



February 28, 2020

International Joint Commission
U.S. Section
1717 H Street NW, Suite 835
Washington, DC 20006
United States

International Joint Commission
Canadian Section
234 Laurier Avenue West, 22nd Floor
Ottawa ON K1P 6K6
Canada

International Joint Commission
Great Lakes Regional Office
100 Ouellette Ave., 8th Floor
Windsor ON N9A 6T3
Canada

Re: Recommended Objectives at the U.S./Canadian Border for Nitrogen and Phosphorus in the Red River Basin:

To Whom It May Concern:

The Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) appreciates the opportunity to comment to the International Joint Commission (IJC) on the proposed objectives. For some historical perspective, the RRWMB is a joint powers board created in 1976 and authorized by the Minnesota Legislature to address flood issues in the Minnesota portion of the Red River Basin (RRB). Since that time, the RRWMB has helped fund close to 60 flood damage reduction projects in the RRB of Minnesota with our member watershed districts.

These projects can and do provide multiple benefits or Natural Resources Enhancements (NREs) to society including but not limited to flood control, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat. Recently, the RRWMB adopted a strategic plan and one of our goals relates to water quality, with our 2020 operating budget including funding for local water quality efforts. While the RRWMB remains committed to flood damage reduction efforts, water quality will also be a focus of the work we do with our members.

The RRWMB Water Quality and Monitoring Advisory Committee recently met to discuss the proposed IJC objectives as directed by the RRWMB Managers. At this point, the RRWMB does not have further comments on this matter. The RRWMB is also a member of the Red River Retention Authority (RRRA), which recently submitted comments to the IJC regarding this matter.



We are also aware that the Bois de Sioux Watershed District (BdSWD), a RRWMB member, submitted comments. The RRWMB supports both of these comment letters and please take comments by the RRRRA and BdSWD into consideration as the objectives are considered and finalized by the IJC.

Ultimately, the RRWMB supports water quality efforts and believes that further leveraging of programs, financial resources, and comprehensive plans and implementation of best management practices can be done to meet water quality goals in the RRB without additional regulation. We can accomplish meaningful change on the landscape by close communication with our partners and stakeholders. Should you have questions or need additional clarification, please contact RRWMB Executive Director Robert Sip by email at rob.sip@rrwmb.org or at 218-474-1084 (cell). Thanks again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John M. Finney".

John Finney
President, RRWMB

CC: RRWMB Managers and Member Watershed Districts
Lisa Frenette, RRWMB Legislative Liaison