

# Minnesota's Flood Hazard Mitigation (FHM) Grant Assistance Program

*Building Community Resilience Through Flood Risk Reduction since 1987*

**Matt Bauman | MN DNR**  
**LGU Field Forum**

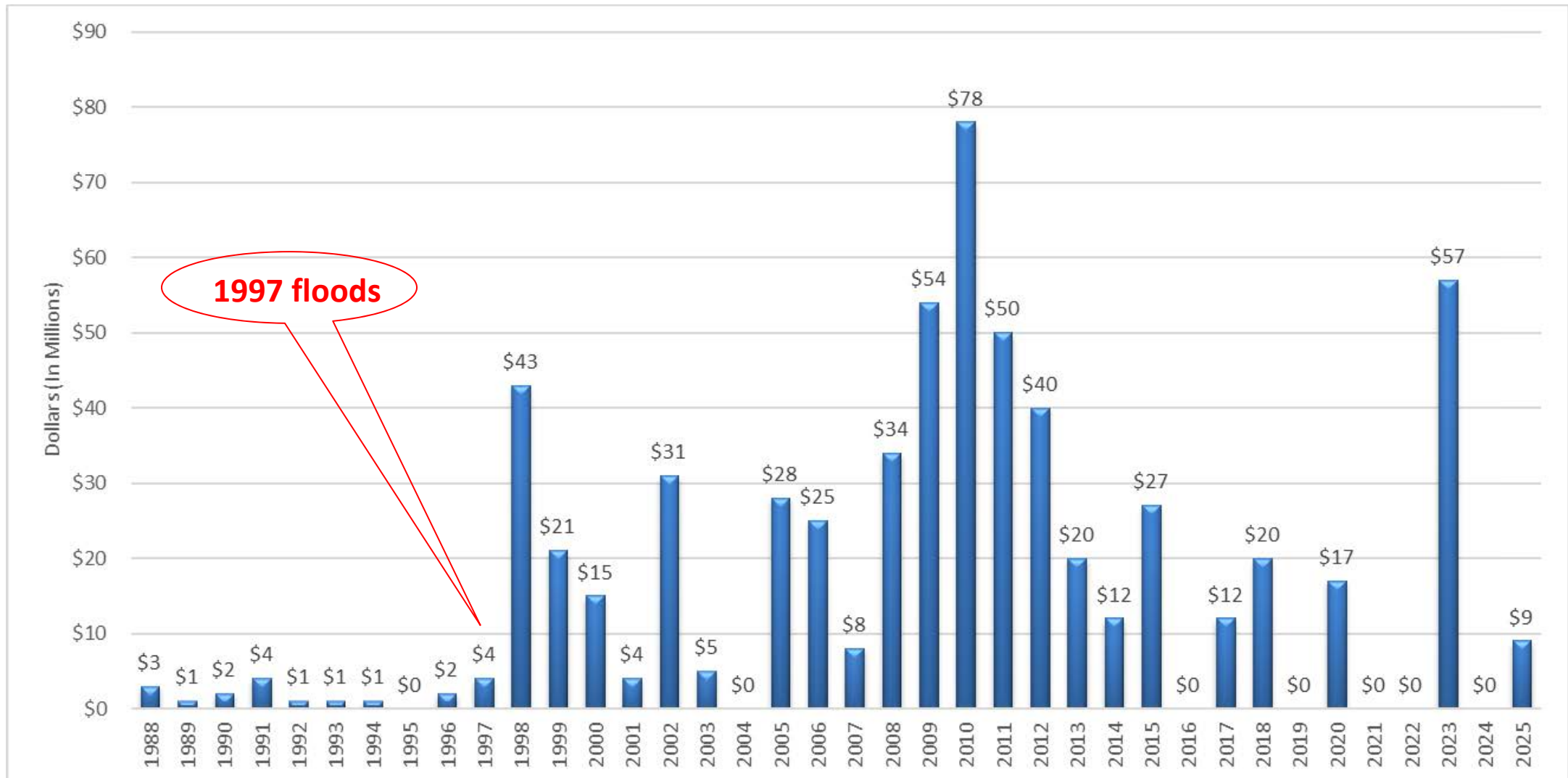
- Overview of FHM Grant Program
- Current funding opportunities
- Application and award process

# FHM Grant Program - Background

- **Established by the Minnesota Legislature in 1987** (MS 103F.161)
- **Provides cost-share funding to LGUs**
  - **1:1 local match required** (sometimes less for communities, based on MHI)
- **G.O. bond-eligible projects must be of a capital nature and publicly owned in perpetuity**
  - **Acquisition/removal of flood prone structures**
  - **Easement acquisition**
  - **Structural works - levees, floodwalls, diversions, impoundments, pumping stations**

# FHM Grant Program - Funding History

Minnesota FHM Funding, 1988 - 2023



- **\$9M received in general obligation bonds**
- **Applications are due August 11, 2025**
- **Applications will be reviewed by an evaluation team**
- **Finalists will present their projects to the team**
- **Awards will be made in the fall**
- **Those not awarded funding will be considered for future funding**



## Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program



The Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program (FHM) was created by the Minnesota Legislature in 1987 to provide technical and financial assistance to local government units for reducing the damaging effects of floods. Under this program the state can make cost-share grants to local units of government for up to 50 percent of the total cost of a project. The goal of existing regulations and programs for flood damage reduction is to minimize the threat to life and property from flooding. The efforts of local governments to enforce their zoning ordinances, to sponsor flood mitigation public improvement projects, and to acquire or relocate flood-prone buildings have significantly helped to reduce risk to lives and flood damages across the state.

- [Historical Allocations of FHM Funding \(PDF\)](#)
- [History of the Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program \(PDF\)](#)
- [Information Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [2021 FHM Listening Session and Survey Summary \(PDF\)](#)
- [Remaining Known FHM Needs \(PDF\)](#)
- [FHM Grant Prioritization Guidelines \(PDF\)](#)

### Application Information

- [Expiring soon! Red River Basin Planning Funding, 2023-2025](#)
- [Application Form \(PDF\)](#)

### Contact

[Matt Bauman](#) Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program Manager, 651-259-5691

## Program Webpage

Historical Funding

Remaining Known Needs

Grant Prioritization  
Process

Application

- **Revised Application Form**
- **Questions ensure applicants provide enough details to meet considerations listed in statute.**
- **Due August 11<sup>th</sup> for this round of funding**

**Application window always open.  
Awards made after legislative appropriations.  
LGUs are encouraged to apply!**

## **Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program Application**

**Complete and return this application via email to:**

Matthew Bauman

Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program Manager

Email: [matthew.bauman@state.mn.us](mailto:matthew.bauman@state.mn.us)

Phone: 651-259-5691

# FHM Grant Prioritization

## Grant Prioritization – Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program

### Background

Since 1987, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) [Flood Hazard Mitigation \(FHM\) Grant Assistance Program](#) has awarded over \$590 million in cost share funding to local governmental units (LGUs) around the state. This funding leverages local resources to plan, design and implement flood risk reduction measures. LGUs applying for funds include cities, counties, watershed districts, and other public entities. Requests for assistance far exceeds available funds, so the DNR must determine funding priorities among competing projects in each funding cycle. This document explains the statutory considerations that go into the DNR's prioritization decisions in each funding cycle, and may serve as a helpful reference to local governments as they are developing their project or application.

### Statutory Considerations for Prioritizing Project Funding

The FHM program's enabling legislation provides nine general considerations the DNR must apply when evaluating LGU applications for funding assistance ([M.S. 103F.161](#)). These nine considerations are listed and explained below. For each potential project, program staff confer with applicants about their project and evaluate each application based on these considerations:

- 1) **The extent and effectiveness of mitigation measures already implemented by the local government requesting the grant.**  
  
Communities that have invested local resources to implement effective flood risk mitigation may merit continued financial assistance. In addition, the DNR prioritizes funding to complete in-progress projects (or phases).
- 2) **The feasibility, practicality, and effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures and the associated nonflood related benefits and detriments.**

To be eligible for funding, projects must be based on sound engineering and proven methods and suitable for the conditions at the proposed project site. DNR also considers whether the applicant demonstrates the ability to provide necessary, long-term operations and maintenance actions. In addition, projects that offer multipurpose benefits in addition to flood risk reduction may receive additional consideration. Examples of additional multipurpose benefits include ancillary economic development benefits, natural resource benefits, improved environmental equity, or recreation benefits. Similarly, projects that would cause significant negative impacts in these areas are not likely to receive funding.

- Shows how DNR applies the 9 considerations in statute
- LGUs should consider this material when applying
- Applicants should be sure to document risk and need



# Thank You for your interest and attention!

**Matt Bauman, DNR Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program**

[matthew.bauman@state.mn.us](mailto:matthew.bauman@state.mn.us)

