

Two Rivers Watershed District

In Roseau, Kittson, & Marshall Counties



*Board of Managers: President – Rick Sikorksi, V.P.- Roger Anderson, Secretary - Daryl Klegstad, Treasurer – Gerald Olsonawski
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April 13, 2026

Senator Sandra L. Pappas
Chair, Capital Investment Committee
Minnesota Senate
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2113
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Pappas,

This letter is with regard to funding currently under consideration regarding the State of Minnesota's "Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Program" (FMGP), administered by the MN DNR. According to data from the DNR, the current requests and funding needs for the entire list of applications exceed \$213 million. To address this the DNR's original request for this legislative session was \$45 million. We are disappointed in the Governor's budget request of only \$9 million. While we understand the fiscal restraints for this program, we also feel there is room to raise the amount to a more substantial number closer to the DNR's request. At \$9 million per year, it would take over 23 years to fund the current known needs, not including any inflationary adjustments, and therefore a long term funding strategy seems necessary.

The merits of this program and the funding needs for these projects are many. As you know, the climate is changing and we are seeing across the state increases in flood damages to public infrastructure and private property. Many of these proposed projects not only provide benefits by mitigating and reducing flood damages but also provide great benefits to natural resources by reducing erosion, sediment, and nutrient loading to our rivers and lakes, thereby improving water quality and aquatic habitat. Yet another benefit of these projects is the economic benefits – information from the Federal Emergency Management Agency indicates that every \$1 spent on mitigation results in a \$6 to \$8 return on investment.

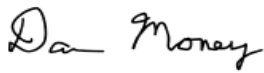
In the Red River valley, a common goal has been identified to reduce peak flows on the Red River by 20%. Hydrologic modelling by local, state and federal agencies has produced targeted numbers for each tributary in order to meet the goal. The plan calls for constructing impoundments to hold floodwater during times of flooding and then releasing it after the flood has peaked and downstream waterways can handle the flows. Three current projects have

been identified by the Red River Watershed Management Board to be ready for construction and in need of funding. These projects will store up to 82,500 acre feet of storage and significantly contribute to the flood damage reduction regional goal. One-half of the money to build these projects is approved and dedicated by local sources, and we are seeking the other one-half of cost share funding through the State's FHMG program.

As I write this, the National Weather Service currently lists three flood warnings in the Red River valley. In Kittson County, there have been 14 Federal disaster declarations in the past 28 years.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of this matter and are hopeful for substantial funding of this extremely important program. If you have any questions or would like further information regarding this matter, please give me a call at 218-843-3333 or email to dan.money@tworiverswd.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan Money".

Dan Money
District Administrator