

An Overview of the Red River Watershed Management Board

A Presentation to the Joint
Counties Natural Resources Board

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Presented Electronically



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Red River Watershed Management Board

History of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB)

- ▶ Formed in 1976 by the MN Legislature as the Lower Red River Watershed Management Board:
 - Original focus on flood control only.
- ▶ Joint Powers Agreement of watershed districts.
- ▶ Taxation authority up to 0.04836 percent.
- ▶ 1991 Legislative Adjustments:
 - Changed the name to the RRWMB.
 - Authority redefined to develop, construct, and maintain projects and programs of benefit to the Red River Basin (RRB).



RRWMB Reorganization

- ▶ 2017 and 2018:
 - Hired an Executive Director and Executive Assistant.
 - Established a public office.
 - Co-located with the Wild Rice Watershed District in Ada, MN.
- ▶ 2019 and 2020:
 - Key focus on fiscal accountability, transparency, communication, and outreach.
 - Refer to annual reports and progress indicators.
- ▶ 2021 and Beyond: Implement the RRWMB Strategic Plan, Funding Strategy, and Communication and Outreach Strategy

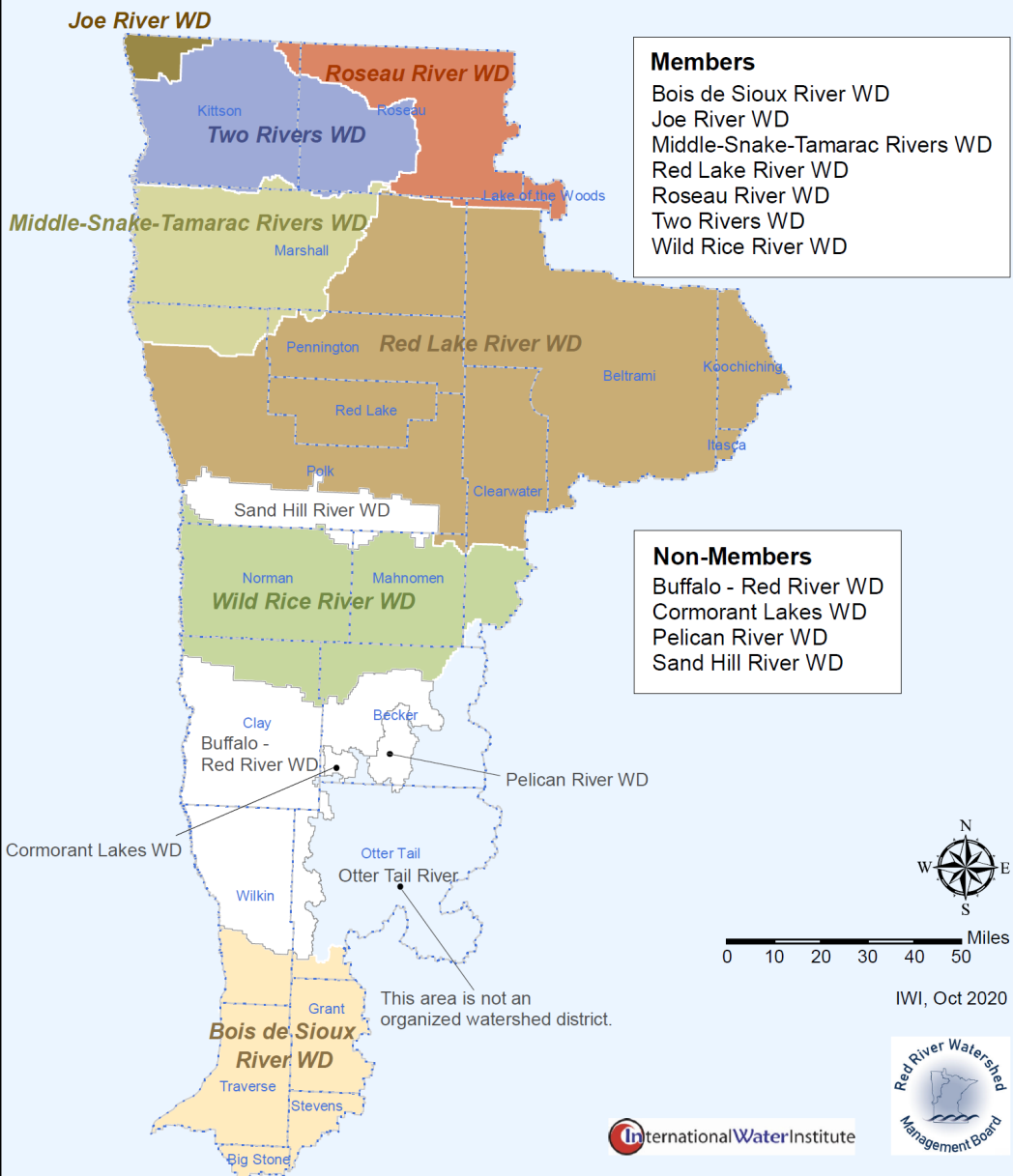
Red River Levy

- ▶ Collected by each county and then allocated to the individual member watershed district for projects within the district.
- ▶ The other half is transferred to the RRWMB.



Red River Water Management Board

Member Watershed Districts



Members
 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

Non-Members
 Buffalo - Red River WD
 Cormorant Lakes WD
 Pelican River WD
 Sand Hill River WD

Fast Facts

- ▶ RRWMB = Currently 7 members.
- ▶ 11 watershed districts in RRB of MN.
- ▶ Otter Tail Watershed.
- ▶ 21 counties.

RRWMB Mission and Vision

- ▶ **Mission** – To institute, coordinate, and finance projects and programs to alleviate flooding and assure the beneficial use of water in the watershed of the Red River of the North and its tributaries.
- ▶ **Vision** – We believe in and value a framework that works toward and achieves economic vitality, sustained economic growth for our population base, and enhanced natural resources for the future in the RRB of the North.



Principal and Supporting Objectives

Assist member Watershed Districts with the implementation of water related projects and programs. The purpose of these projects and programs is the reduction of local and mainstem flood damages, and also to enhance environmental and water resource management. Projects and programs must be of benefit to the RRB and its member watershed districts in order to qualify for RRWMB funding.