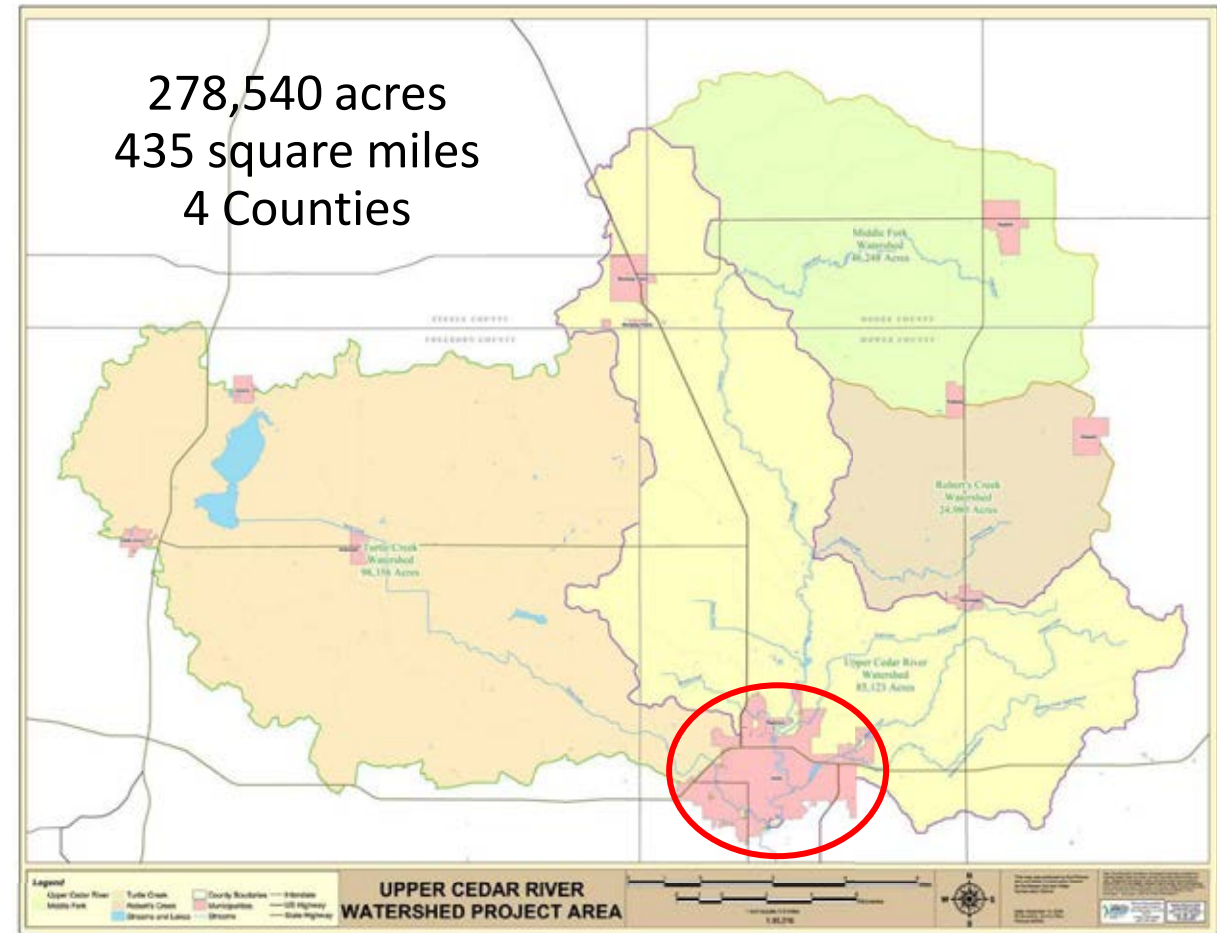
641-259-5691

# City of Austin, MN



# Cedar River Watershed

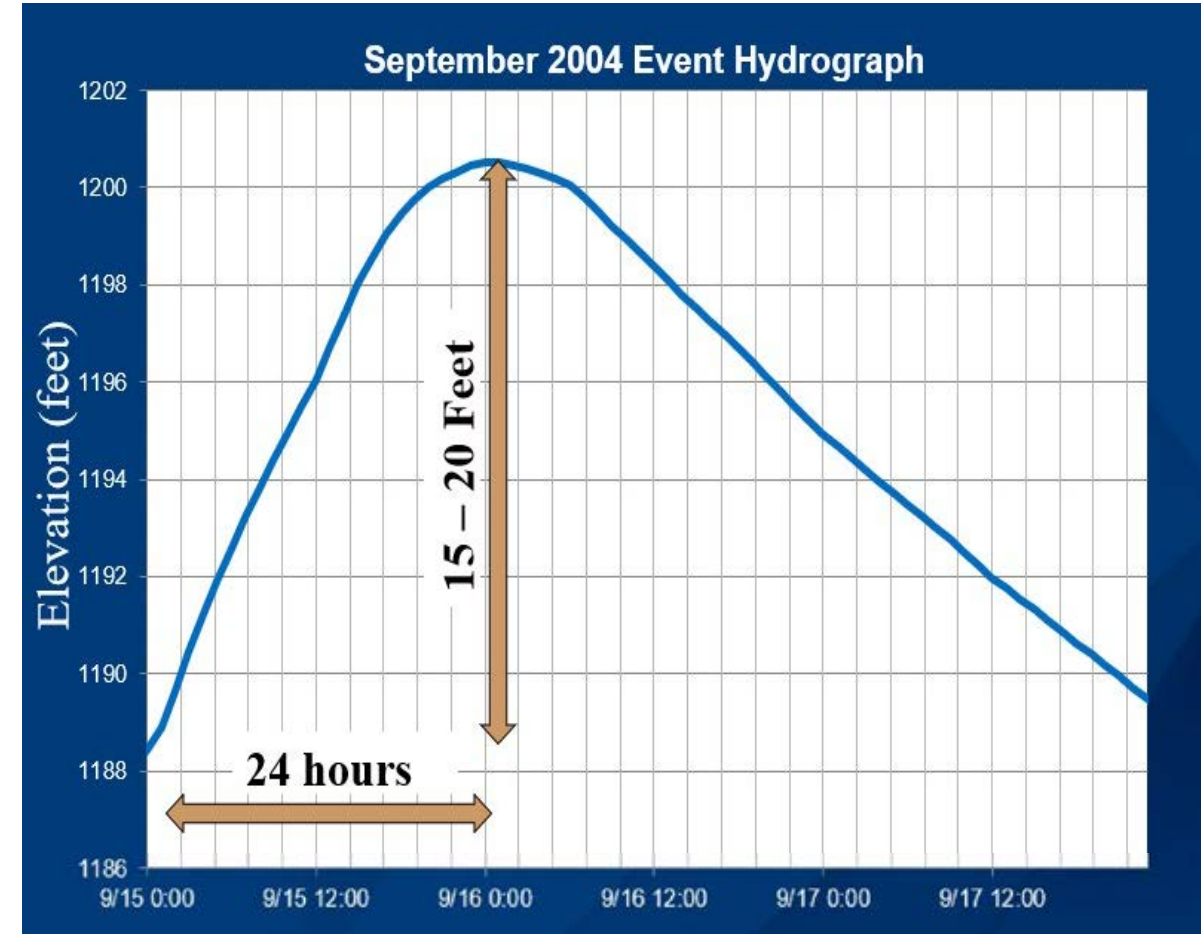
278,540 acres  
435 square miles  
4 Counties



# Austin's Flood History

<u>Date of Flood</u>	<u>Gauge Height(ft.)</u>
1. September 15, 2004	25.0
2. July 10, 2000	23.4
3. June 12, 2008	22.4
4. July 17, 1978	21.9
5. August 15, 1993	21.3
6. September 24, 2010	20.6
7. June 22, 2024	20.0
8. September 23, 2016	19.8

# 2004 Event Hydrograph





# Acquisition of Repetitive Loss Properties

- All voluntary acquisitions
- Offer based on appraisal, no negotiation or markup
- Guidelines & Goals
  - Subject to repetitive losses
  - Prioritize first flood damages
  - Eliminate infrastructure



# Acquisition of Repetitive Loss Properties

- 300 parcels removed since 1978
  - 1978-99 150 FEMA funding
  - 2000-09 115 FEMA/State/Local funding
  - 2010-24 35 State/Local funding
- Creation of a Linear Park System
- Eliminated flood infrastructure
- $\approx$  75 homes & businesses remain

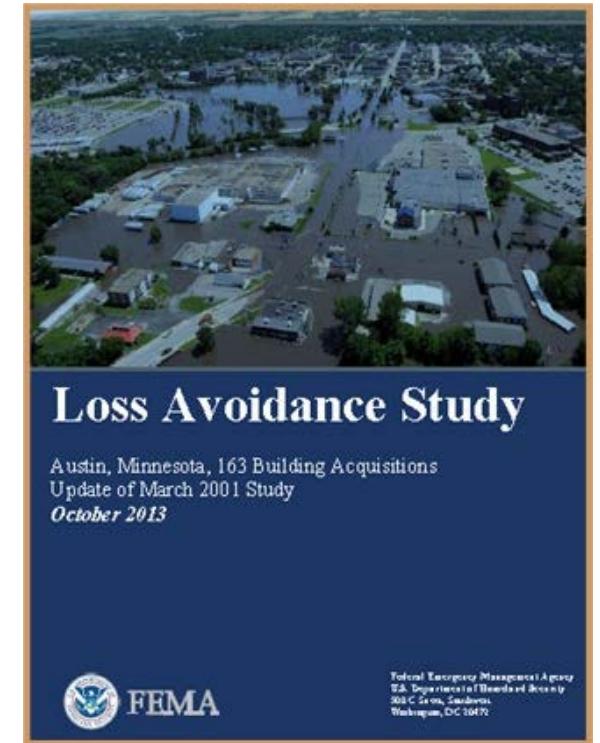


2025  
MINNESOTA DNR  
ROUNDTABLE



# 2013 FEMA Loss Avoidance Study

- 163 Building Acquisitions: 1978, 1988, 1993
- Total Acquisition Cost: \$14,425,986
- Total Losses Avoided: \$38,274,070
- Return On Investment: 2.65
- Additional Savings: 2016 & 2024



Emotional Impact

# Local Option Sales Tax (LOST)

- City identified need for funding source
- Required legislative approval 2006
- Referendum passed with 63% approval
- Established for 20 years
- Expires March 31, 2027
- Generates \$1.75 million annually



# Flood Mitigation Program (2007 – 2027)

- 9 Project Areas
- \$58.3 Million Total Project Cost
  - \$2.0m FEMA funding
  - \$5.0m Local Sewer funding
  - \$5.0m DEED Bonding Dollars
  - \$18.0m DNR FHM funding
  - \$28.3m Local Option Sales Tax
- Property Acquisition (\$8.3m)
- Structural Mitigation (\$50.0m)
  - Earthen Levees
  - Concrete Floodwalls
  - Pumping Stations
  - Sanitary Sewer Improvements
  - Storm Sewer Upgrades
  - Engineering Services

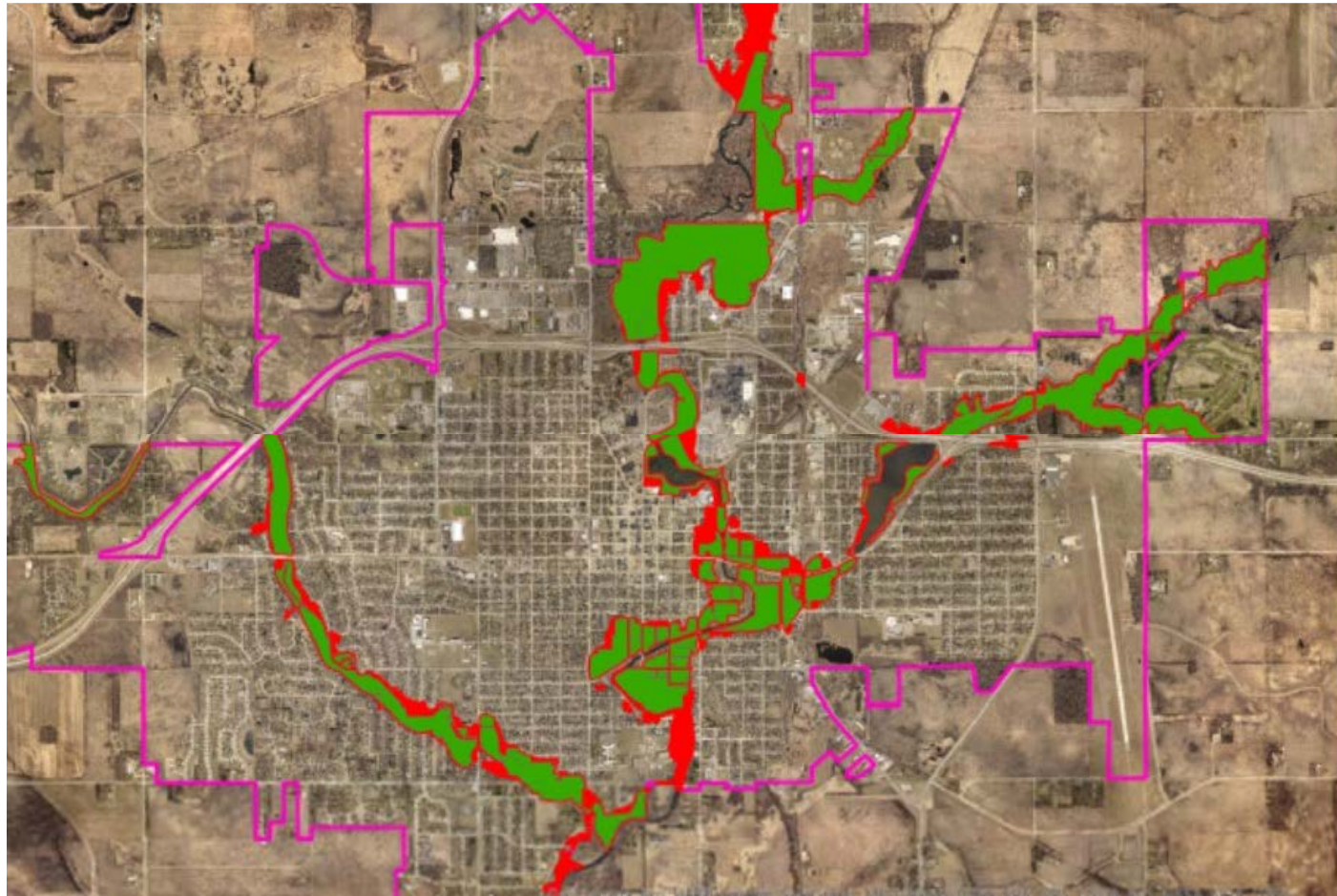
80% Complete


# Preserving history and planning for the future.

- Over the past 50 years we have been working with state, federal and local partners, to protect lives and property.
- We have to a great extent accomplished our goals and endeavor to preserve those decades of effort moving forward.
- We now have hundreds of acres of open space running through the city along our waterways. How will we plan to preserve and utilize this space in ways that are compatible with our history of flooding, preserving the natural functions of the floodplain, as well as providing added benefit for our residents?



# Flood Zone Open Space



- Floodplain 
- At least 81% (600+ acres) of our floodplain is now open space, with no habitable structures or businesses.



# Voluntary participation in the community rating system

- The City of Austin is an NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) community and has been involved in the CRS program since 1991. It is a voluntary program that incentivizes communities to adopt stronger floodplain management practices. Both programs are administered by FEMA and facilitated by the Minnesota DNR. Both agencies provide technical and financial assistance for flood mitigation and recovery.
- The CRS aligns with flood prevention by promoting policies and actions that minimize flood risks, improve community resilience, and reducing the financial burden of flooding on individuals and governments.



FEMA

# Comprehensive Plans Mower County and Austin



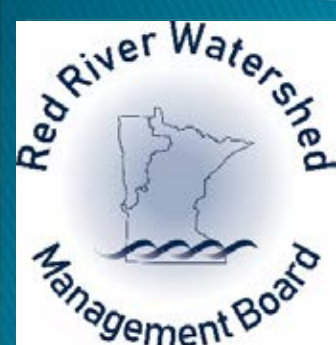
# Community Engagement

- Growing partners
  - Identifying champions
  - Building support
  - Meeting people where they are
  - Celebrating who they are
- Currently creating Communities of Practice (city and county) and District Councils (downtown Austin), which includes areas along the Cedar River and will address recreation and access to our waterways.

