Forum
- ✓ Governor's/Premier Meeting

FEDERAL

- ✓ Have all federal agencies attend RRBC Board meetings
- ✓ Have agency regional directors attend one meeting per year
- ✓ IRRB

INTEREST GROUPS

- ✓ 4-6 meetings per year
- ✓ Focusing on Flood Storage and Natural Resource Enhancement issues



What's Next?

- Gather your input on which impediments are a priority to address.
- A strategy will be developed to address those impediments.
- The strategy will be incorporated into a plan of work for the upcoming year.