Coordination

Basin
Planning

Water Quality

Education

Public
Information

Policies,
Rules, and
Regulations
of Other
Entities

Financial
Support

Water Quantity

Erosion and
Sedimentation

Research

Conflict
Resolution

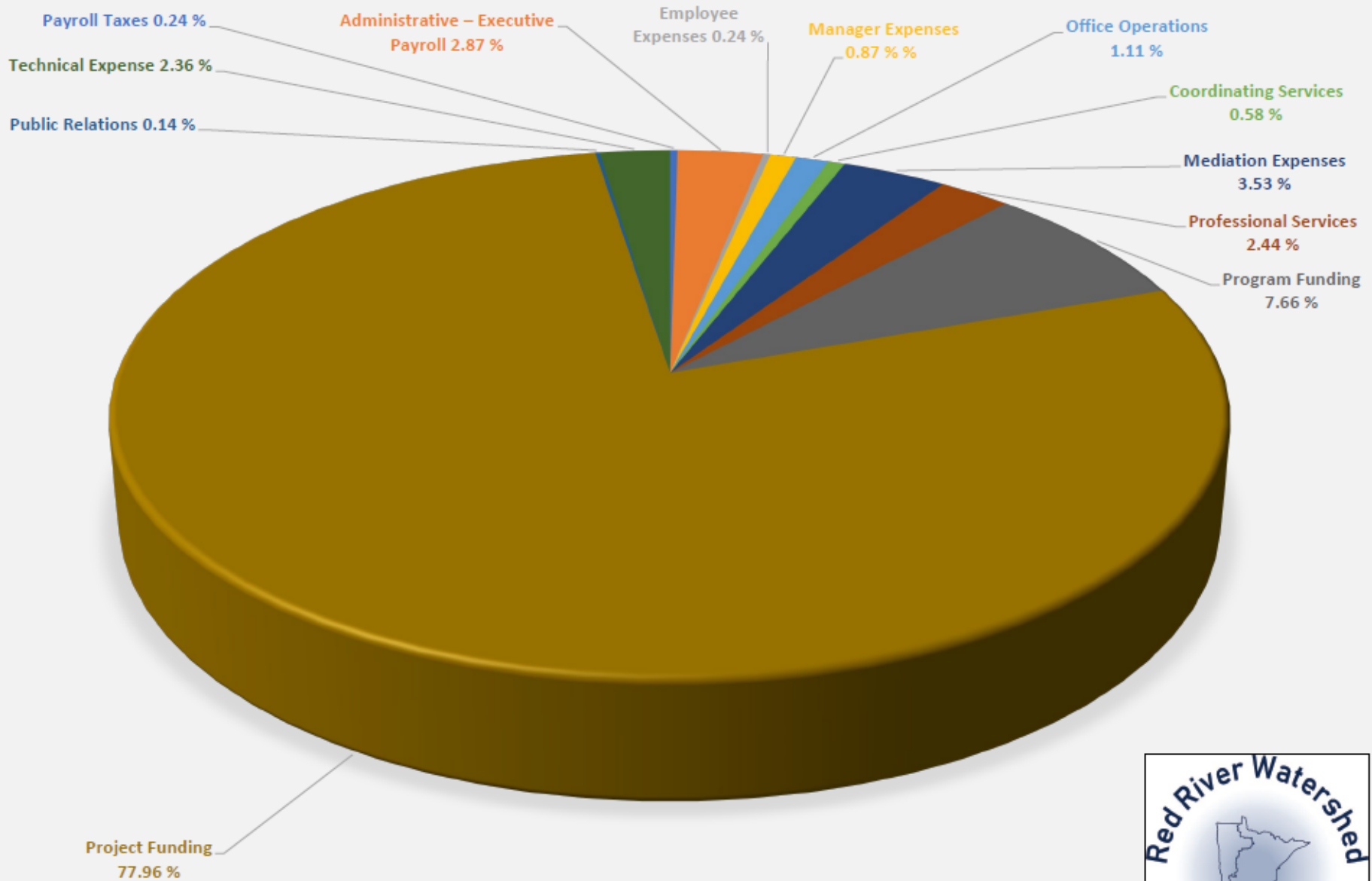


2021 Budgetary Information



BUDGET CATEGORY	Approved 2021 Budget	Percent of Budget
Payroll Taxes	\$19,500.00	0.24 %
Administrative – Executive Payroll	\$227,098.00	2.87 %
Employee Expenses	\$19,800.00	0.24 %
Manager Expenses	\$68,550.00	0.87 %
Office Operations	\$88,300.00	1.11 %
Coordinating Services	\$45,000.00	0.58 %
Mediation Expenses	\$279,000.00	3.53 %
Professional Services	\$193,000.00	2.44 %
Program Funding	\$607,000.00	7.66 %
Project Funding	\$6,175,956.85	77.96 %
Public Relations	\$11,000.00	0.14 %
Technical Expense	\$187,000.00	2.36 %
Total 2021 Operating Budget	\$7,921,204.85	100 Percent

2021 APPROVED OPERATING, PROGRAM, AND PROJECT BUDGET



RRWMB Funding Commitments

Total Project and Program Commitments	Current Approved RRWMB Commitment	Percent of RRWMB Total Commitment
Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) Projects	\$17,698,822.11	88.40%
Water Quality Program	\$ 1,961,676.87	9.80%
1998 Mediation Agreement	\$ 100,000.00*	0.50%
Programs (IWI, RRBC, RRRRA, and USGS)	\$ 261,296.43	1.30%
Total	\$20,021,795.40	100%

***Cash and In-kind Contributions
Data Current as of March 16, 2021**



Notes on Funding Commitments

- ▶ Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) Projects:
 - Seven Flood Impoundments
 - Two City Flood Projects
 - One Lake Related FDR Project

- ▶ Water Quality Projects:
 - Five Base Funding Projects/Initiatives
 - Four Competitive Projects

- ▶ Annually Funded Programs Include:
 - International Water Institute
 - Red River Basin Commission
 - Red River Retention Authority
 - United States Geological Survey
 - Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (FDRWG)

- ▶ Other Commitments:
 - Long-term Flood Solutions Study Update
 - Red River Basin Feasibility Study

Notes:

\$600,000 to \$700,000 needed annually for Operations.