# ***Multi-purpose Water Storage to Meet Flood Mitigation, Water Quality, and Habitat Goals in the Red River Basin of Minnesota***

Monthly LGU Forum  
MN DNR

July 16, 2025  
Presented Electronically



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

# Topics

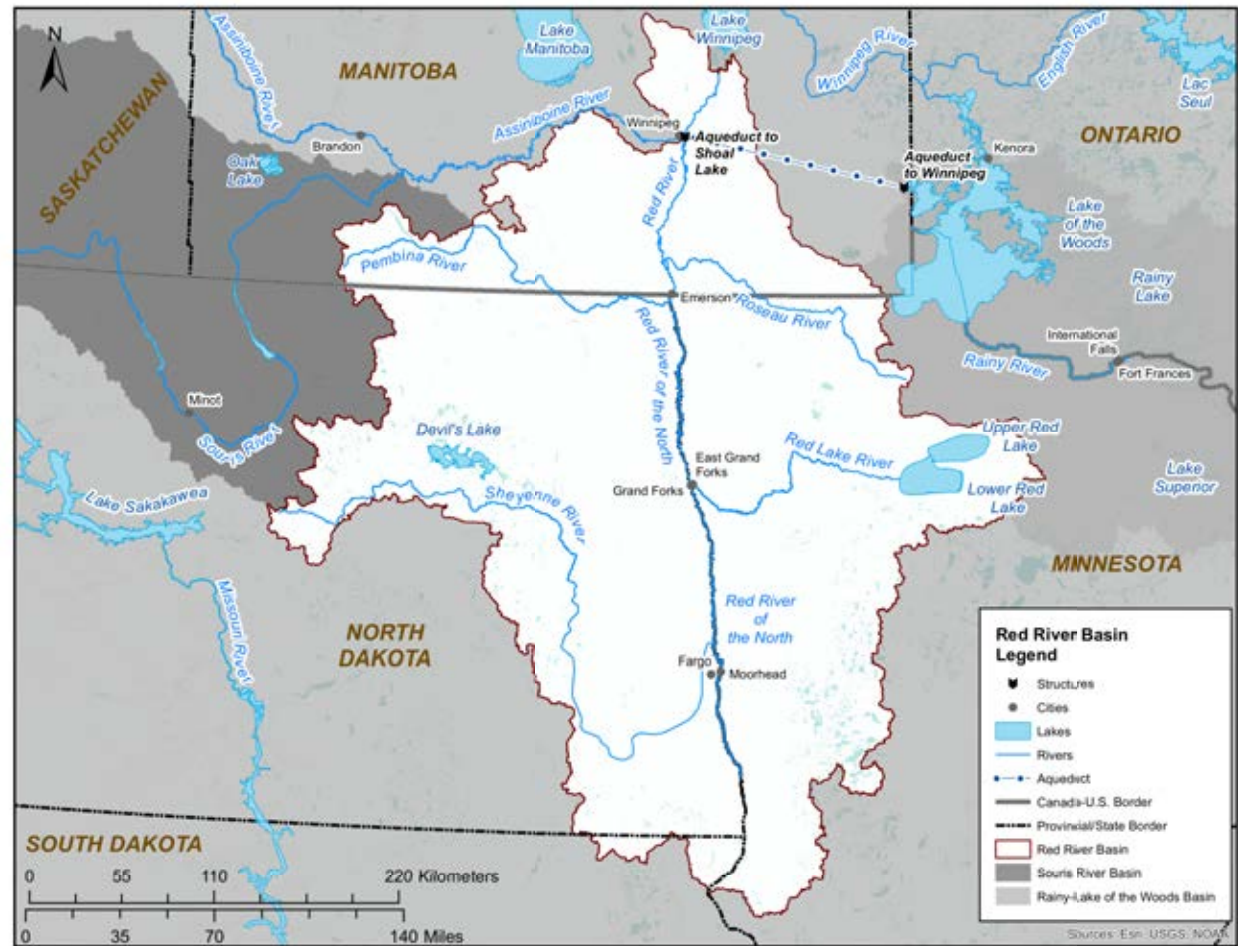
- ▶ Red River Basin (RRB) Overview
- ▶ Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) Background
- ▶ Flood Mitigation Infrastructure
- ▶ 1998 Mediation Agreement
- ▶ Current Flood Mitigation Projects Underway
- ▶ MN RRB Flood Mitigation Progress
- ▶ Other RRWMB Efforts and Wrap-up





# The Red River Basin of the North

- ▶ Two Countries
- ▶ 3 U.S. States
- ▶ 1 Canadian Province
- ▶ Water Flows North Into Canada



Map Source: International  
d River Watershed Board.



# Why is There Continued Flooding?

- 1.Flat topography of the Red River Basin.
- 2.Early spring rains which increase melting of the snowpack or late spring snowstorms adding to the existing snowpack.
- 3.The actual snowpack depth and water equivalency.
- 4.Frost depth.
- 5.Soil moisture content.
- 6.River ice conditions.

Source – Nation Weather Service: [Anatomy of a Red River Spring Flood](#)



# A HISTORY of Flooding in the Red River Basin

## Major Red River of the North (Red River) Floods

- 1706: Large flood in 1776 according to anecdotal accounts. Docks in Canada, especially in 1747 and 1762, substantiated by tree-ring evidence.
- 1826: Flood of record in Canada that destroyed settlements.
- 1862: Large flood at Fargo, N. Dak./ Moorhead, Minn., and Grand Forks, N. Dak./East Grand Forks, Minn.
- 1897: Largest flood on record at Fargo.
- 1916: Large flood in Fargo and on upstream reaches; sizeable flood in Canada.
- 1943: Large flood in Fargo/Moorhead: in an 11-day period, the Red River rose about 23 feet; St. John's hospital was engulfed and 270 families were forced from their homes.
- 1950: Flood that caused most severe damage ever sustained up to this point—extended time for flooding; major disaster in Winnipeg with one-third of city evacuated.
- 1965: Widespread flooding caused by heavy rains on frozen ground.
- 1966: Severe flooding from United States/Canada border to Winnipeg.
- 1980: Maximum discharge recorded on the Red River at Fargo/Moorhead and Wahpeton, N. Dak./Brookridge, Minn., and in some areas on the Sheyenne River to this date; first flood to be diverted around Winnipeg by Red River floodway.
- 1973: Flood that included two peaks, in spring and summer.
- 1979: Second largest flood after 1897 (in this date) at Grand Forks and in Canada.
- 1989: Flood that severely damaged the cities of Wahpeton and Brookridge.
- 1993: Summer flood caused by a series of intense thunderstorms at various locations throughout the basin.
- 1997: Major flooding in United States and Canada; largest recorded flood in Grand Forks/East Grand Forks; second largest in Fargo/Moorhead and Wahpeton/Brookridge.
- 2001: Significant flooding caused by heavy rains on frozen ground in addition to above-average snowfall.
- 2002: June flooding in northwestern Minnesota, especially in Roseau, Minn., and northeastern North

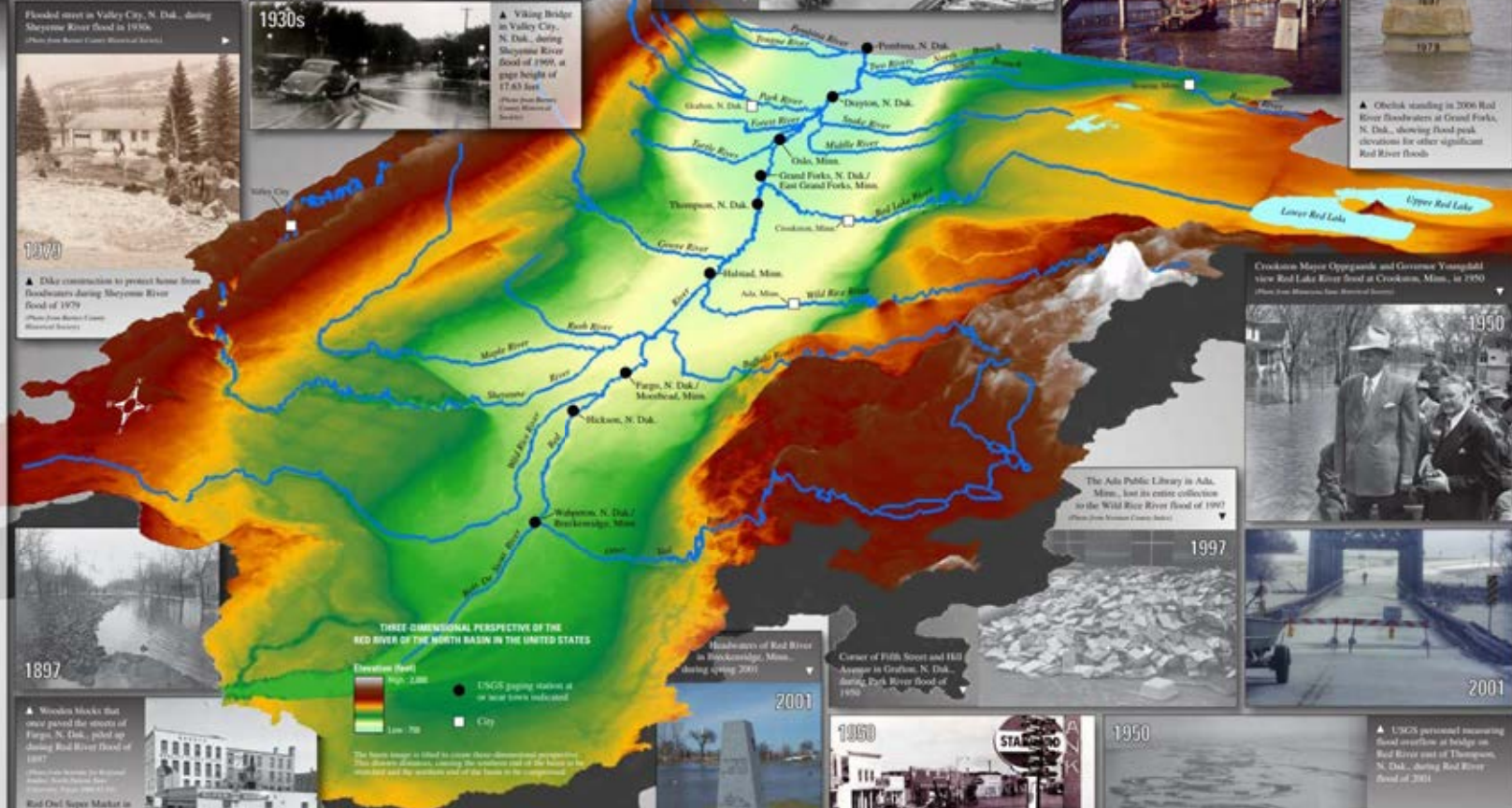
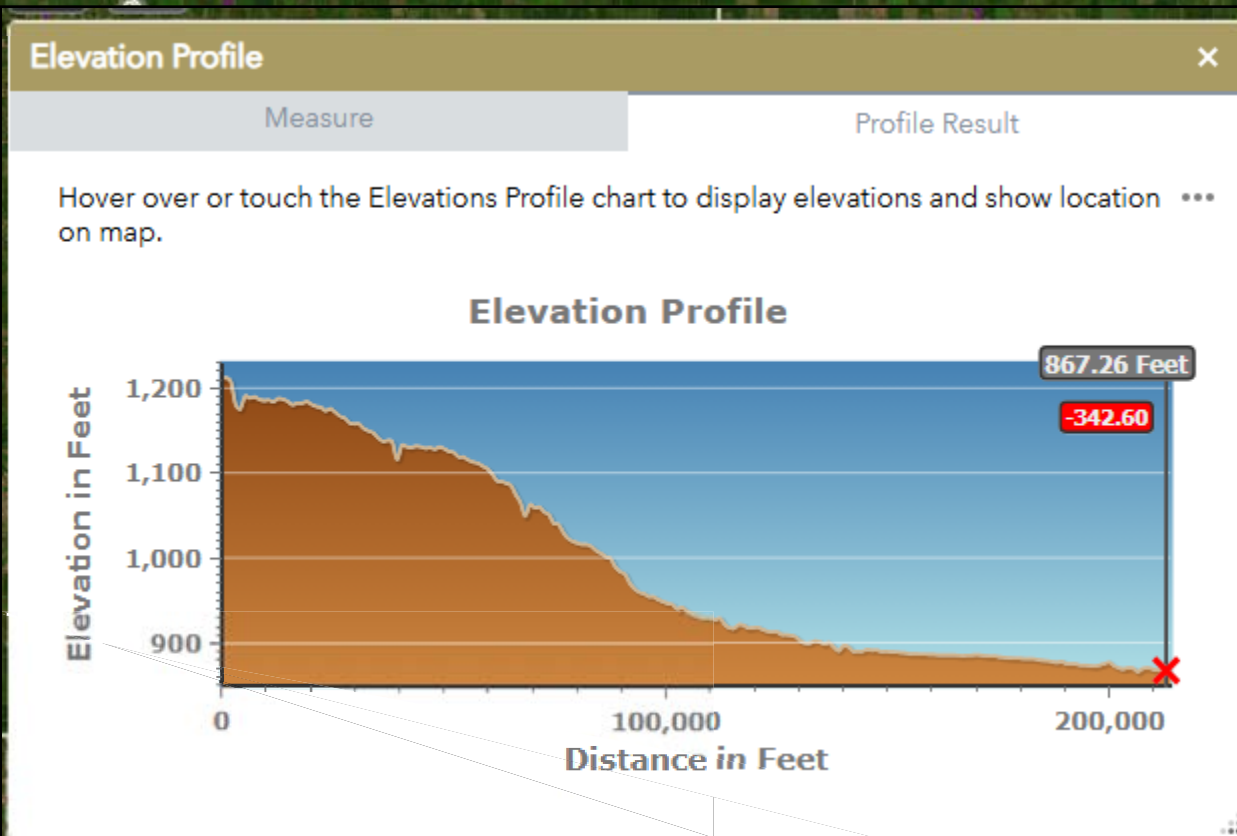
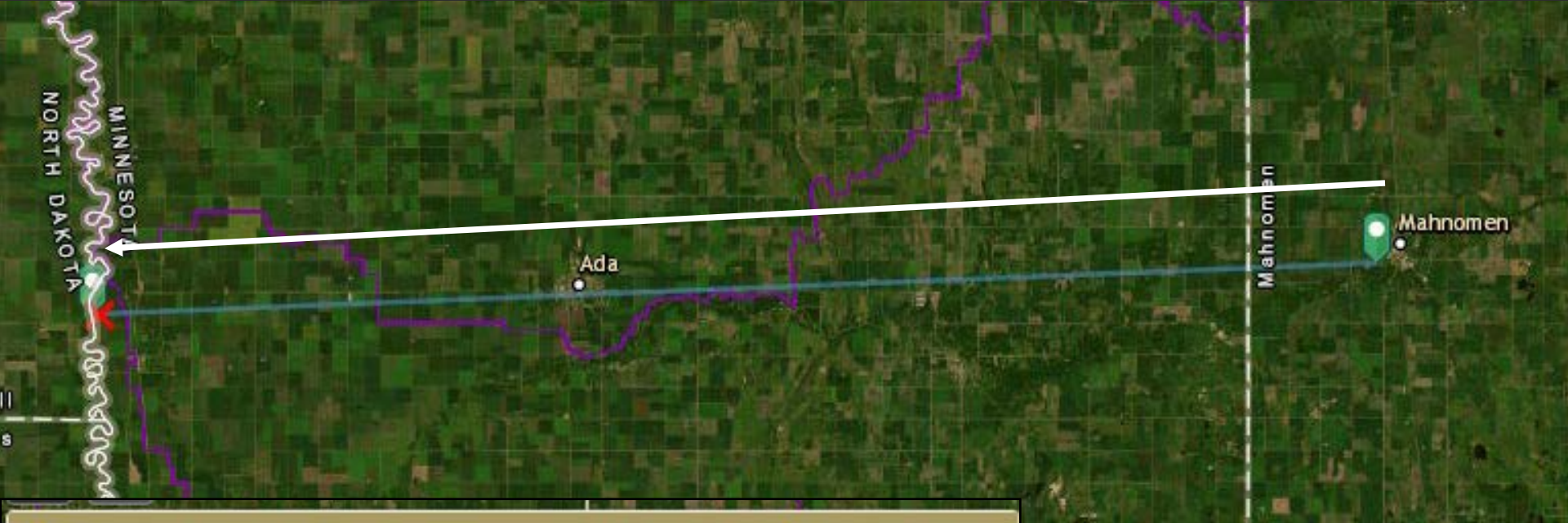


Illustration Source – USGS:

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/2007/55/pdf/finalWebGIP55.pdf>







342 feet elevation difference from the City of Mahanomen to the Red River. Data Source: RRWMB LiDAR using the International Water Institute Map Portal: <https://gisapps.iwinst.org/map-portal/>

# Recent Major Floods

▶ 2019

▶ 2020



▶ 2022

▶ 2023

Flooding North of East Grand Forks



Photo courtesy of the RRWMB.



