

## **STATUS REPORT**

These status sheets describe projects and programs that are being implemented in the Red River Basin that assist in carrying out the mission of the Red River Basin Commission.

**Project/Program:**     **RED RIVER BASIN DECISION INFORMATION NETWORK  
(RRBDIN) [www.rrbdin.org](http://www.rrbdin.org)**

**Project Sponsor:**    U.S. Army Corp of Engineers  
                              St. Paul District  
                              190 5<sup>th</sup> Street E.  
                              St. Paul, MN 55101  
                              651-290-5307

Houston Engineering  
10900 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. N.  
Maple Grove, MN 55369  
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### **Project Summary:**

There were numerous discussions immediately following the 1997 flood about the need for better information and data, different types of data especially geo-spatial (GIS) data and improved tools for flood fighting. The International Joint Commission (IJC) recognized the need for data useful to flood fighting and water management and began development of the Red River Basin Disaster Information System (RRBDIN). The IJC, cooperating with the Global Disaster Information Network, intended the RRBDIN to be an internet-based decision-making support tool for flood related emergency management within the Red River Basin. The intent was to make data available to those responsible for solving these flooding problems, fostering international cooperation and strengthening inter-organizational ties.



The RRBDIN was originally conceived as a method to provide access to multiple sources of data and information across the Internet (distributed database), through a map interface tool. Numerous activities and tasks were completed during the first phase of RRBDIN development. The tasks completed include the initial development of the web site, defining the data needs of users and conceptually developing tools believed useful to local decision makers. The initial project phase completed in 2000 also identified a number of significant challenges related to:

- Non-uniform standards and formats for geo-spatial data between states, Canada and the United States;
- The inaccessibility of geo-spatial data within Canada;
- The general lack of geo-spatial data; and
- Technological limitation for the implementation of internet-based tools.

Although the initial project phase was successful, additional funding and effort was needed to ensure the development and use by residents of the RRBDIN.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requested and secured additional funding for the development of the RRBDIN. Recognizing the need to share and disseminate data of all types, the RRBDIN is now coined the Red River Basin Decision Information Network and includes staff from the St. Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The St. Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to use the RRBDIN to assist with the various reconnaissance and feasibility studies within the Red River Basin. The project also includes numerous cooperating agencies and organizations.

The project is funded through December 2002. The intent is to continue the effort to develop an internet-based data dissemination system for the Red River Basin. Potential data could include an authoritative base map for the basin, a real-time data display for climate, flows, flood stage, water quality, and similar information, and general information useful to decision makers and residents. An important aspect being used to guide the current RRBDIN development effort by the development team is the formation of the Project Review Team (PRT) and Project Design Team (PDT). Comprised of interested parties, individuals, organizations and agencies from the Red River Basin, the Teams form the grass-roots users of the RRBDIN. The continued development of the RRBDIN is utilizing this bottom-up approach to development, which engages key decision makers and probable local users to drive the design. Utilizing a bottom-up approach is intended to ensure local support of the RRBDIN and secure a future long-term home.

**Submitted to RRBC:**

**Plan Management Action:**

**RRBC Action:**

**Follow-up Action:**



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**Red River Basin Commission**

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