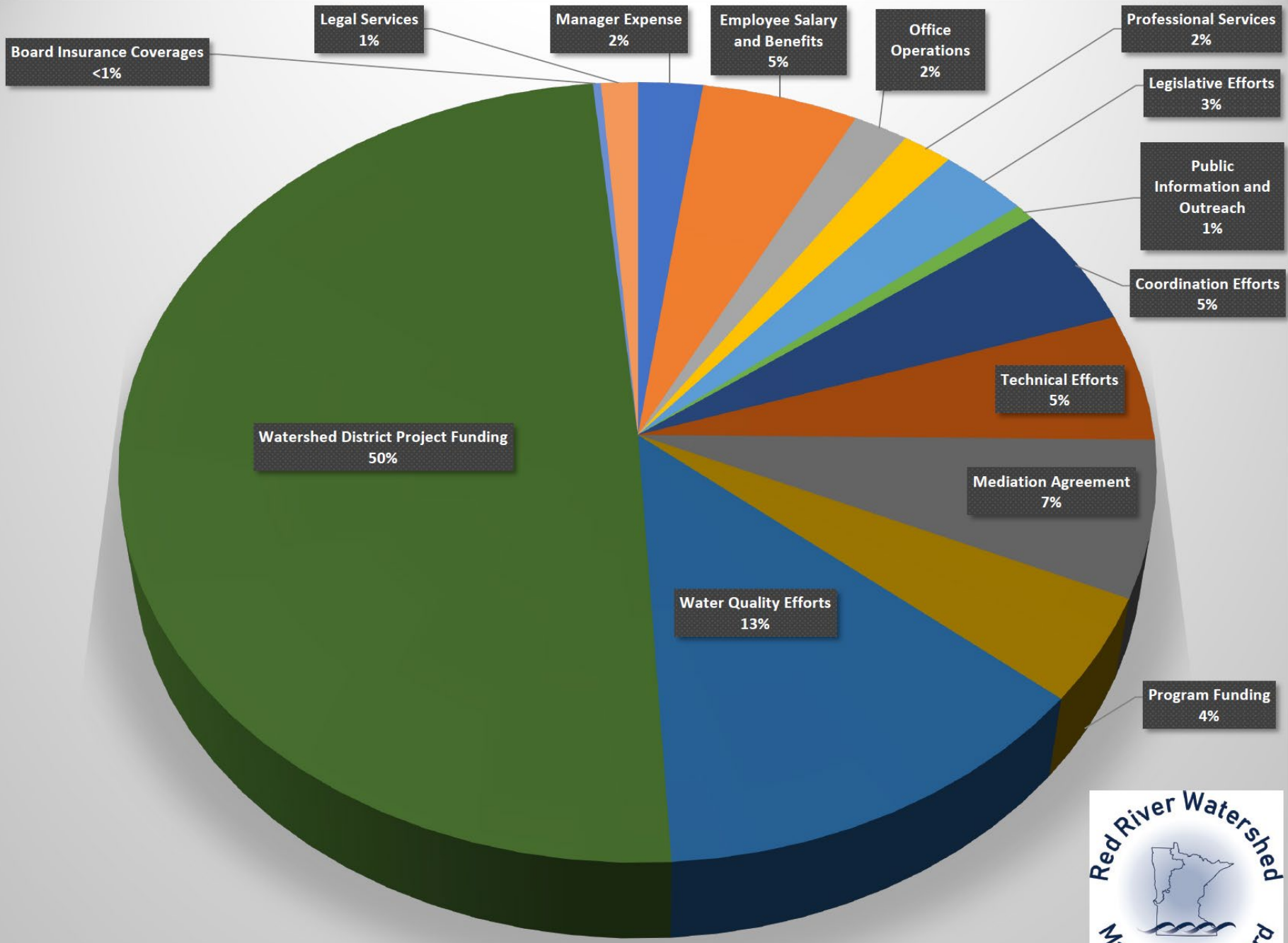
\$1,000,000 placeholder for LiDAR.



Leveraging of Funds

- ▶ FDR Projects: RRWMB dollars leveraged up to 3:1.
- ▶ Water Quality Projects: RRWMB dollars leveraged approximately 6:1.