# Sandbagging in Dumont, MN: Spring 2023



Photo courtesy of the Bois de  
Sioux Watershed District.

# May 2022: Riding in a Military HUMVEE to Oslo, MN



Photo courtesy of the RRWMB.



# 2021 – 2022 Winter Conditions

ards  
In Red  
River  
Basin.

## Blizzard Statistics

► 11  
blizza

^ 'Average' 2.6 blizzards per season

Most blizzards in a season:

2021-2022: 11\*

2013-2014: 10

2010-2011: 10

1996-1997: 10

Seasons without a blizzard:

1986-1987, 1990-1991, 2011-2012

\*2021-2022 still ongoing at the time of this graphic's creation

► 77.5

Inches of  
snow in  
Grand

Forks, ND.

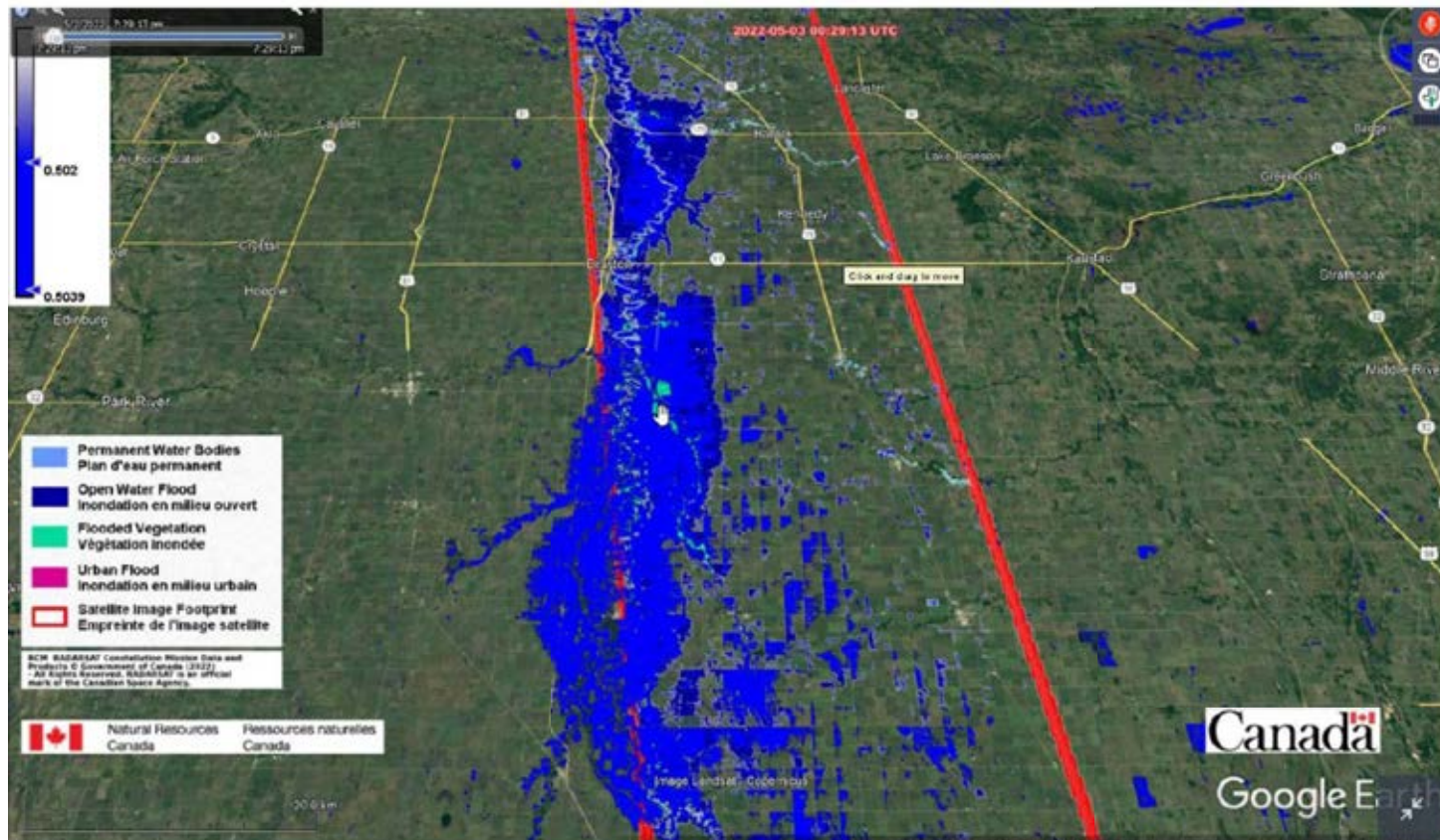
NWSGrandForks  
Weather Service | Grand Forks



National W



## Satellite imagery of inundation areas along the Red River on May 4, 2022.



Satellite Image 5/4/22

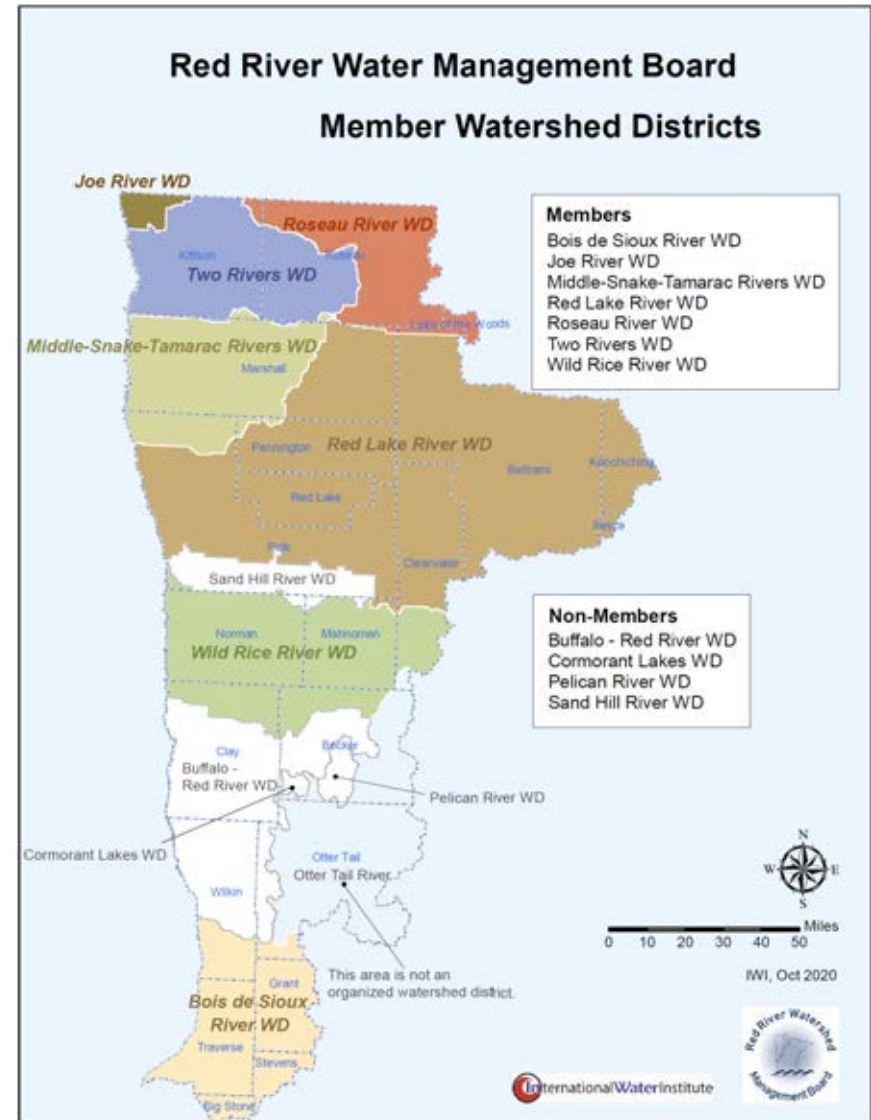
85.2 inches of snow in Grand Forks the winter of 2022 – 2023.

**Source:** Amanda Lee, Service Hydrologist / Meteorologist,  
National Weather Service, Grand Forks, ND.



# 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 Along With Many Cities
- ▶ Taxation Authority





# Our Flood Mitigation Infrastructure: MN Portion of Red River Basin



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

- ▶ 60 + Flood Impoundments
- ▶ 500+ Farmstead Ring Dikes
- ▶ City Flood Levees and Protection
- ▶ City Diversions
- ▶ River Setback Levees
- ▶ 2-Stage Ditches
- ▶ Farm Field Dikes
- ▶ Federal Dams – Lake Traverse (Reservation Dam) and White Rock Dam
- ▶ Technical Guidance – Culvert Sizing, Ag Drainage, and Tiling



# FLOOD RETENTION IN THE RED RIVER BASIN 2021

RRJWRD And RRWMB  
Sponsored Projects

## RRRA Members - (Shaded) North Dakota Water Resource Districts

Barnes County WRD  
Grand Forks County WRD  
Maple River WRD  
Nelson County WRD  
North Cass WRD  
Pembina County WRD  
Ransom County WRD  
Richland County WRD  
Rush River WRD  
Sargent County WRD  
Southeast Cass WRD  
Steele County WRD  
Traill County WRD  
Walsh County WRD

## RRRA Members - (Shaded) Minnesota Watershed Districts

Bois de Sioux River WD  
Joe River WD  
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD  
Red Lake River WD  
Roseau River WD  
Two Rivers WD  
Wild Rice River WD

- RRJWRD Supported Project Locations
- RRWMB Supported Project Locations
- RRWMB Planned Project Locations
- No Significant Retention
- ★ County Seats
- USDA NRCS Easements
- Conservation Practices/State or Federal Land
- Minnesota Prairie Plan Corridor



**Red River Joint Water  
Resource District**



NAD '983 UTM Zone 14N

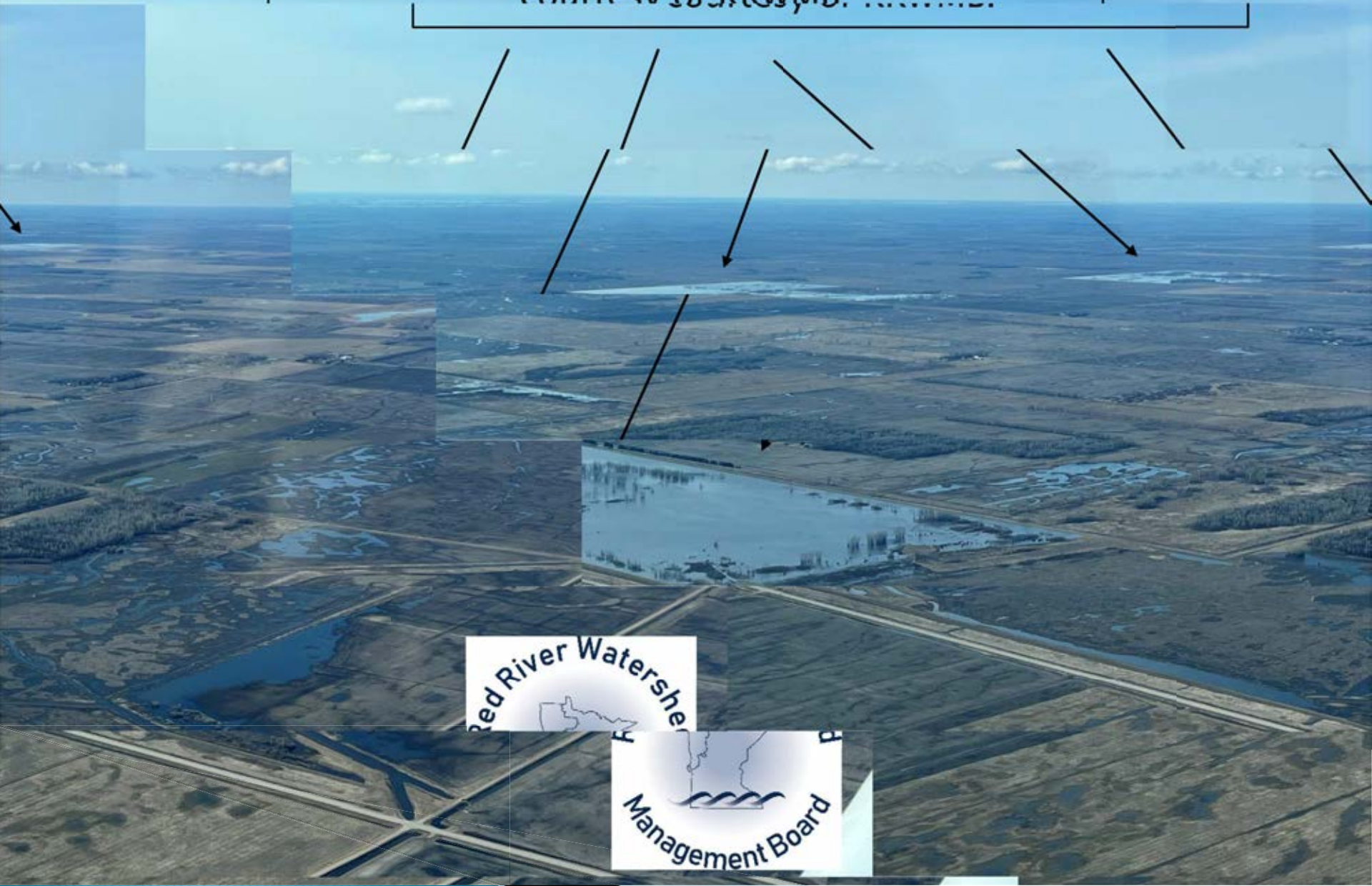
Map Source: RWI 2019  
Modified By HEI 2020, 2021



0 30 60 Miles



Several flood Impoundments north of  
Crookston, MN on May 3, 2022. Photograph  
courtesy of RRWMB. ....



