

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ROSEAU RIVER INTERNATIONAL WATERSHED (RRIW)**

A unique trans-border organization was formed after a series of joint meetings on January 19, 2000, in Roseau, Minnesota. A steering committee of seven Canadians and seven Americans was established to examine how to set up an international conservation district. The purpose of the group will be to provide a forum for the exchange of information of common interest on basin water quality and the ability to initiate flood alleviation and conservation projects on both sides of the border.

The International Joint Commission states that grassroots organizations have never attempted this level of transboundary cooperation and working relationship in North America. The Roseau River basin has headwaters in both Manitoba and Minnesota. The river meanders west and northwest from Minnesota into Manitoba and joins the main stem of the Red River at the Roseau River First Nations opposite Letellier, Manitoba.

The RRIW publicly announced its formation in Vita, Manitoba, on March 10, 2000.

**Steering Committee Members**

**Canada:**

Co-Chair	Michelle Gawronsky
Deputy Co-Chair	Ed Penner
Contact Person	

Municipality of Emerson-Franklin  
RM. of Montcalm  
R.M. of Stuartburn  
Roseau River First Nation  
Manitoba Conservation  
The International Coalition  
Seine-Rat River Watershed District

**Member(s)**

**Alternate(s)**

**United States:**

Co-Chair	Jason Braaten
Deputy Co-Chair	Laverne Voll
Contact Person	

Jadis Township  
Moose Township  
City of Roseau  
Roseau County  
Roseau River Watershed  
Roseau River Watershed

**Member(s)**

**Alternates(s)**

Laverne Voll

## Watershed

The total area of the Roseau River basin is 5,136 square kilometers (1,983 square miles), with 2,730 square kilometers (1,054 square miles) in Minnesota and 2,046 square kilometers (789 square miles) in Manitoba. This means that 53 percent of the basin is in Minnesota, and 47 percent is in Manitoba.

## Mission Statement

The mission statement of the Roseau River International Watershed (RRIW) is to promote, provide and conduct an international alliance between Manitoba and Minnesota which will work toward the proper management of the resources of the Roseau River Watershed, i.e., flood control, economic, human and natural resources, and water quality and quantity.

## Funding

Each of the American and Canadian delegations is responsible for securing equal funding for administrative and operational purposes of the RRIW. This is also the case, on a proportional basis as agreed to by both sides, for construction projects or feasibility or hydrology studies.

## Terms of Steering Committee

The Steering Committee will review its composition every four years, next will be January 2027. Each jurisdiction will determine the makeup of their half of the Steering Committee.

## Termination

The RRIW may be terminated by a written agreement of a majority of either of the Manitoba and Minnesota delegation. If the members resolve to terminate the RRIW, a reasonable time shall be allowed to complete any work in progress and to dispose of any property owned by the RRIW.

The Memorandum of Understanding will be put in effect upon the signing of the parties listed below.

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Jason Braaten, Minnesota Co-Chair

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Michelle Gawronsky, Manitoba Co-Chair

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Laverne Voll, Minnesota Deputy Co-Chair

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Ed Penner, Manitoba Deputy Co-Chair

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Ted Preister, Red River Basin Commission

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_