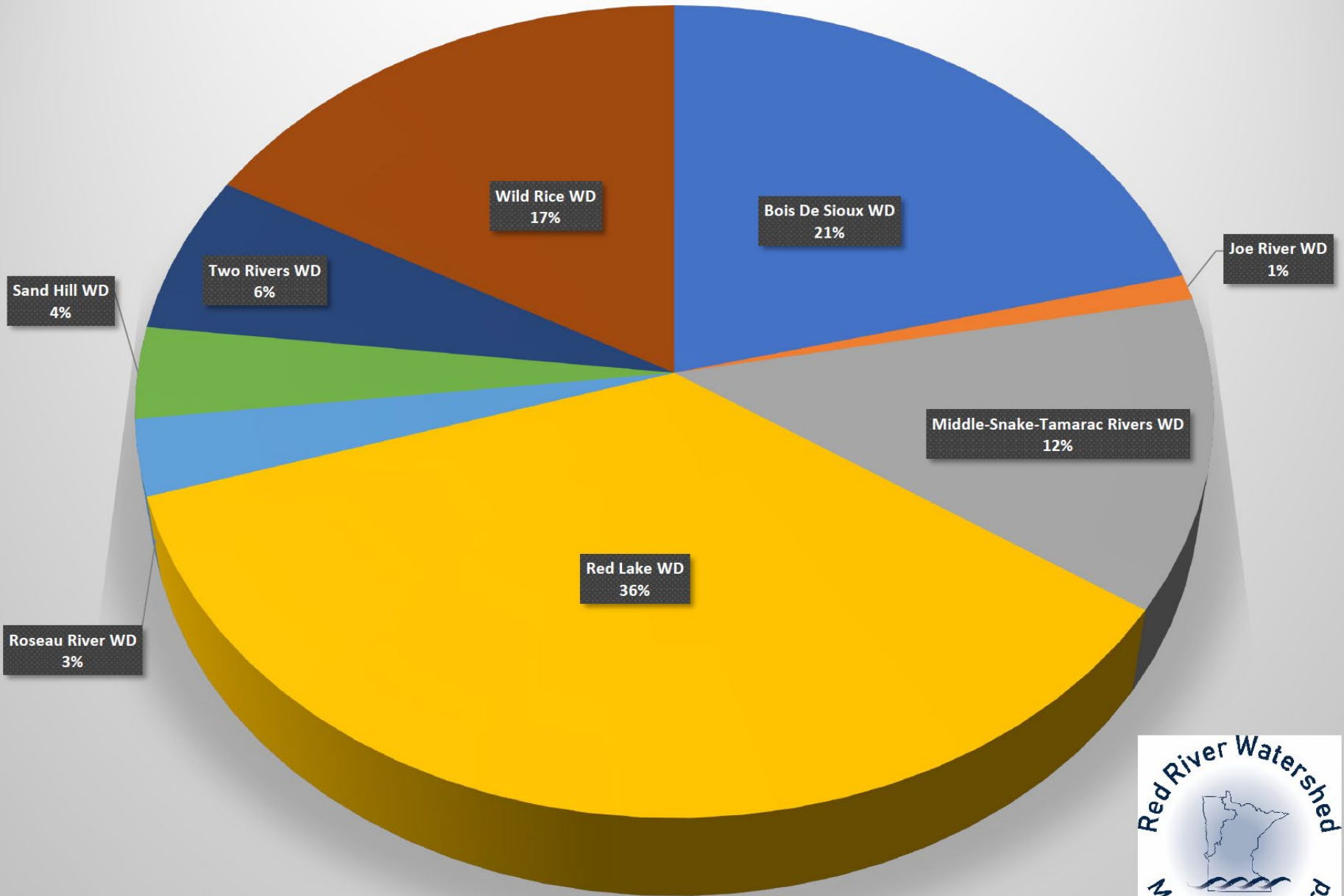




RRWMB Expenditures 2013 to 2020



RRWMB Levy Receipts 2013 to 2020

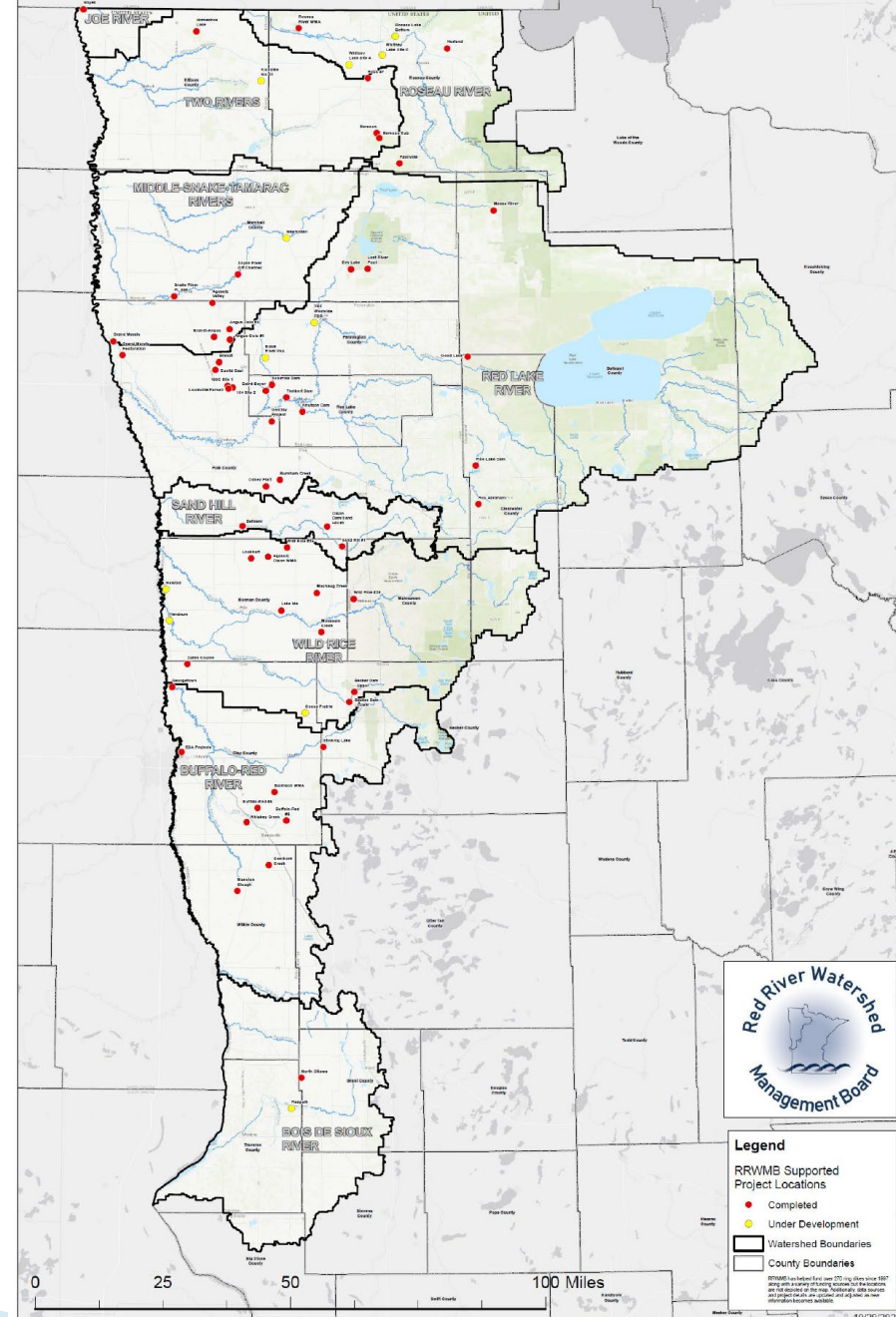


Projects in RRB of MN:

- 60 projects co-funded by RRWMB and built by member watershed districts since 1976.
- 10 FDR projects currently underway.
- 10 water quality projects currently underway.
- Many other WD, city, county, and Soil and Water Conservation District projects completed.
- Opportunity exists for further partnering with RRWMB and state:
 - Alignment needed for goals across all government entities and (Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO).

10/20/2020

RED RIVER BASIN PROJECT LOCATIONS



Legislative Efforts in 2021 / 2022

▶ 2021:

- \$150,000/Year For River Watch
- FDRWG Funding of \$264,000/Year
- Bonding for FDR Projects
- LiDAR
- Policy Issues

▶ 2022:

- LiDAR
- Policy Issues



Challenges and Opportunities

- ▶ International waterway – shared focus with ND, SD, MN, and Canada.
- ▶ Continued flooding in the RRB for several decades.
- ▶ 1980s lawsuit between RRWMB and DNR, USACE, and environmental groups.
- ▶ 1998 Mediation Agreement:
 - Flood Damage Reduction Work Group
 - Natural Resources Enhancements
 - Project Team Support and Project Acceleration Grants
 - Monitoring and Technical efforts
- ▶ Ongoing water quality monitoring and implementation efforts.