Red River Watershe



# Black River Impoundment: Red Lake Watershed District



Construction in  
November 2020

4,064 Acre-feet of Water Storage



May 2023

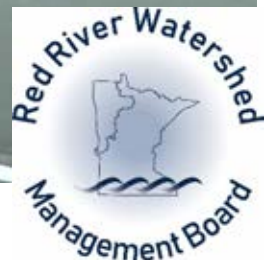
Photos courtesy of the RRWMB.



## RING DIKES:

A farmstead ring dike west of Warren, MN within the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District during the 2019 spring flood. Photo courtesy of the RRWMB.

557 farmstead ring dikes were identified from the 2021 RRWMB LiDAR data collection.





A Farmstead Ring Dike in the Roseau River Watershed District in the Fall of 2019. Photo Courtesy of the RRWMB.





# Analysis of Ring Dike Locations Using Lidar


Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District


## Legend


 Ring Dike Location - 160

 Watershed District

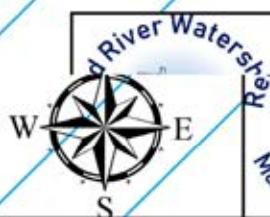
 Senate District

 House District

 Congressional District

 Road and Highway

0 10 Miles



April 2025, GMay, IWI

NAD 1983 UTM 15N

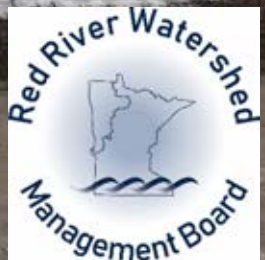
On the LiDAR data using machine learning techniques, the results are subject to limitations inherent in automated interpretation methods. The completeness of these ring dikes is not guaranteed. Users should independently verify the information before use.

Disclaimer: Ring dike locations are based on automated interpretation methods. The accuracy or completeness of these ring dikes is not guaranteed. Users should independently verify the information before use.

# City of Halstad Surrounded by Spring Floodwaters in April 2019 Within the Wild Rice Watershed District



Photo courtesy of the RRWMB.

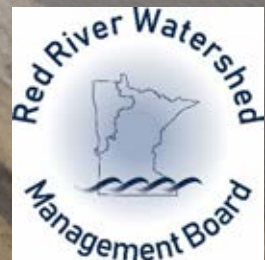




# City of Halstad During a Spring Flood



Photo Courtesy of Houston Engineering Inc.







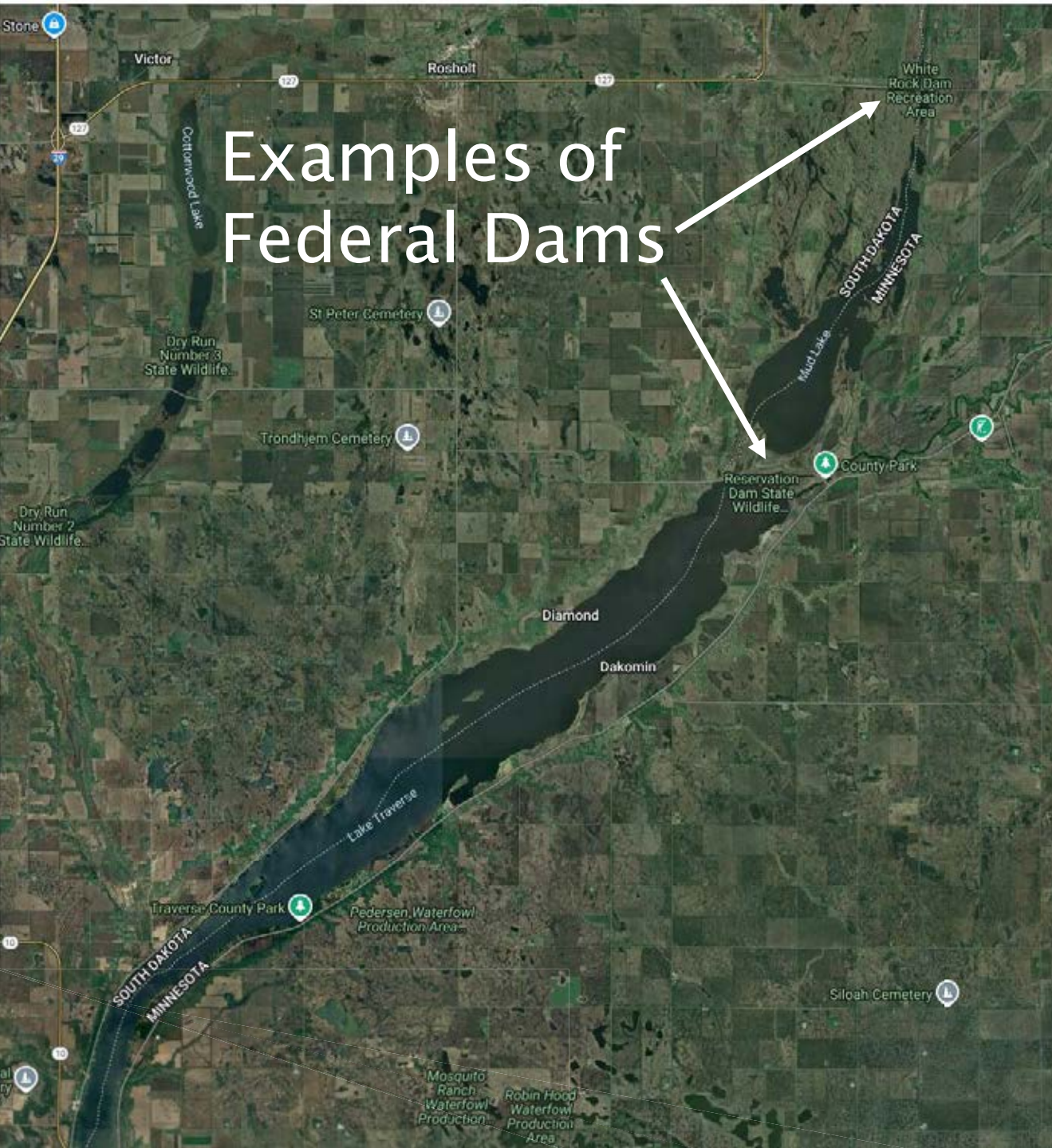
May 2022: The Red Lake River as it Passes Through the City of Crookston, MN. Photo courtesy of the RRWMB.











US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
St. Paul District

## LAKE TRAVERSE RECREATION AREA

Wheaton, Minnesota



BUILDING STRONG®



# Technical Guidance

## Culvert Sizing for Flood Damage Reduction

### Phase 1 – Preliminary Guidelines

Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group  
Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee  
Technical Paper No. 15  
October 2007

#### Principal Authors:

Jim Sobstad, DNR  
Al Kern, RWSR  
Charlie Anderson, JOR Engineering, Inc.

#### Purpose

Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC) Technical Paper No. 11, "Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Framework" (May 2004) identifies a number of measures for increasing temporary floodwater storage to reduce downstream flood damages. Culvert sizing is one of these measures. Technical Paper No. 11 provided limited guidance for implementation of culvert sizing. The purpose of this technical paper is to provide more detailed culvert sizing guidelines for flood damage reduction and prevention in the Red River Basin.

#### Phased Process for Development of Guidelines

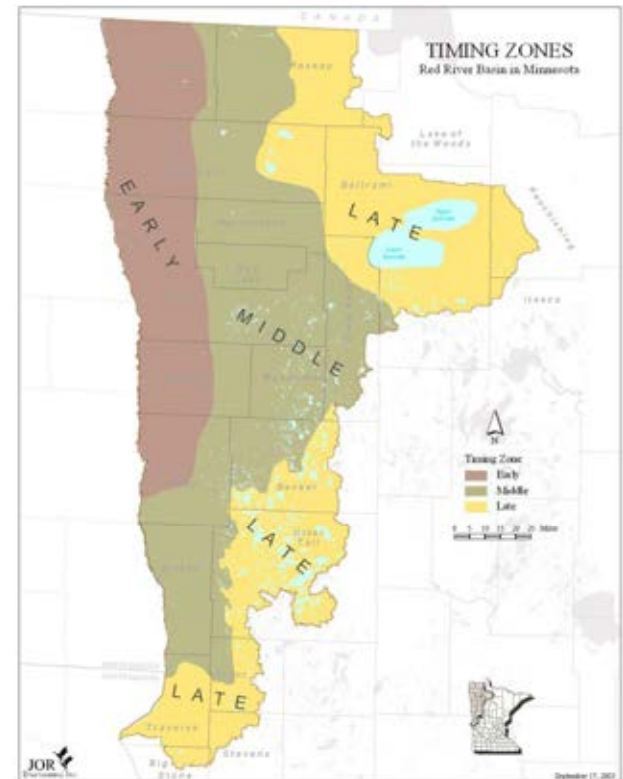
In order to systematically develop and test guidelines for culvert sizing, the TSAC recommended the following 3-phase process.

- Phase 1: Develop preliminary guidelines based on: 1) modeling of a hypothetical watershed that is representative of average conditions in the Red River Basin; 2) applicable experience to date in the Red River Basin and; 3) TSAC analyses and deliberations. Invite a representative of MnDOT to participate in TSAC deliberations and development of preliminary guidelines. This phase includes sensitivity analyses of some key variables affecting culvert sizing including average land slopes, duration of temporary storage and hydrologic design methods.
- Phase 2: Use preliminary guidelines to size culverts for one or more existing drainage areas within the Red River Basin having representative characteristics and test the results by modeling. Validate, revise or clarify guidelines, as appropriate.
- Phase 3: Assist a watershed district to apply culvert sizing guidelines to a proposed pilot project and monitor the results. Further verify, revise and/or clarify the guidelines, as appropriate.

This technical paper presents the Phase 1 hypothetical modeling results and includes preliminary guidelines for culvert sizing in the Red River Basin.

