

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE- RED RIVER BASIN FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION WORK GROUP FISCAL YEAR 2010 & 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Red River Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (FDRWG or Work Group) was originally formed in 1998 to address issues related to the development of flood damage reduction projects in that portion of the Red River of the North Basin in Minnesota. The Flood Damage Reduction Work Group works to ensure the full implementation of the 1998 Red River Mediation Agreement. Minnesota Session Laws 2009, Chapter 37, Article 1, Section 4, Subd. 3 requires the Commissioner of Natural Resources to submit a report to the Legislature on accomplishments achieved with state funding granted for implementation of the Red River Mediation Agreement.

FY 2010 Accomplishments

The FY 2010 spending plan was approved by the Work Group and identifies sufficient funds to continue a reasonable level of watershed planning, project development, and coordination and oversight of the project team process. The original FY 2010 funding level of \$275,000 was reduced by the legislature to \$121,000.

Project Team Support funded eight watershed project teams investigating the following projects:

- Roseau River Wildlife Management Area
- Beltrami Island Forest Impoundment
- Swift Coulee/CD #3 Flood Control Project
- Wetland Delineation on the Brandt/Angus Flood Control Project
- Big Swamp Project
- South Branch Buffalo River Project
- Grand Marais Creek Project
- Upper Becker Dam Enhancement Project

Project Monitoring funding was utilized to supplement water quality personnel staff time dedicated to project team participation, as well as to assist with the development of project monitoring plans for specific projects progressing through the individual projects teams.

Project Development Grant funding was used to provide project acceleration funds for projects requiring additional funding to conduct preliminary engineering to determine project feasibility.

The **Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC)** of the Work Group was allocated funds for coordination efforts. The Work Group relies on the TSAC to provide technical and scientific information and analysis in support of the mediation effort. The TSAC represents a range of disciplines, including hydrology, engineering, ecology, soils science, and economics.

Facilitation/Mediation Grant funds are intended to assist project teams when internal issues are encountered that could significantly impede the project team process and be resolved by retaining outside professional mediation or facilitation efforts. No funds were used for this purpose in FY 2010.

Communications and Outreach funds were used toward public outreach including distribution of a monthly news letter and publishing a project team manual.

Work Group Meetings and Conference funds were utilized for costs incurred with regular meetings and also an annual conference co-sponsored by the Work Group and the Red River Watershed Management Board. The conference serves as a workshop for the purpose of presentations from watershed districts, resource management agencies, and other organizations regarding problem areas with flood damage or resource management that will be addressed by projects in the coming year. The conference is typically attended by approximately 75 participants.

FY 2011 Accomplishments

The original FY 2011 funding level of \$275,000 was subsequently reduced by the Legislature to \$264,000.

Project Team Support funded eight watershed project teams involving the following projects:

- Beltrami Island Forest Impoundment
- Roseau Lake Bottom Project
- Roseau River Wildlife Management Area
- Brandt/Angus Flood Control Project
- Big Swamp Project
- South Branch Buffalo River Project
- Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge
- Wolverton Creek-Comstock Coulee Project
- Grand Marais Creek Project
- Upper Becker Dam Enhancement Project
- Moccasin Creek Operation Plan
- Olson-Agassiz Project

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Project Development Grant funding was used to provide project acceleration funds for projects requiring additional funding to conduct preliminary engineering to determine project feasibility.

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Facilitation/Mediation Grant funds are intended to assist project teams when internal issues were encountered that could significantly impede the project team process and be resolved by retaining outside professional mediation or facilitation efforts. No funds were used for this purpose in FY 2011.

Communications and Outreach funds were used towards public outreach including such efforts as distributing a monthly newsletter and publishing a project team manual.

Work Group Meetings and Conference funds were utilized for the costs incurred with regular meetings and also an annual conference co-sponsored by the Work Group and the Red River Watershed Management Board. The conference serves as a workshop for the purpose of presentations from watershed districts, resource management agencies, and other organizations regarding problem areas with flood damage or resource management that will be addressed by projects in the coming year. The conference is typically attended by approximately 75 participants.

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DNR Ecological & Water Resources

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