

Sharing a River

Three States...
One Province...
Two Countries...
ONE Red River Basin



RED RIVER BASIN COMMISSION



VISION

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

MISSION

To create a comprehensive integrated basin-wide vision, to build consensus and commitment to the vision, and to speak with a unified voice for the Red River Basin.

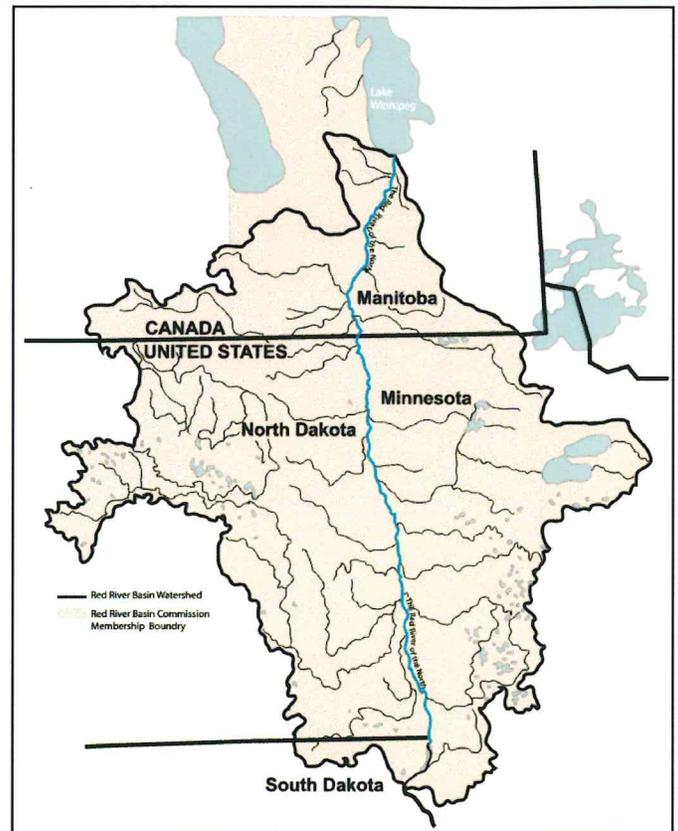
The Red River Basin Commission

...Bringing People Together to Move Common Basin Goals Forward

The Red River Basin is a special place and keeping it that way requires that people share the responsibility for its future. The RRBC has been bringing people together to move common Basin goals forward for over two decades.

The RRBC is a charitable, not-for-profit organization designed to help facilitate a cooperative approach to water management within the Basin and is a well-established forum for identifying, developing, and implementing solutions to cross-boundary issues.

The RRBC is led by 41 directors representing the diversity of this multi-jurisdictional Basin and is comprised of local, state, provincial, and First Nation government representation, the environmental community, and at-large members. It maintains offices in Moorhead, MN, and Winnipeg, MB, and is dedicated to innovation in the management of the Red River Basin's water resources.



Building a Basin Perspective

The Red River Basin

From its source at Lake Traverse in South Dakota, the mighty Red River flows north through North Dakota, Minnesota and Southern Manitoba to Lake Winnipeg, the 10th largest freshwater lake in the world. It meanders through the fertile, flat valley of the former glacial Lake Agassiz and covers 116,500km/45,000mi, excluding the Assiniboine River Basin, which joins the Red at Winnipeg. The Basin's unique topography contributes to the frequent flooding experienced by the communities in the Basin. Water quality and drought are also key concerns within the Basin.

These land and water resources are crucial to the health of our economies, the resilience and prosperity of our communities, the health of our fish and wildlife, and the well being, health and enjoyment of everyone who lives, works, and visits the Basin.