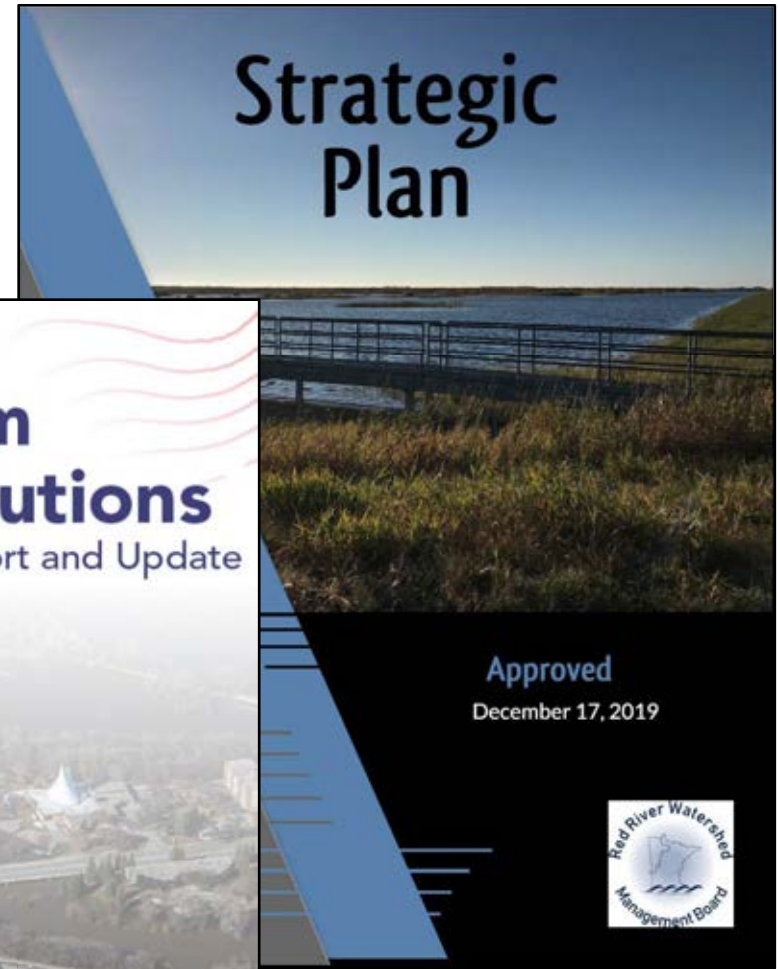
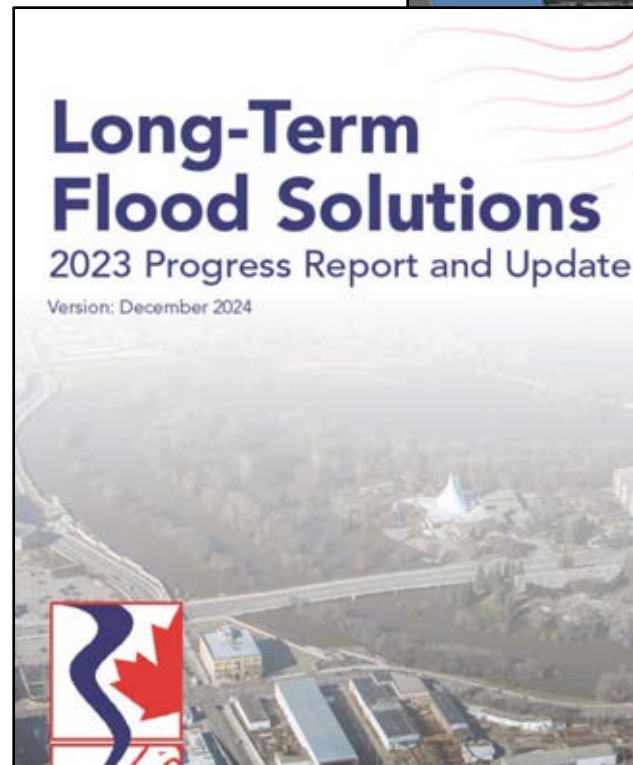
## Red River of the North Basin BASIN TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BTSAC)

### Briefing Paper #3: Water Management Options for Surface Drainage

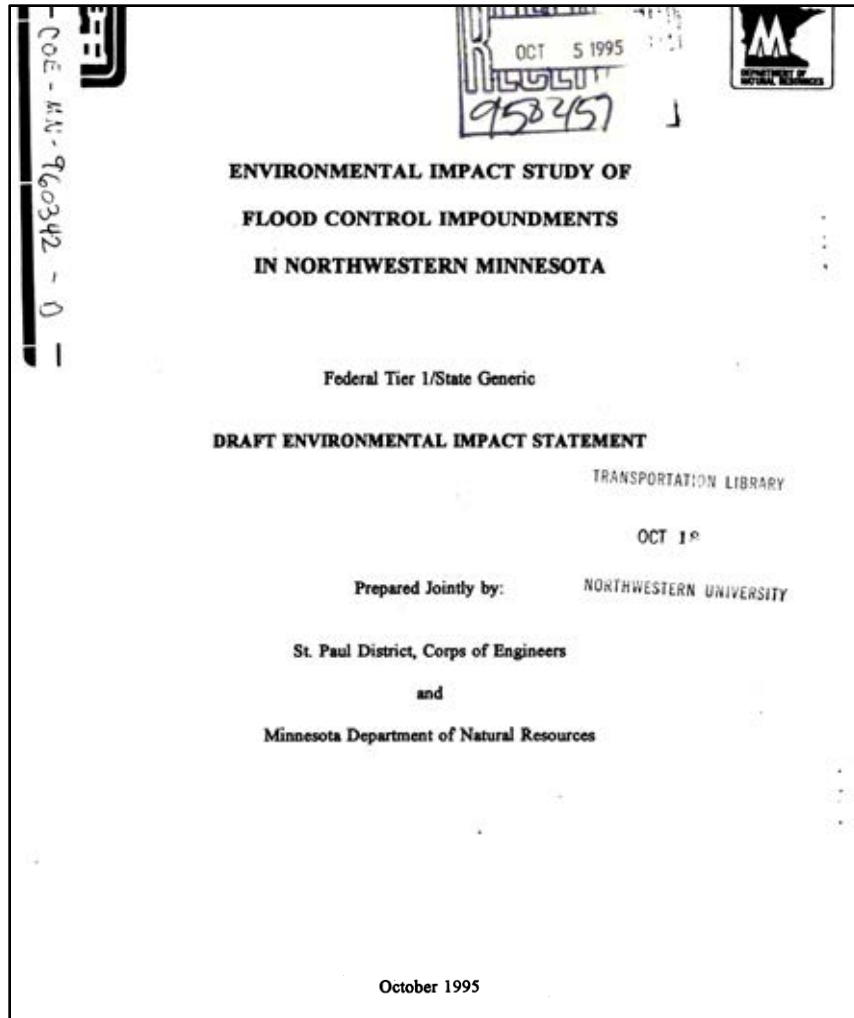


# What Guides Our Priorities and Work?

- ▶ RRWMB Strategic Plan, Governing Documents, and Enabling Legislation
- ▶ 1998 Red River Basin Flood Mediation Agreement
- ▶ RRWMB Water Quality Program
- ▶ Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program
- ▶ RRWMB Membership Needs
- ▶ State, Regional, and International Plans
- ▶ Funding Sources at All Levels



# It Was Easy Until it Wasn't



- ▶ 1992: Federal EIS activities commence for flood impoundments.
- ▶ 1993: All construction and permitting activities halted.
- ▶ 1995: Federal EIS completed.
- ▶ Courts Ordered Mediation Amongst RRWMB, Federal and State Agencies, and Environmental Groups
- ▶ Red River Basin Flood Mediation Agreement Signed in 1998
- ▶ Flood Damage Reduction Work Group Implements Mediation Agreement: <https://www.rrwmb.us/fdrwg>
- ▶ 15 Technical Papers
- ▶ Many Additional Basin-wide Partners, Technical Guidance, and Programs





# What Does the Red River Basin Flood Mediation Agreement do?

Waterfowl at the North Ottawa Impoundment:  
Bois de Sioux Watershed District



Photo courtesy of the Bois de Sioux Watershed District.

- ▶ Offers a path to incorporate habitat and water quality into flood mitigation – water storage projects.
- ▶ Local Project Team process and Handbook.
- ▶ All partners and stakeholders have a voice and seat at the table.
- ▶ Potential for higher levels of state funding.
- ▶ Only place in MN where this process exists.

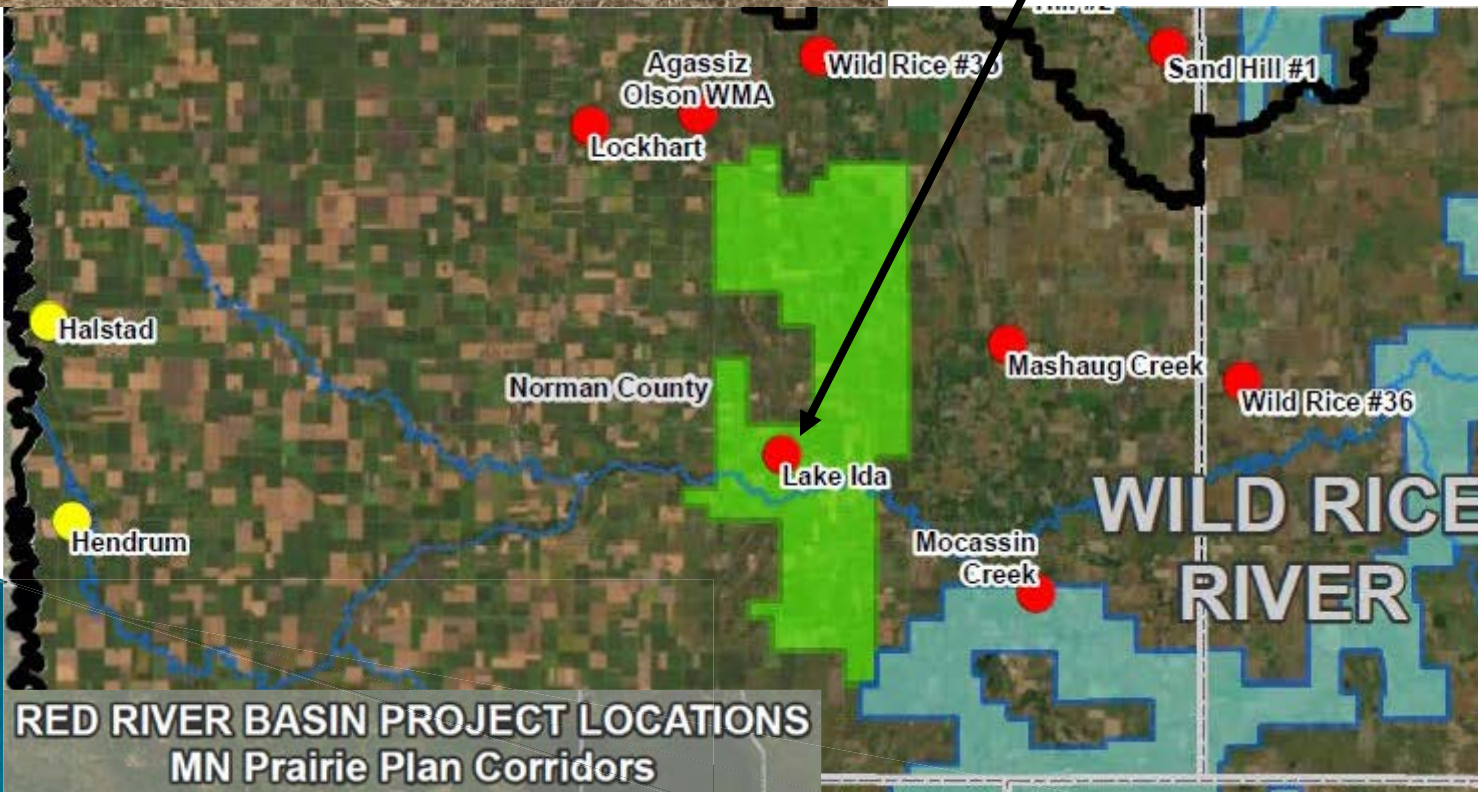






Photo courtesy of the RRWMB.

**Pre-Mediation Agreement:** Lake Ida Wildlife Management Area: A Co-funded Project by the RRWMB, Wild Rice Watershed District, DNR and Others



### Legend

#### RRWMB Supported Project Locations

- Completed
- Under Development

▬ Watershed Boundaries

▬ County Boundaries

#### Minnesota Prairie Plan Corridors

- Agassiz Beach Ridges
- Alexandria Moraine
- Mahnomon
- Marshall

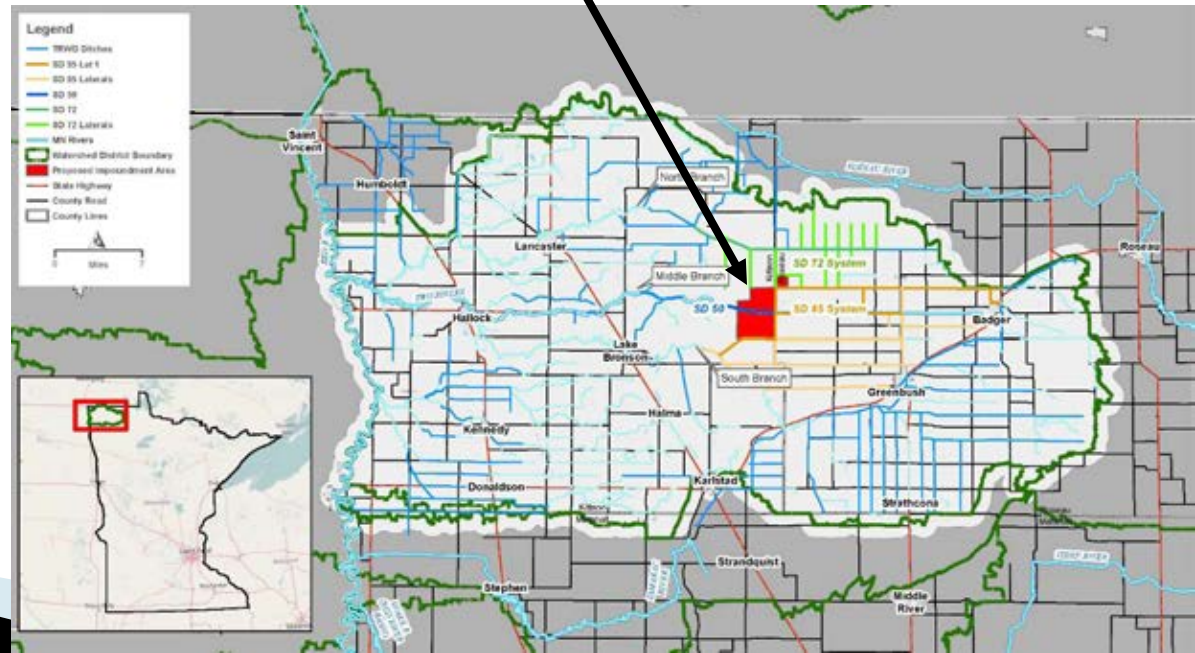
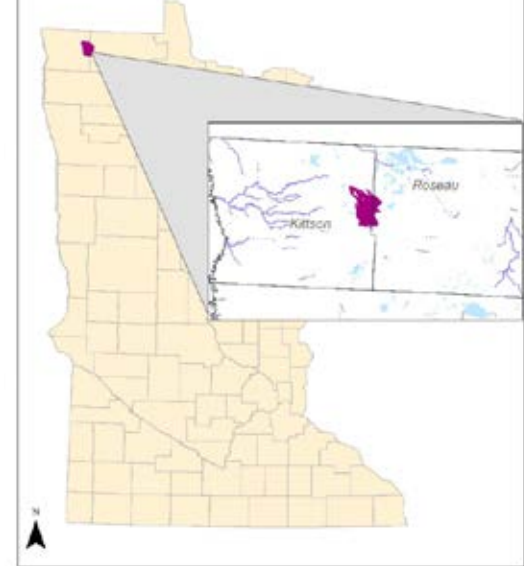
RRWMB has helped fund over 270 ring dikes since 1967 along with a variety of funding sources but the locations are not depicted on the map. Additionally, data sources and project details are updated and adjusted as new information becomes available.



