



**--For Immediate Release--**

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**Re: Minnesota River Board to Complete Significant Organizational Review**

**Willmar, MN--** As a result of strategic planning meetings with legislators, agency leadership, and local conservationists, delegates of the Minnesota River Board (MRB) have passed a resolution declaring their commitment to a basin board structure and function review.

The MRB is a county-based joint powers organization with a mission to provide leadership, build partnerships, and support efforts to improve and protect water quality in the Minnesota River Basin. The MRB delegates and staff, however, understand that the structure and function of the board needs to be more effective. Therefore, with the passage of Resolution 2012-1, the board has authorized and dedicated funding for an independent review of how Minnesota River basin-level management should be structured and delivered.

The MRB wants an improved vision of local conservation needs and how a basin-level organization could more effectively contribute to measurable water quality improvements within the limitations of available resources. The MRB will contract with an independently selected strategic planner who will lead a task force representing the interests of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, watershed organizations, state agencies, counties, municipalities, commodity and land managers, non-profit groups, and others with a vested interest in the operations of a basin-level board.

By January 2013, the task force will strive to identify goals and alternatives appropriate for a basin-level organization for the Minnesota River. Topics to be included, but not limited to, are: mission, governance structure, services needed/desired, duties, and legal responsibilities. Resolution 2012-1 represents a strong commitment to implement change to secure a more effective, inclusive, and meaningful basin board.

The full resolution can be viewed at [www.minnesotariver.org](http://www.minnesotariver.org).

**MINNESOTA RIVER BOARD**

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