"Only by working together can we hope to achieve a vision for the Red River Basin that is not only accepted, but embraced and promoted by the basin citizens & governmental entities. This vision is too important not to be achieved."
Jon Evert,
Past RRBC Chair



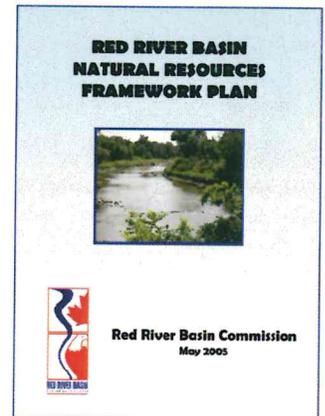
Working Together on Today's Challenges We Have a Plan

Through extensive basin-wide dialogue and consultation with citizens, land users, organizations, and governments, the RRBC developed the **Natural Resources Framework Plan (NRFP)**. The NRFP was designed as a tool for moving the Basin forward in achieving common goals for water protection and management within the Basin.

The NRFP contains 13 goals. The first four focus on encouraging communication, research, and coordination across political jurisdictional boundaries. The remaining nine focus on improvements in water quality; water supply; flood damage reduction; drainage; conservation; and fish, wildlife, and outdoor recreation. The RRBC believes that if basin residents work together in dealing with land and water management challenges, we can maintain and improve the quality of life for present and future generations here in the Red River Basin.

The NRFP:

- Provides a framework for moving forward with a unified purpose and unified voice,
- Guides RRBC activities,
- Highlights how progress in numerous areas helps us to achieve overall goals,
- Helps track progress in the Basin and provides a mechanism for recognizing and celebrating successes, and
- Assists in the identification and rectification of gaps.



Basin Goals

- Goal #1 **Manage by Watershed:** Manage natural resources in the RRB by watershed boundaries rather than political boundaries.
- Goal #2 **Integration:** Integrate natural resource management.
- Goal #3 **Data and Tools for Decision Makers:** Increase applied research and data management to support decision-making.
- Goal #4 **Education/Information:** Improve stakeholder participation and awareness of land and water issues.
- Goal #5 **Flood Forecasting:** Maintain state of the art flood forecasting tools for the Red River Basin.
- Goal #6 **Flood Mitigation:** Reduce risk of flood damages for people, property and the environment in the mainstem floodplain and in tributary watersheds.
- Goal #7 **Flood Response & Recovery:** Ensure that flood (natural disaster) response and recovery programs meet the needs of all RRB residents.
- Goal #8 **Drainage:** Manage urban and agricultural drainage systems to enhance productivity while minimizing impacts to others.
- Goal #9 **Water Quality:** Maintain, protect, and restore surface and ground water quality in the Red River Basin.
- Goal #10 **Water Supply:** Ensure the appropriate use and sustainability of the Basin's surface and ground water.
- Goal #11 **Conservation:** Increase soil conservation efforts within the Basin.
- Goal #12 **Fish & Wildlife:** Conserve, manage, and restore diversity and viability of native fish and wildlife.
- Goal #13 **Outdoor Recreation:** Enhance and develop recreational infrastructure and access to the Basin's natural resources.

Resolution of Support

To fully realize a collaborative, cooperative approach to land and water management in the Red River Basin, it must be a shared vision held not only by the RRBC, but also by those who live, work, and play within the Basin. Together, we will be able to best create the future we wish for future generations.

In 2007, the RRBC developed the Red River Basin Resolution of Support as a mechanism for gaining the support needed to achieve common goals for water protection and management within the Basin. The Resolution is a good-faith agreement acknowledging the need to work together across boundaries in a spirit of cooperation and friendship to achieve common goals for land and water management. The RRBC is seeking adoption of the Resolution of Support from all County Board of Commissioners, Rural Municipalities, Water Boards, Conservation Districts, and Cities in the Red River Basin. We have over 150 signed resolutions; that number continues to grow as communities all over the basin agree to do their part.



RRBC Board of Directors

MANITOBA **Municipalities**

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Doreen Negrich
Greg Janzen
Cities
Jeff Browaty
R.S. "Bud" Oliver
Water Co-op
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Environmental
Colleen Sklar
Provincial
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Watersheds
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Terry Steinwand
Environmental
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Joe Belford

SOUTH DAKOTA **At-large**

Roger Navratil
Vacant

FIRST NATIONS/ TRIBAL

Melissa Hotaiin - MB
Vacant - MN
Vacant - ND

*Working together
to achieve common
goals for water
protection and
management
within the Red*



31st Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference

January 14-16, 2014

**Ramada Plaza & Suites
Fargo, ND**

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