# Post-Mediation Agreement: Klondike Clean Water Retention Project – Two Rivers Watershed District

- ▶ **Primary Objective of Project is FDR:**
  - Store up to 37,250–acre feet of floodwater and reduce downstream duration of flooding and peak flows;
  - Provide an adequate outlet for Lateral 1 of State Ditch #95;
  - Prevent flooding on over 25 square miles of agricultural land;
  - Reduce damages to County and township roads and bridges,
  - Reduce Two Rivers contribution to the Red River flood by 15–20% and Lake Bronson by 13%.
- ▶ **Water Quality:**
- ▶ **Stream Flow Augmentation**
- ▶ **Habitat Enhancement**
- ▶ **Wetland Restorations**

**Beaches Lake Area Fen Location**





# RRWMB Current Flood Mitigation – Water Storage Projects:

- ▶ 5 Projects In Funding Process – July 2025:
  - 1 City Project
  - 4 Water Storage Projects
- ▶ 94,135 Acre–feet of Water Storage
- ▶ Water Quality:
  - Sediment Reductions – 17,417/Year
  - Phosphorus Reductions – 15,891/Year
  - Nitrogen Reductions – 113,063/Year
- ▶ 14,247 Acres of Wetland and Grassland Created, Enhanced, or Restored
- ▶ 74.7 Stream Miles Created, Enhanced, or Restored
- ▶ 929,258 Acres of Upstream Drainage Controlled



Construction of 2,335 acre–feet of water storage in progress at the City of Newfolden Flood Prevention Project in the Middle–Snake–Tamarac Rivers Watershed District (MSTRWD) in 2024. Photo courtesy of the MSTRWD/HDR Engineering Inc.



# City of Newfolden Flood Prevention Project in the MSTRWD Prior to Construction

## Railroad Bridge:

- A bottleneck on the Middle River ... replaced with a nice looking Bridge
- Contract with CP: Apr. 2022





# Canadian Pacific Railroad Bridge Construction: City of Newfolden Flood Prevention Project in the MSTRWD in 2022

## Railroad Bridge:

- Construction Start: Nov. 2022



Looking upstream to downstream



Photo courtesy of the MSTRWD/HDR Engineering Inc.



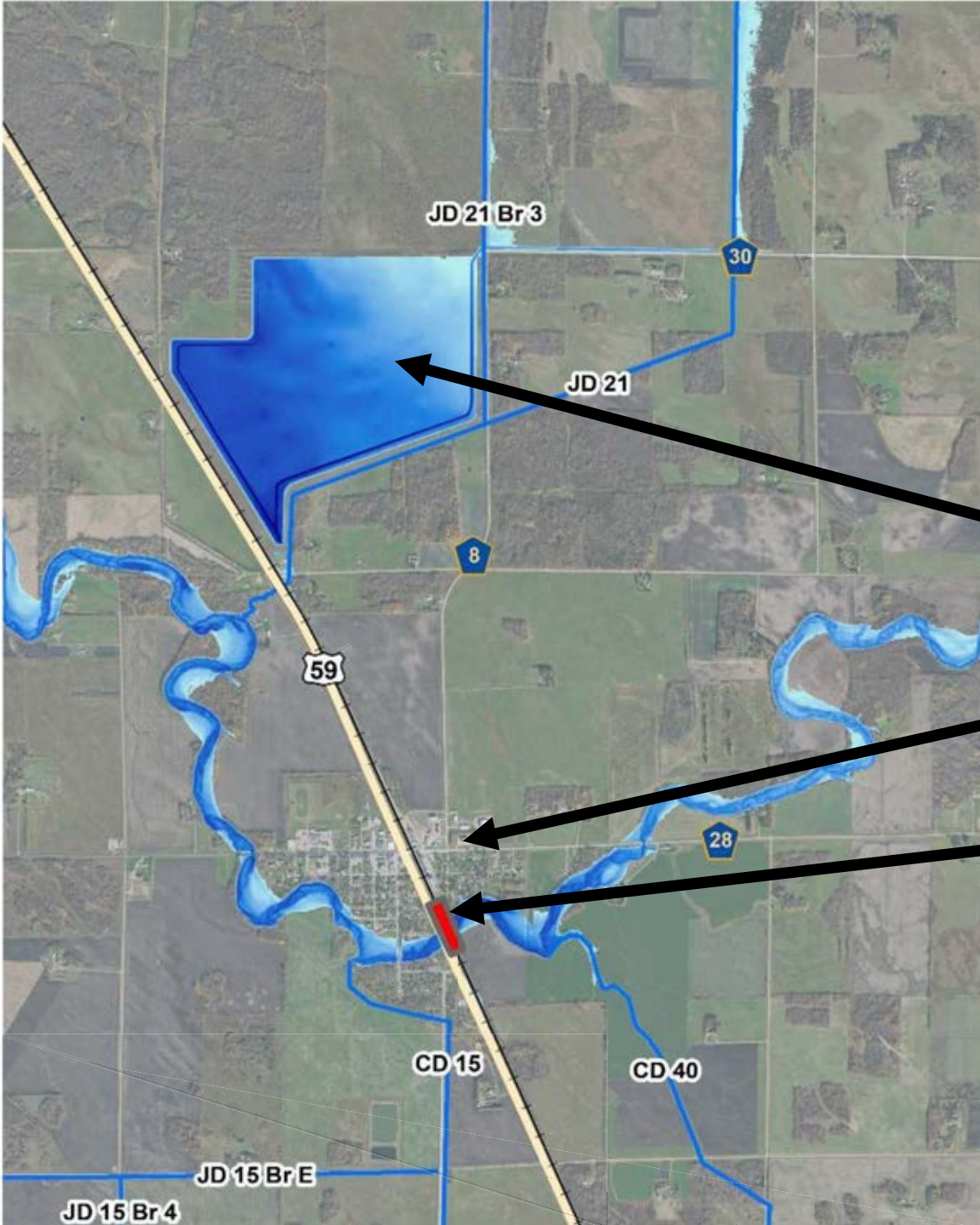
Over the HWY 59 looking Downstream



On the







Location of the 2,335 acre-foot Flood Impoundment at the City of Newfolden Flood Prevention Project in the MSTRWD. Illustration courtesy of HDR Engineering Inc.

City of Newfolden.

Bridge Construction Site.



# Redpath Impoundment and Mustinka River Rehabilitation Project: Bois de Sioux Watershed District (BdSWD)



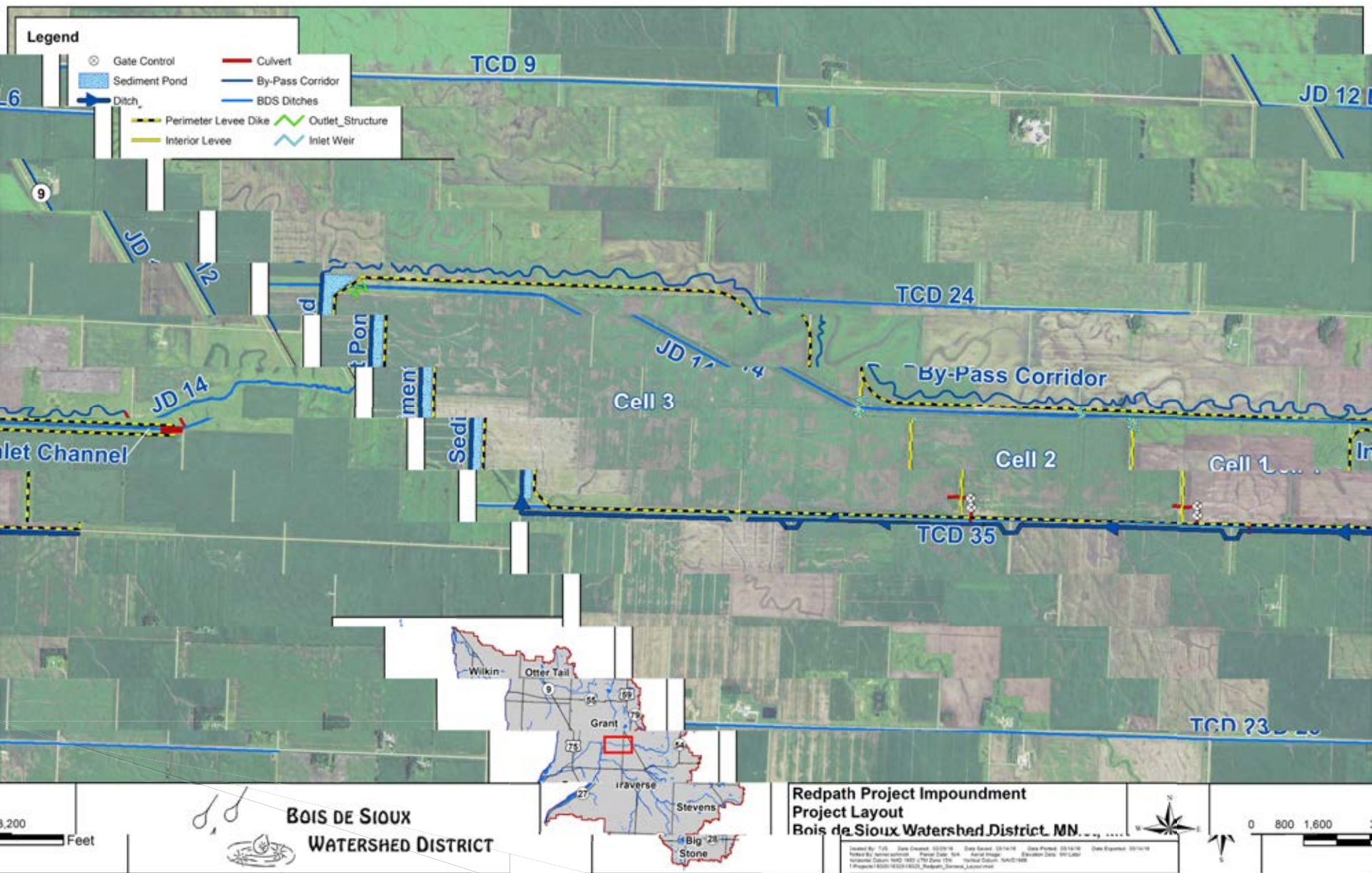
23,000 Acre-feet of  
Water Storage in  
Progress

**Construction From Fall  
2024:** Drone photos  
courtesy of Moore  
Engineering Inc.





# Redpath Impoundment and Mustinka River Rehabilitation Project: BdSWD





# Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project: Roseau River Watershed District (RRWD)



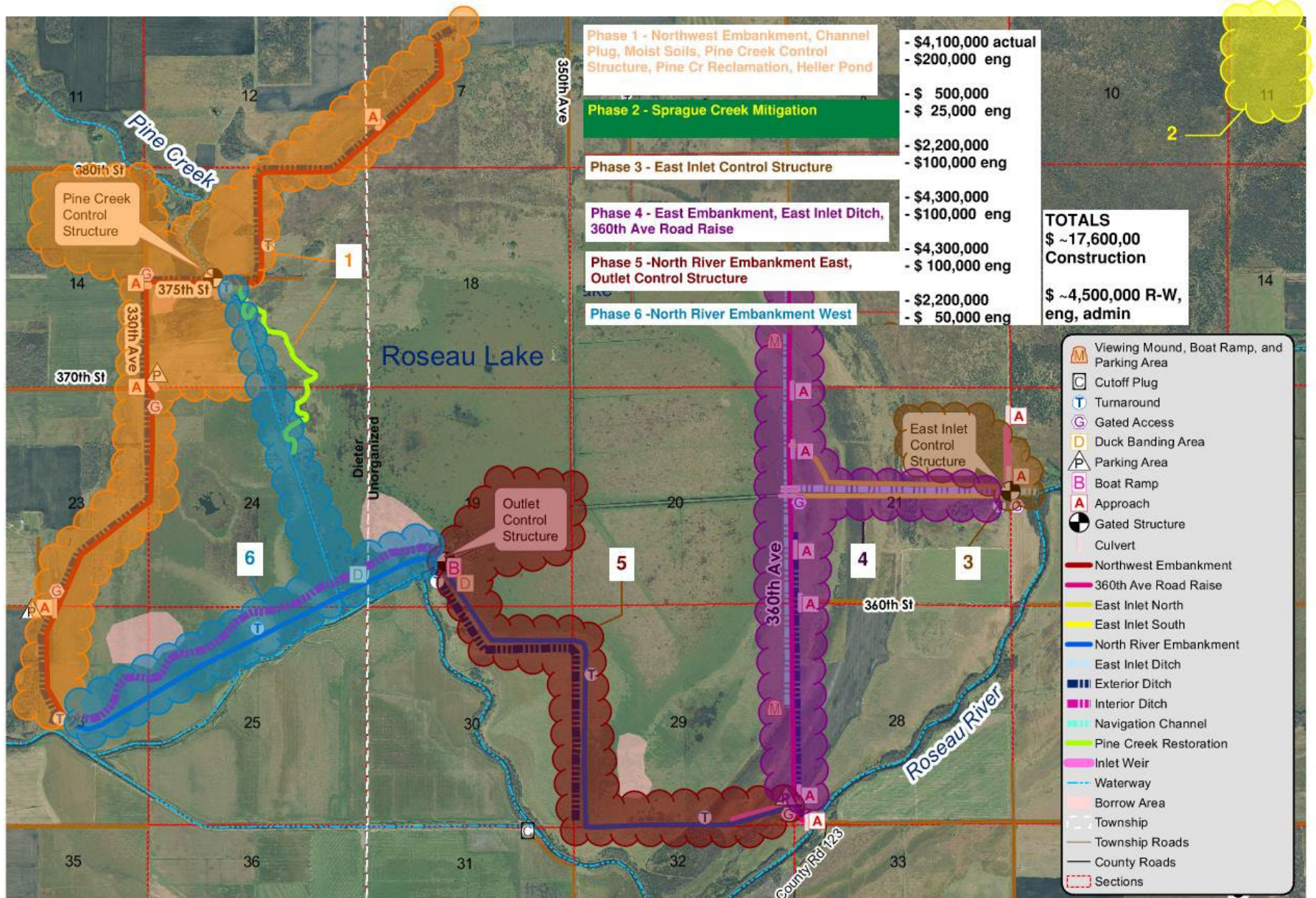
Flooded Conditions: Project in September 2019 before construction. Photo courtesy of LeRoy Ose, Red Lake Watershed District Manager.