Recent Calls for Water Storage and Water Retention

- ▶ 2021 Legislature – Water Storage Bill Introductions
- ▶ 2020 Minnesota State Water Plan
- ▶ MPCA 2019 Red River Report

How to adapt for water quality



ACTIONS TO TAKE



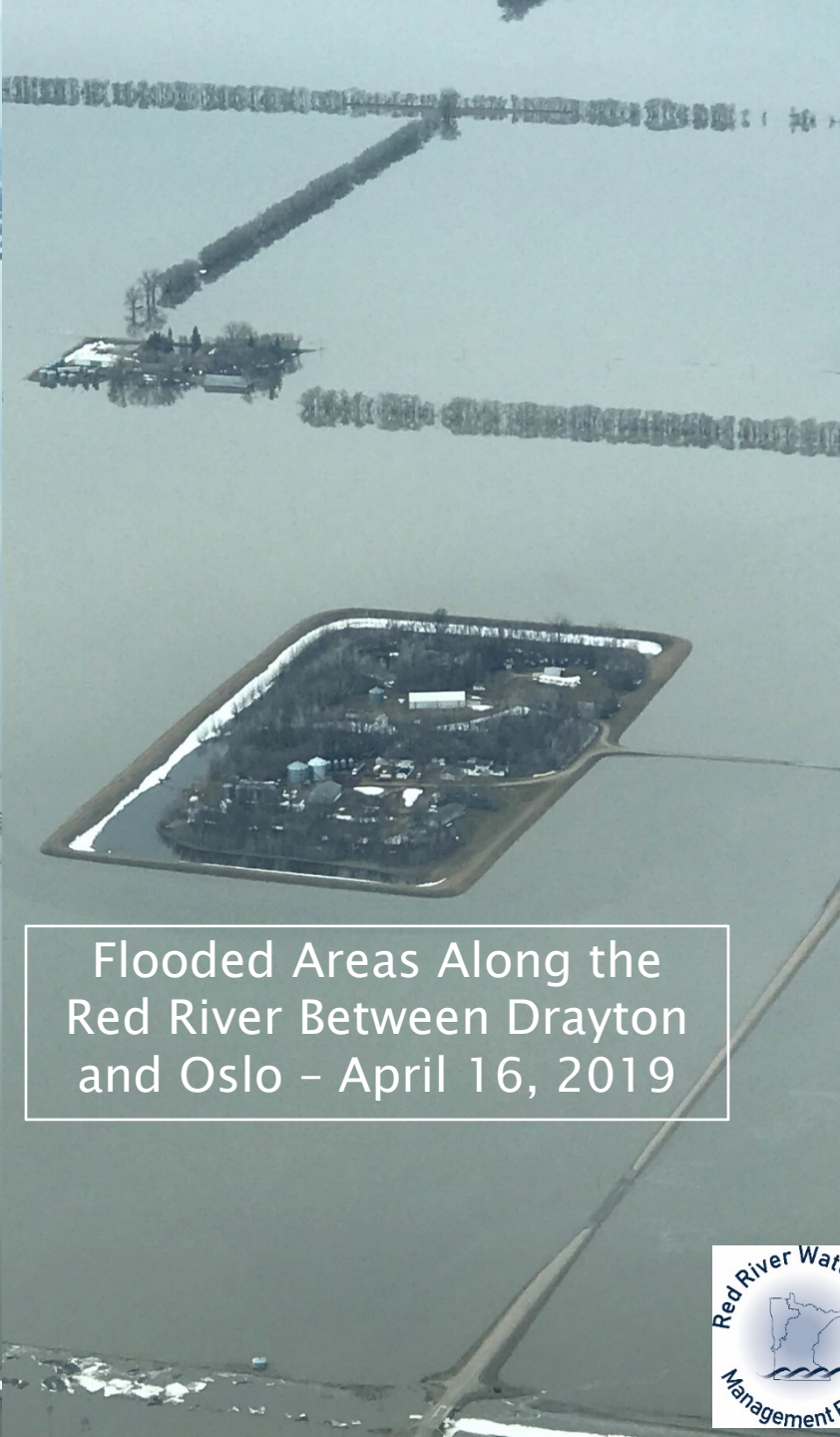
Invest in water storage

Methods that filter and store precipitation lead to cleaner water in rivers:

- Increase areas to temporarily store water
- Manage drainage with outlet controls, grass waterways, ditch buffers
- Install more stormwater treatment basins







Flooded Areas Along the Red River Between Drayton and Oslo - April 16, 2019

Flooded Areas Along the Red River Between
Drayton and Oslo - April 16, 2019



Flooded Areas in the Roseau River Watershed on October 17, 2019



Flooded Areas in the Roseau River
Watershed on October 17, 2019



April 8, 2020 – South of Wild Rice River Near Ada



Balancing FDR and Water Quality

Confluence of Roseau River and Hay Creek
North of Roseau MN,
Fall 2019.



**Pre-Mediation
Agreement Project: Lake
Ida WMA - RRWMB,
WRWD, and DNR Project**

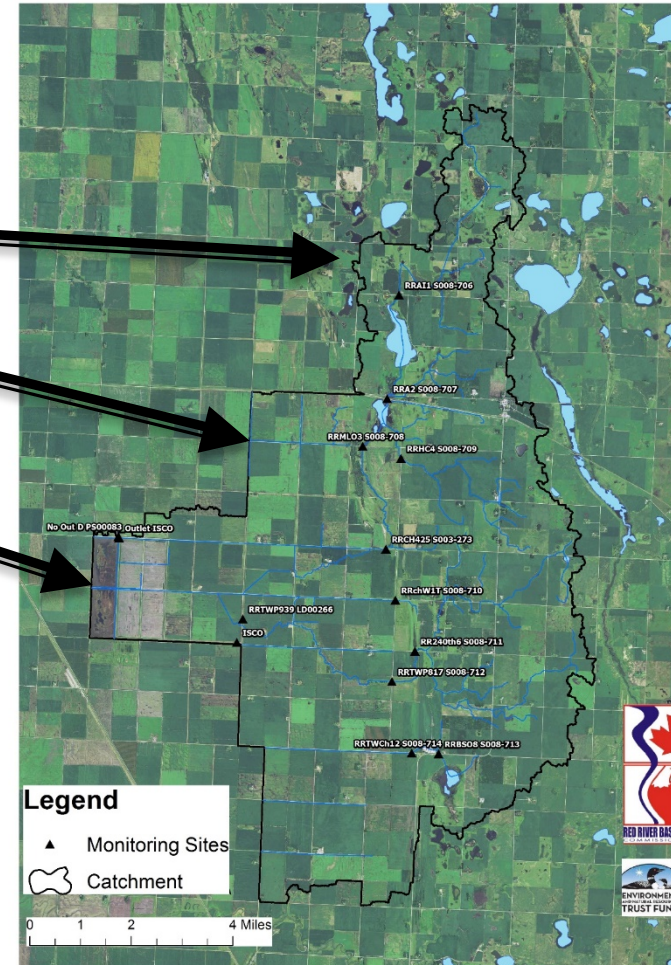


North Ottawa Project Site – Post Mediation Agreement

North Ottawa Catchment



- ▶ 75 square mile drainage basin.
- ▶ 10-mile diversion ditch.
- ▶ 3 square mile impoundment.
- ▶ 2 primary flood storage cells (C).
- ▶ 8 interior diked storage cells (A and B).



Lower Wild Rice River Corridor Habitat Restoration Project



- ▶ **Project Focus:**
 - Flood damage reduction.
 - Water quality.
 - Habitat.

- ▶ **Phases:**
 - Phase 1 – Land Acquisition/Restoration
 - Phase 2 – Detailed Design and Setback Levee Construction
 - Phase 3 – Channel Rehabilitation
 - Phase 4 – Operation and Maintenance

- ▶ **Funding – Phase 1:**
\$669,400 (RRWMB),
\$334,600 (Wild Rice WD),
and \$5,020,000 (LSOHC).

Partner/Stakeholder Recognition

- ▶ Member Watershed Districts
- ▶ Counties – County Commissioners
- ▶ Legislators and Congressional Members
- ▶ Red River Basin Commission
- ▶ Red River Retention Authority
- ▶ Red River Joint Water Resource District
- ▶ Local, State, and Federal Agencies
- ▶ SWCDs
- ▶ MN Association of Watershed Districts
- ▶ Agricultural Groups
- ▶ Others

Thank You!



Contact Information

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