



**RESOLUTION #:** 2012-1

**TITLE:** Commitment to Board Structure and Function Review

**SPONSORS:** Commissioners Thomas Egan (Dakota) & Glen Mathiason (Freeborn)

**AUTHOR:** Shannon J. Fisher, MRB Executive Director

- WHEREAS, The Minnesota River Board (MRB) understands the current structure and function of the MRB needs to be more effective and therefore approved a progressive strategic plan in May 2012 that called for a substantial evaluation of basin level management in the Minnesota River watershed.; and
- WHEREAS, The MRB wants an improved vision of what roles we can/should play in the future of conservation delivery as a mechanism to catalyze more measurable results with the resources currently available in the basin.; and
- WHEREAS, The MRB desires a vision of how we must evolve to provide needed services to contribute to local conservation efforts and work in a true partnership with SWCDs, Watershed Districts/Projects, First Nations, Non-Profit Organizations, Agencies, Counties, Municipals, Land Management/Commodity Organizations, Citizens, and others working to improve watershed health and water quality.; and
- WHEREAS, The MRB desires input from local and state partners on how, or if, the MRB fits into the "one watershed one plan" process identified by the local government roundtable.; and
- WHEREAS, The MRB hosted a strategic planning session with legislators and key agency and SWCD representatives and identified objectives to 1) define targets/goals, including governance structure and services most needed and desired, 2) establish solid and detailed plans/alternatives for Focus Areas 1 and 2 on the 2012-2017 strategic plan, and 3) identify how the changes would alter by-laws and what that would mean to establishing a new basin-level partnership organization.; and therefore be it
- RESOLVED, The MRB strongly supports an independent review of how a basin-level organization for the Minnesota River should be structured, what its primary mission, duties, services, and responsibilities should be, and how it should be funded.; and be it further
- RESOLVED, The MRB strongly supports the identification of an objective person to lead this review that will coordinate collection of input from the basin partners listed above and shall establish a task force associated with at least one member from each of the three local government roundtable participants (SWCD, MAWD, and AMC), and 1 member from each of the following: non-profit conservation entity, commodity organization, and watershed project.; and be it further
- RESOLVED, The MRB will reallocate funding from existing line items in its budget, not to exceed \$9,000, to cover the costs of project lead labor and travel, along with expenses incurred by task force members (excluding salary/wages/fringe) to provide recommendations as noted above at the January 2013 MRB meeting or sooner if possible.; and be it further
- RESOLVED, The MRB is not bound by the recommendations, but will take the findings under very serious consideration and fully intends to work diligently to implement change to establish a more effective and inclusive basin board if the task force recommends continuation of a basin-level organization.

**RESOLUTION STATUS:** Approved September 17, 2012, Willmar, MN (13 in favor, 1 opposed)

### MINNESOTA RIVER BOARD

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A joint powers board that provides leadership, builds partnerships and efforts to improve and protect water quality in the Minnesota River Basin