Construction activities in Fall 2024 – 22,000 Feet of Water Storage in Progress. Photo courtesy of the RRWD/HDR Engineering Inc.





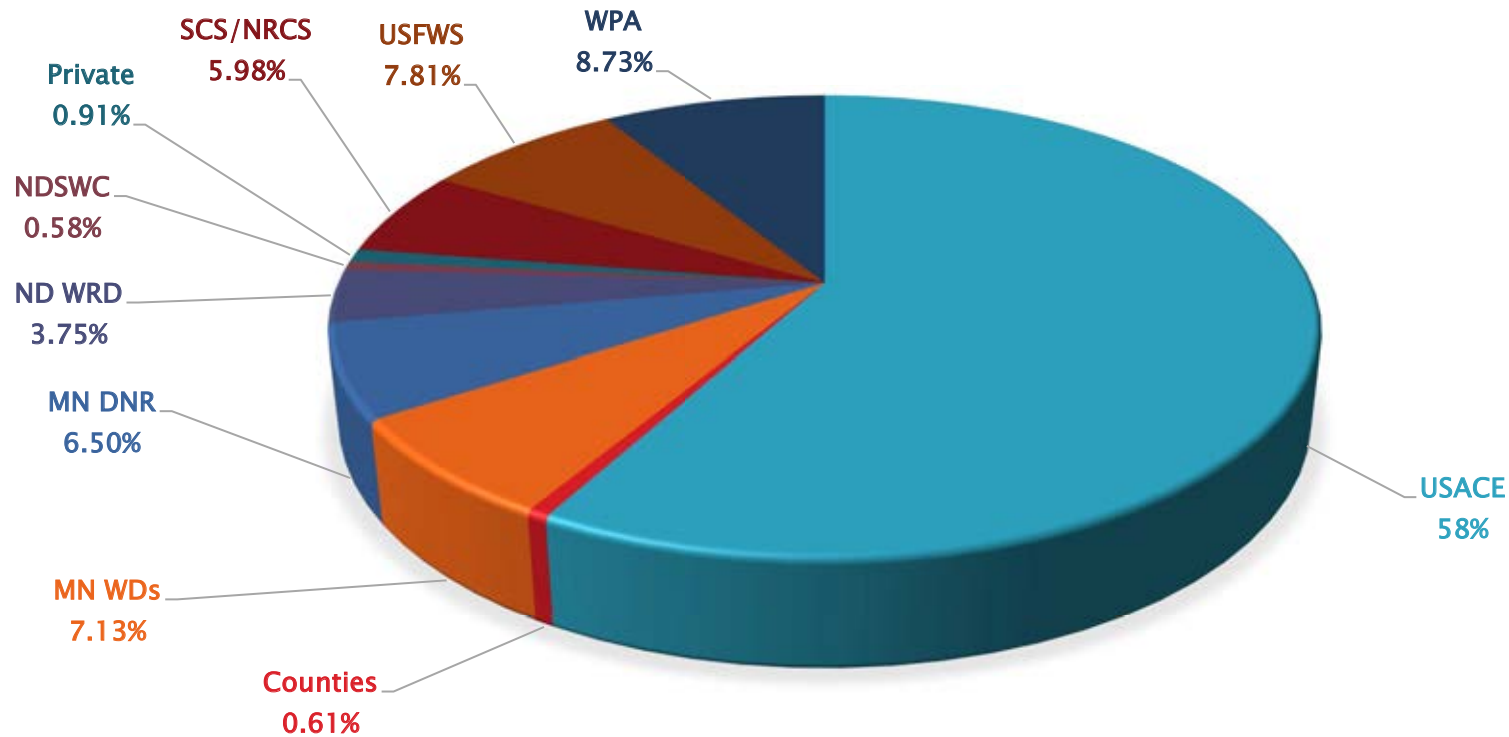




# Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project



# TOTAL RED RIVER BASIN FLOOD STORAGE BUILT 1900 - 2010: 1,945,800 ACRE-Feet



USACE – United States Army Corps of Engineers  
 MN DNR – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
 NDSWC – North Dakota State Water Commission  
 Private – e.g. Railroad, Power Company, Ducks Unlimited  
 Counties – Minnesota and North Dakota County Government  
 SCS/NRCS – Soil Conservation Service/Natural Resources Conservation Services

MN WD – Minnesota Watershed District  
 ND WRD – North Dakota Water Resource District  
 WPA – Works Progress Administration  
 USFWS – United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Data Source: 2011 Long-term Flood Solutions Document, Red River Basin Commission





# What's Been Done Since 2010?

- ▶ Project Alternatives Analysis and Engineering and Design Underway
- ▶ Permitting and Environmental Review From 2010 – 2020
- ▶ 10 Projects in the RRWMB Funding Process as of May 2025 Required 89 Local, State, and Federal Permits – \$5 Million Spent on Permitting and Environmental Review

Project	Local Permits 24%	State Permits 62%	Federal Permits 13%	Railroad Permits 1%	Total 100%
Total	21	55	12	1	89

- 3 of the 10 projects are currently under construction.

- ▶ Distributed Detention Studies Completed
- ▶ Currently Awaiting Final USACE Modelling on Refined Storage Needs for Red River Basin of MN and ND
- ▶ Renewed Construction Era – 2020 to Present



# Continued Challenges

State Funding

Federal  
Funding

Local Capacity  
to Fund  
Projects

Coordination of  
Funding  
Sources

Permitting and  
Environmental  
Review

The Weather

Bidding Process  
and Mobilizing  
Contractors

Inflation

Landowner  
Acceptance

Land  
Availability and  
Land Prices





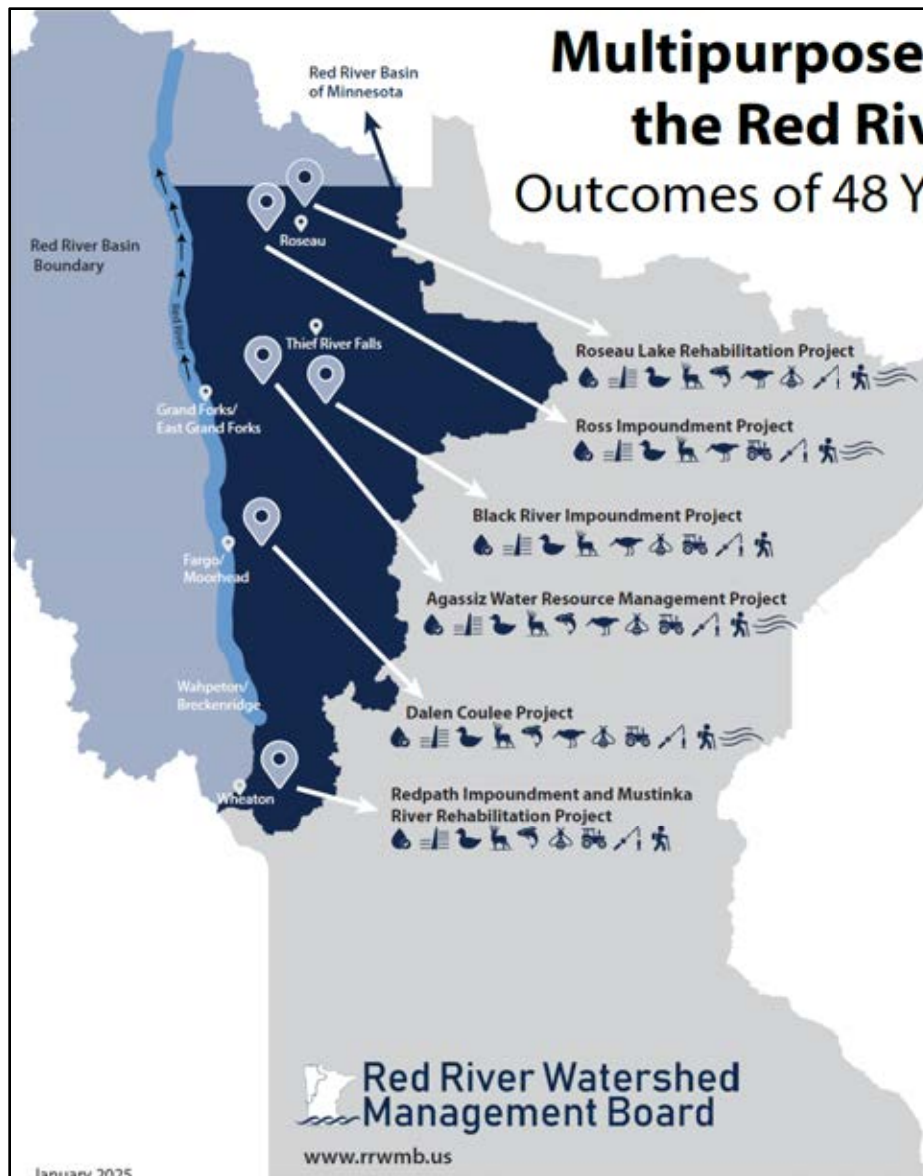
# Other RRWMB Efforts

- ▶ Habit Program Approved in 2024
- ▶ Water Quality Program Approved in 2020
- ▶ 2023 LiDAR Released
- ▶ River Watch Program
- ▶ Other Technical, Monitoring, and Educational Efforts





# Multipurpose Water Storage Projects in the Red River Basin of Minnesota: Outcomes of 48 Years of Project Implementation



As the Red River flows north into Canada, colder temperatures affect how the spring thaw progresses.



These projects represent **only 6 of the 60+** large-scale, multipurpose water storage and flood mitigation projects funded by the Red River Watershed Management Board.

Note: These projects may have engineered and designed natural resource features or they may occur naturally over time due to ecosystem and plant community succession.

## Project Benefits Legend



Water  
Quality



Water  
Storage



Upland Game  
Habitat



Fish  
Habitat



Pollinator  
Habitat



Fishing/  
Hunting



Shorebird  
Habitat



Waterfowl  
Habitat



Outdoor  
Recreation



Farming/  
Ag Production



Low Flow  
augmentation



### Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project



Acre-Feet of Storage: 22,000

website:

[http://roseauriverwd.com/Project\\_Roseau\\_Lake.html](http://roseauriverwd.com/Project_Roseau_Lake.html)



### Ross Impoundment Project



Acre-Feet of Storage: 3,611

website:

[http://tworiverswd.com/Ross\\_Impoundment.html](http://tworiverswd.com/Ross_Impoundment.html)



### Black River Impoundment Project



Acre-Feet of Storage: 4,064

website:

<http://www.redlakewatershed.org/BlackRiver.html>



### Agassiz Water Resource Management Project



Acre-Feet of Storage: 10,670

website:

<https://mstrwd.org/impoundments/agassiz-valley/>



### Dalen Coulee Project



Acre-Feet of Storage: 370

website:

<https://www.houstoneng.com/dalencouleewatermanagementstudy/>



### Redpath Impoundment and Mustinka River Rehabilitation Project



Acre-Feet of Storage: 19,000

website: [http://www.bdsd.com/Program\\_Template.html](http://www.bdsd.com/Program_Template.html)



Investing in and Managing the Watershed of the Red River Basin

# 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, BdSWD, April 2023. Photo courtesy of the BdSWD and Moore Engineering Inc.





# RRWMB Contact Information

**Robert L. Sip**

Executive Director

Red River Watershed Management Board

Office Address:

11 5<sup>Th</sup> Avenue East, Suite B

Ada, MN 56510

[rob.sip@rrwmb.us](mailto:rob.sip@rrwmb.us)

[www.rrwmb.us](http://www.rrwmb.us)

<https://www.youtube.com@RRWMB>

<https://www.facebook.com/RedRiverWatershedManagementBoard>

218-474-1084 (Cell)

218-784-9501 (Office)

218-784-9502 (Fax)

