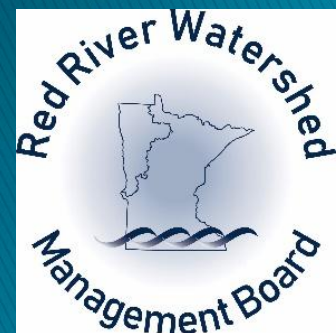


Funding Water Storage in the Red River Basin of Minnesota

Minnesota House of Representatives
Capital Investment Committee Hearing

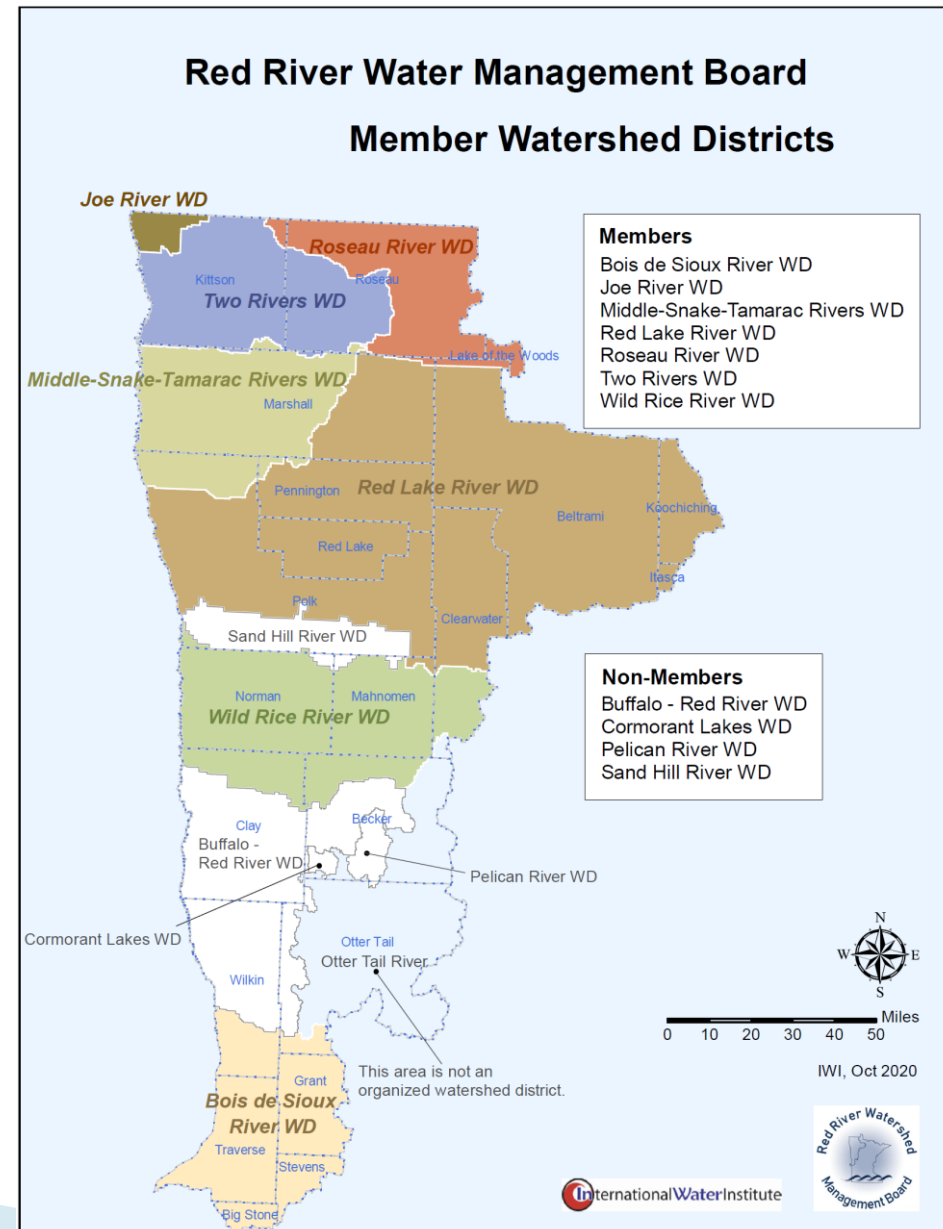
March 20, 2025
St. Paul, MN



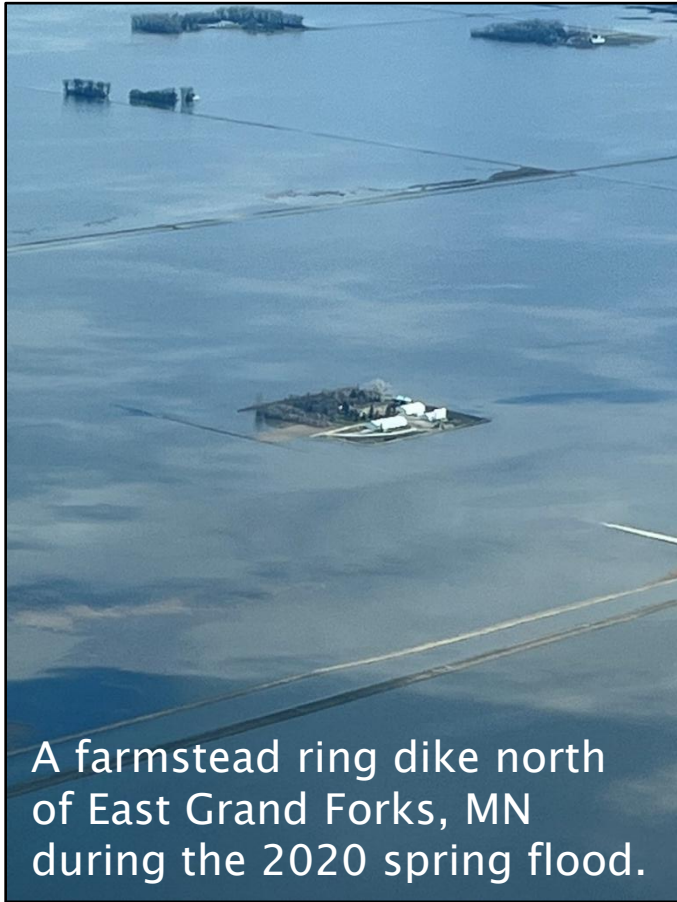
Robert L. Sip, Executive Director
Red River Watershed Management Board

RRWMB Organizational Overview

- ▶ Created in 1976 by MN Legislature
- ▶ Joint Powers Board of 7 Watershed Districts
- ▶ 21 Counties in Jurisdictional Boundary



Minnesota Red River Basin Flood Mitigation Infrastructure



A farmstead ring dike north of East Grand Forks, MN during the 2020 spring flood.

- ▶ 60 + Flood Impoundments
- ▶ Over 650 Farmstead Ring Dikes
- ▶ City Flood Levees and Protection
- ▶ River Setback Levees
- ▶ Culvert Sizing and 2-Stage Ditches
- ▶ Farm Field Dikes
- ▶ Federal Dams



RRWMB Flood Infrastructure and Benefits

- ▶ \$48 Million Request for 7 Projects:
 - 1 City Project
 - 6 Water Storage Projects
- ▶ 100,000 Acre-feet of Water Storage
- ▶ Water Quality:
 - Sediment Reductions – 17,541/Year
 - Phosphorus Reductions – 16,123/Year
 - Nitrogen Reductions – 117,288/Year
- ▶ 14,847 Acres of Wetland and Grassland Created, Enhanced, or Restored
- ▶ 74.7 Stream Miles Created, Enhanced, or Restored
- ▶ 1,015,984 Acres of Upstream Drainage Controlled



Construction at the City of Newfolden Flood Prevention Project in the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District in 2024.



2025 Funding Information: Flood Mitigation Projects

- ▶ 2025 Governor Request for Flood Mitigation = \$5.6 Million
- ▶ 2025 MN Legislature Bill Introductions for Flood Mitigation = \$149 Million
- ▶ MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Known Needs List for Flood Mitigation as of July 2024 = \$139 Million



Status of Projects

- ▶ None are fully functional.
- ▶ From a funding standpoint – all projects are approximately 50% funded through the State of Minnesota, RRWMB, and its membership.
- ▶ All projects have been in the DNR “Known Needs List” since 2016/2017.



Construction of the Redpath Impoundment and Mustinka River Rehabilitation Project in the Bois de Sioux Watershed District, 2024.



What are we Protecting?

- ▶ Infrastructure – Public and Private
 - Cities
 - Rural Areas
 - Farmsteads
- ▶ Social, Natural, Cultural, and Financial Capital

Red River Basin
Projects add to the
Overall Base of
Minnesota Natural
Resources



Flooding in the City of Dumont, Western Minnesota, Bois de Sioux Watershed District, April 2023.



Waterfowl at the North Ottawa Impoundment
Bois de Sioux Watershed District



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