MINUTES OF RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY
ORIGINATING AT THE CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE CONFERENCE ROOM
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
DECEMBER 17, 2025
10:00 A.M.

A meeting of the Red River Retention Authority (RRRA) was held on December 17, 2025. Josh Ihry called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Present were Josh Ihry, Greg Holmvik, Bill Peterson, Keith Weston (alternate for Tom Perdue), and Don Kemp, Board members; Ted Preister and Pat Fridgen, non-voting members; Brian Fuder, Executive Director; Melissa Hinkemeyer, Secretary; Amy Hepper, Treasurer; Elizabeth Smith, Administrative Assistant; Rita Nelson, Accounting Assistant; Matthew Lindsay and Yaping Chi, North Dakota Department of Water Resources (NDDWR); Dani Quissell, North Dakota Water Users Association; Zach Herrmann, Houston Engineering, Inc.; Chris Marohl, Senator Cramer's Office; and Bruce Anderson, Barnes County Water Resource District. Co-Chairman John Finney and Tom Perdue were absent.

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

Minutes
It was moved by Greg Holmvik and seconded by Bill Peterson to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2025, meeting, as presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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

It was moved by Bill Peterson and seconded by Don Kemp to approve the financial report and wire transfers as presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Don Kemp and seconded by Keith Weston to authorize the Treasurer to amend the 2025 budget. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2026 regular meeting dates, time, and location
It was moved by Bill Petersen, seconded by Don Kemp and unanimously carried to set the following as regular meeting dates for the RRRA for 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cass County Highway Department in West Fargo, North Dakota:

- March 18

- June 17
- September 16
- December 16

Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed convening a joint meeting with the Red River Watershed Management Board and the Red River Joint Water Resource District in 2026.

North Dakota Water Magazine

Dani Quissell presented a proposal for the RRRA to sponsor a two-page article in the North Dakota Water Magazine in the March, June and December 2026 issues. The cost is $1,000 per issue, for a grand total of $3,0000. The magazine is distributed to over 20,000 individuals as well as rural water customers. Brian Fuder stated this would be a great outreach opportunity, bringing awareness of the RRRA to the public. The Board indicated the first issue should also highlight the partnership between North Dakota and Minnesota.

A motion was made by Keith Weston and seconded by Don Kemp to sponsor three two-page articles in the North Dakota Water Magazine in 2026 and authorize the Executive Director to work with North Dakota Water Users to compose the articles, at a cost not to exceed $3,000 total. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2026 RRRA Priority Projects

Mr. Fuder reported he will be working with project sponsors across the Red River Basin to gather projects for the 2026 RRRA Priority Projects list. The draft list should be ready for the Board's March meeting for review and discussion.

Basin United Summit

Mr. Fuder briefly updated the Board on the Basin United Summit being planned for summer of 2026. The summit will bring together federal delegates and agencies, state legislators, state officials and departments, local leaders, and water managers. Mr. Fuder is currently planning and meeting with potential partners and sponsors for the event.

Executive Director report

The Board discussed the performance of the Executive Director in 2025 and increasing the Executive Director's compensation by 5%, which includes a 2.8% cost of living adjustment and a 2.2% merit adjustment.

A motion was made by Greg Holmvik and seconded by Bill Peterson to approve a 5% salary increase for the Executive Director, in the amount of $5,775. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fuder next updated the Board on the Congressionally Directed Spending requests for the three projects in Minnesota that are in or are ready for construction and had moved forward in the process. The Wild Rice Streambank Restoration project has been preliminarily appropriated $50,000 through the Energy and Water Development

Appropriations Subcommittee. This amount is lower than requested, however was the only Minnesota project to be included in the draft appropriations bill. The other two projects are slated to be considered for appropriations through the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee. Mr. Fuder will continue to provide updates on these funding requests as they become available.

Mr. Fuder discussed upcoming federal bills of note. Mr. Fuder is working with Representative Fischbach's office on wording in the Water Resources Development Act bill and possible opportunities to provide input on the bill from the RRRA. The other bill is a funding opportunity through the Department of Transportation. The bill may be an opportunity to seek funding related to a bridge improvement on the Red River in the Oslo, Minnesota area.

Outreach 2026

Mr. Fuder discussed outreach opportunities for 2026. Mr. Fuder is looking forward to working with the North Dakota Water Users on the North Dakota Water Magazine articles and making them inclusive of Minnesota as both sides of the basin play critical roles in retention in the basin. Mr. Fuder then noted WDAY is planning a spring and fall radio farm show which the RRRA will be participating in this year. The RRRA will also be present at the 2026 Northern Corn and Soybean Expo in February.

Bill Petersen discussed the International Water Institute (IWI) River Watch program and suggested the RRRA participate in their annual event. Mr. Fuder will look into that outreach opportunity further with the IWI.

The Board indicated the RRRA should look at new outreach opportunities they have not yet been involved with.

Water supply planning

Mr. Fuder discussed the idea to incorporate retention with planning for future water supply needs The Board discussed impounding water during spring runoff and utilizing that water to meet various needs such as firefighting, aquifer recharge, agricultural, industrial and commercial needs. A subcommittee has been started in Minnesota to discuss retention use for water supply. Mr. Fuder suggested duplicating that subcommittee in North Dakota as well, then bring the two subcommittees together to form a basin-wide plan including identification of projects now and in the future. The Board discussed the concept of multipurpose retention projects and the differing needs and ability to store water in North Dakota and Minnesota. The Board will continue discussion on this matter at future meetings.

Agency and partner reports

Pat Fridgen and Yaping Chi updated the Board on news and activities of the NDDWR. Mr. Fridgen indicated the NDDWR is beginning the process to seek projects to be included in the next biennium's Water Development Plan. Mr. Fridgen also updated the RRRA on the NDDWR budget bill. Ms. Chi discussed inviting the NDDWR Sovereign Lands Manager to a future Red River Joint WRD meeting to provide educational

information on sovereign lands issues.

Ted Preister reported recent activities of the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC). The RRBC is finalizing details with the Corps of Engineers to move forward with the Lower Red River Regional Detention Study. Mr. Preister also noted the RRBC Land and Water International Summit Conference will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, January 13-15, 2026, at the Fairmont Hotel.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 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, the meeting adjourned without objection at 10:52 a.m.

APPROVED:

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Josh Ihry
Co-Chair

John Finney
Co-Chair

ATTEST:

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Melissa Hinkemeyer
Secretary