

What have we heard?



The Power of A Dream

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Doug Burgum – Power of a Dream

- Strive for you dreams, don't settle for a compromise.
 - an endangering, esp. of reputation; exposure to danger, suspicion, etc.: *a compromise of one's integrity.*
 - Keep going even when others say it cannot be done.
- Dream big dreams. Be audacious.
 - Don't be limited by your current abilities and limitations.
- Find the support it takes.
 - \$50 up front and \$50 at Hudson Bay
 - Bet the farm
 - ??????
- Did you meet 3 new people?
 - Opportunity to connect experienced and emerging leaders

Simon Jackson



- Rather than a compromise, seek a balanced solution
 - Understand the bottom line for each other. Find a solution in which everyone's bottom line is met.
 - Create a 'third way' to reach that solution, like Simon's movie about the Spirit Bear that raises awareness as it raises money.



Simon Jackson

- Engage the passion and freshness of young people.
- Unleash the Power of One
- Be the voice of **HOPE**.
- Innovate
- Harness the Power of a Dream
- Take Action!

Water Quality



- The jurisdictions are working within compatible Water Quality rules.
 - Diligent cooperation and mutual respect
- Opportunity to formalize goals and standards through a Red River Basin Compact
 - What next? Specific actions on NRFP; specific targets, measure progress, more formalized agreements

Water Quality: Invasive Species

- Prevention is the key to addressing invasive species issues.
- It is hard to anticipate or predict the damages due to invasive species.
- Early detection, assessment, monitoring, regulation, enforcement
- Cooperation and communication with neighboring jurisdictions.

Water Quality: Monitoring Result

- Tools like SWAT make it possible to visualize the impact of changes in land use, nutrient inputs, weather, retention, etc.
- Decision makers need access to credible data, interpreted as useful information.

Water Quality: Monitoring Results

- Lake Winnipeg nutrient loading comes from many sources.
- Red River contributes a disproportionate 60% of the P
- The time for action is **NOW**.
 - Broad public education program
 - Regulations and specific standards

Water Quality – Making Change Happen

- Youth education programs
 - Envirothon
 - Discovering Farms
- Effective partnerships based on trust, cooperation, listening, working toward common goals.
- Improvements in water quality will take significant investments



Conservation

- Increase availability of conservation programs to landowners.
- Increase the use of BMPs to minimize runoff and keep soil on site.
- Concerns about loss of CRP acres and changes in cropping systems.
- Concerns about drought conditions impacting soil erosion



Conservation: SWCD, SCD, CD

- Conservation Districts throughout the basin are the delivery system for technical assistance and cost sharing to landowners.
- Programs:
 - Education
 - River bank stabilization
 - Tree planting
 - Research

Conservation: Minimizing run-off

- Prairie restoration leads to 30-50% reduction in peak for storm events and increases biodiversity.
- Wetland restorations in the Lake Traverse watershed are popular, driven by wet yrs.
- Environmental Farm Planning reaches 6000 farmers, encourages BMP implementation.



Conservation: Broad view

- Long term planning (2050 or 2100) considers 'what if' scenarios, predict trends, link policies, actions & outcomes.
- Greenway provides benefits like flood protection, recreation, public health, carbon sequestration, aesthetics.
- Farmers design and test ALUS program, providing payments for ecological goods and services.

Water Supply



- Assure appropriate and sustainable use of basin surface and groundwater.
- Researching alternatives for supplying water to growing population under range of conditions.
- Coordinating drought preparedness across jurisdictions.

Ethics in Water Use



- Levels of scarcity: (levels of stress)
 - Engineering response – level 1
 - Economic response – level 2
 - Social ingenuity response – level 3
- Climate change poses a risk to water supply of future generations.
- We face an ethical challenge to require our governments to serve this generation and future generations.

Drought Preparedness Strategy

- Local governments have drought plans, but states and provinces need plans to improve basin resilience in drought.
- Priority on immediate future plans and water conservation approaches.
- Longer range and more comprehensive planning to follow.



Water supply

- Soft Path approach asks how we drastically change our use of water.
- Options for supplying water to the RRB are developed – what is the balanced solution?
- Drought forecasting reveals the complexity of droughts.

Biofuels and Water Availability

- Ethanol plants in ND use creative recycling of water, improving efficiency from 3 gal water:1 gal etOH
- Biodiesel plant considering re-use on site, combined uses like cooling and fire protection.
- Considering Externalities: The solution is not in the details – it is in the big picture and the extent to which we will share with each other now and in the future.



Flood Damage Reduction

- State of the art flood forecasting tools
- Reduce the risk of flood damages for people, property and the environment.
- Ensure flood response programs meet the needs of basin residents



Flood Damage Reduction

- Technical tools vastly improved; more work remains to be done.
- Waffle project – social challenges might be addressed by linking benefits to near-by neighbors.
- Tremendous progress on IJC's recommendations in Living with the Red



Flood Damage Reduction:

- As leadership changes, need to re-commit to tools like the mediation agreement and to basin perspective.
- All levels of government share the investment for flood protection.
- Design flood protection works for resilience in structure and operation.
- Recognize and communicate the limits of protection.



Flood Damage Reduction

- Maple River Dam construction and completion for flood protection
- Basin Mapping Project: flood forecasting depends on high resolution elevation data set – LIDAR
- Multiple uses and benefits from the dataset, many partners involved.

Flood Damage Reduction

- Devils Lake Basin update – Stump Lake and Devils Lake equalized; need for dikes, road improvements, response to farmsteads.
- Southside Protection of Fargo
 - Alternative designs shared with community, addressing concerns raised
 - Add channel extensions, retention, to dike alignment .

What is going well?

- Communication, Communication
- Commitment to stewardship
- Cooperation
- Continuity
- Clearinghouse
- Connecting goals to multiple benefits
- Conferences and networking

What is not going so well?

- Difficulty of dealing with contentious issues – need a more focused process
- It is difficult to change thinking, even harder to change behavior
- Too little prevention, too little habitat protection
- Need more focus on long term, comprehensive approaches
- Good intentions are not enough – Act Now

What's next?



- Specific actions for goals in NRFP.
 - Specify desired long term outcomes
 - Specific targets, measurable progress
 - Interconnectedness of goals, multiple benefits
- Increase presence of RRBC in media.
- Engage emerging leaders; carry forward the wisdom and experience of first 25 years.
- Share responsibility – scale, time, leaders
- Wake up to Issues – Act with Urgency