MINUTES OF RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY SPECIAL MEETING
ORIGINATING AT THE CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE CONFERENCE ROOM
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2025
10:00 A.M.

A special meeting of the Red River Retention Authority (RRRA) was held on July 1, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Present were John Finney, Josh Ihry, Bill Petersen, Greg Holmvik, Keith Weston and Tom Perdue, Board members; Patrick Fridgen and Ted Preister, non-voting members; Brian Fuder, Executive Director; Melissa Hinkemeyer, Secretary, Treasurer; Amy Hepper, Accountant; Elizabeth Smith, Administrative Assistant; Rita Nelson, Accounting Assistant; Randy Gjestvang and Yaping Chi, North Dakota Department of Water Resources (NDDWR); Robert Sip, Red River Watershed Management Board; Alexa Ducioame, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Chuck Fritz, International Water Institute; and Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering Co.

John Finney called the meeting to order, and introductions were made.

Approval of agenda
It was moved by Greg Holmvik, seconded by Keith Weston and unanimously carried to approve the order of the agenda, as presented.

Minutes
It was moved by Keith Weston and seconded by Greg Holmvik to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2025, meeting, as presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report
The Treasurer presented the Financial Report of the RRRA.

It was moved by Keith Weston and seconded by Greg Holmvik to approve the following, as presented:

- Financial Report
- Wire transfers

Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The Secretary and Brian Fuder reviewed the 2026 budget. The Board discussed the 2026 budget.

A motion was made by Keith Weston and seconded by Josh Ihry to approve the Red River Retention Authority 2026 budget as presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Roseau River Watershed District and Minnesota Watershed – 2025 Summer Tour

Mr. Fuder reported on the Roseau River Watershed District and Minnesota Watershed summer tour. The tour was well attended, and much was learned about the different projects in the watershed district.

Basin United Summit

Mr. Fuder discussed the possibility of the RRRA hosting another summit in July 2026. The summit would bring together federal delegates and agencies, state legislators, state officials and departments, local leaders, and water managers. Mr. Fuder discussed potential panel discussions on various topics regarding retention. The Board agreed on the concept of a one-day summit and directed Mr. Fuder to continue planning and coordinating attendees for the event.

Josh Ihry left the meeting at this time.

Executive Director Report

Mr. Fuder updated the Board on the Congressionally Directed Spending requests for four projects in Minnesota that are in or are ready for construction. Mr. Fuder reported that three of the four projects moved forward in the process. Mr. Fuder will continue to update the Board as the process progresses.

Mr. Fuder then updated the Board on his trip to Washington D.C. Mr. Fuder said he met with the North Dakota and Minnesota federal delegates as well as the NRCS and staff from the US House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. Fuder also noted he met with the new director of the NDDWR and is meeting with the Minnesota NRCS tomorrow.

Mr. Fuder reported on upcoming activities including North Dakota Water Day at the state fair and a meeting on July 23, 2025, to discuss the future of flood protection in the Red River Basin.

Agency and partner reports

Randy reported that the NDDWR is in a new biennium with a new budget. The NDDWR will also be participating in Water Day at the state fair. The NDDWR also has a study ongoing in regard to HB 1020.

Brief discussion was held on funding availability in North Dakota for retention projects.

Ted Preister reported on the upcoming meeting on July 23, 2025, to discuss the future of flood protection in the Red River Basin.

Next Meeting
The next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cass County Highway Department, West Fargo, ND.

Adjournment
There being no further business to be considered by the Board, it was moved by Manager Holmvik, seconded by Manager Weston, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

_____	_____
Josh Ihry	John Finney
Co-Chair	Co-Chair

ATTEST:

_____
Melissa Hinkemeyer
Secretary