

Red River Basin Commission

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Agenda

- What is the Red River Basin Commission?
- Current Efforts
- Emerging Issues

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RRBC VISION

A Red River Basin where residents, organizations and government work together to achieve basin-wide commitment to **comprehensive integrated watershed stewardship**.

RRBC MISSION

To develop a Red River Basin integrated natural resources framework plan; to achieve commitment to implement the framework plan; and to work toward a **unified voice** for the Red River Basin.

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Creating a Vision Natural Resource Framework Plan

1. **Watershed Boundaries**
2. **Integration**
3. **Research & Data**
4. **Participation & Awareness**
5. **Flood Damage Reduction (Forecasting, Protection, Response)**
6. **Drainage**
7. **Water Quality**
8. **Water Supply**
9. **Conservation**
10. **Fish, Wildlife**
11. **Outdoor Recreation**

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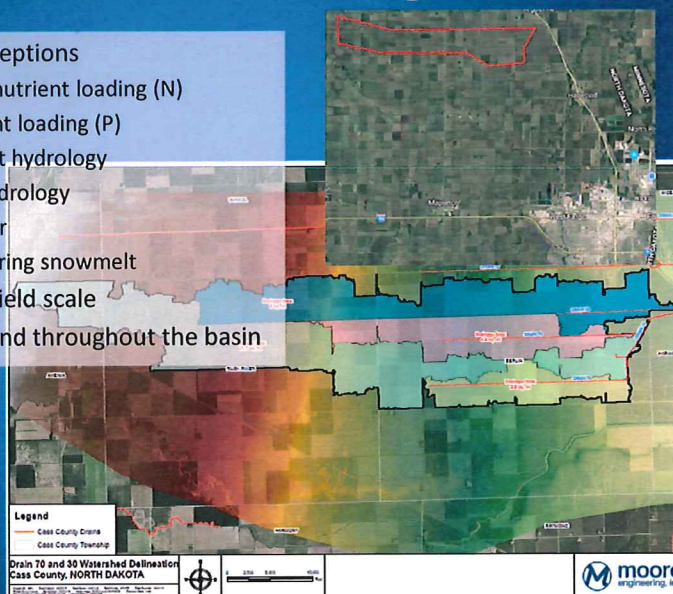
Current Efforts

1. Subwatershed Plan
2. MN/ND Soil Health Partnership

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Subsurface Water Management

- Conventional Perceptions
 - Contributes to nutrient loading (N)
 - Reduces nutrient loading (P)
 - Does not impact hydrology
 - Must impact hydrology
 - Can retain water
 - Is still frozen during snowmelt
- Research is all at field scale
- Continues to expand throughout the basin



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Project Phases

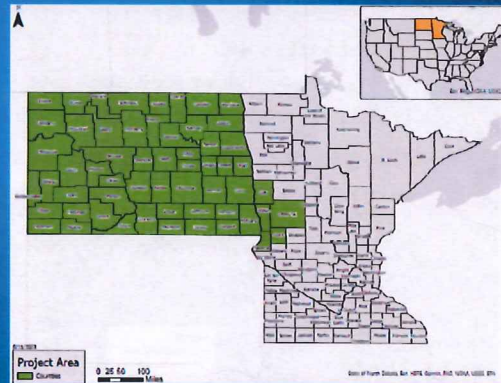
1. Planning and Scoping
 - Identification of Sub-watershed
 - Engineering evaluation of surface drainage
 - Evaluation of existing subsurface drains and planning for installation of controls and new drains
 - Integration of stakeholder objectives
 - Outreach to Landowners
 - Development of research objectives
2. Implementation of Pilot
 - Modification and integration of surface drains
 - Modification and integration of control in existing subsurface drains
 - Installation of new subsurface drains
 - Development of control committee membership and procedures
3. Evaluation of results recommendations for expansion to other watersheds

Completed
2019

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MN/ND Soil Health Partnership

- Partnership with Sustainable Food Lab
 - Ongoing work with NDSU Extension
- USDA Grant of \$20M, Corporate match of \$12M
 - Adoption of 400,000 acres of new conservation practices
 - Impact on Water retention and water quality
 - Seeking partnerships on potential research opportunities



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Emerging Issues

1. Pesticide and Nutrient Regulation
2. Arming our Producers

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Arming Producers

1. Bioreactors
2. Soil retention
3. Economics

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