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These are DRAFT minutes, subject to amendment before final approval by the Red River Retention Authority.

MINUTES OF VIRTUAL / CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY
ORIGINATING AT THE CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE CONFERENCE ROOM
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024
10:00 A.M.

A virtual / conference call meeting of the Red River Retention Authority was held on June 20, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Present were Josh Ihry, John Finney, Bill Petersen, Rodger Olson, Greg Holmvik, Board members; Pat Fridgen, non-voting member; Brian Fuder, Executive Director; Melissa Hinkemeyer, Secretary-Treasurer; Carolyn Fiechtner, Administrative Assistant; Randy Gjestvang, North Dakota Department of Water Resources (NDDWR); Christi Fisher, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Lisa Gibbens, ND Senator Kevin Cramer's Office; Alexa Ducioame, Moore Engineering, Inc; and Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering Co. Board member Ben Varnson was absent.

Josh Ihry called the meeting to order, and introductions were made.

Approval of agenda

It was moved by Rodger Olson and seconded by Bill Petersen and unanimously carried to approve the order of the agenda, as presented.

Minutes

It was moved by Bill Petersen and seconded by Greg Holmvik to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2024, meeting, as presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

John Finney joined the meeting at this time.

Financial Report – Bills – 2025 Budget

It was moved by Rodger Olson and seconded by John Finney to approve the following, as presented:

- Financial Report
- Wire transfers
- 2025 budget

Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

NRCS report – project updates

Christi Fischer reported on the status of ongoing Regional Conservation Partnership

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Program (RCP) plans in the Red River Basin in North Dakota. Discussion was also held on the status of ongoing dam rehabilitation projects in North Dakota.

Outreach

Brian Fuder said the advertising partnership with WDAY Weather and Ag in Focus is going well. Mr. Fuder stated he was a program guest recently and last week the program made a video segment of the Elm River #1 construction on-site, which will be posted on their website as well as to the Red River Retention Authority website.

2024 Partner Summit

Mr. Fuder updated the Board on the RRRRA 2024 Partner Summit being held July 31, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the East Grand Forks, Minnesota Eagles Club. The agenda includes partner updates, a presentation from Collin Peterson on the Farm Bill and strategic planning in the afternoon. Invitations have been sent and RSVPs are due by July 15th for meal planning purposes. More information on the Summit can be found on the RRRRA website.

Mr. Fuder is seeking authorization and approval of a *Client Owner Service Agreement* in the amount of \$1,772 with Moriya Rufer of Houston Engineering for strategic planning facilitator services.

Bill Petersen moved to approve and authorize the Executive Director to sign the *Client Owner Service Agreement* in the amount of \$1,772 with Houston Engineering, Inc. for strategic planning facilitator services for the RRRRA 2024 Partner Summit. Greg Holmvik seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Report – work group formation

Mr. Fuder discussed the Minnesota Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program and the common misconceptions of the funding that is available. Mr. Fuder also discussed the need to improve the permitting process for the program.

Mr. Fuder stated that he would like to form a working group that could identify the issues and find solutions for funding, permitting, cost of construction, and other deterrents to flood hazard mitigation projects. Mr. Fuder stated he would like to see if there is interest in forming the working group among the attendees of the 2024 Partner Summit and proceed with the group, from there. The Board concurred.

Executive Director Report – Baldhill Dam Water Control Plan manual update

Mr. Fuder noted the RRRRA submitted a comment letter to the Corps of Engineers regarding the updates to the Water Control Plan manual for Baldhill Dam.

Executive Director Report – Middle-Snake Tamarac Watershed District Newfolden Project

Mr. Fuder also noted the RRRRA sent a letter of support regarding the Middle-Snake Tamarac Watershed District Newfolden Project.

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Executive Director Report – NRCS Watershed Rehabilitation Program funding

Mr. Fuder discussed the large decline in funding available for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program and suggested several changes that could be made in the new Farm Bill to allow for additional funding for watershed rehabilitation needs.

Agency and partner reports

Pat Fridgen updated the Board on NDDWR activities, including updates on the various State Water Commission-hosted meetings being held throughout the State. Mr. Fridgen noted that the project submission deadline for the August State Water Commission meeting is June 24, 2024.

Randy Gjestvang noted that the North Dakota Water Resource Districts Association and North Dakota Water Users Association Joint Summer Water Meeting is scheduled for July 9-11, 2024, in Minot, North Dakota.

Rodger Olson gave a brief update on the construction status of the Metro Flood Diversion Project and noted the Cass County Joint Water Resource District continues to acquire property rights needed for the project. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2027.

Next meeting

The next RRRA meeting is scheduled for July 31, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Eagles Club in East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be considered by the Board, the meeting adjourned without objection.

APPROVED:

Josh Ihry
Co-Chair

John Finney
Co-Chair

ATTEST:

Melissa Hinkemeyer
Secretary-Treasurer