

# **News from the Roseau River Watershed District**

For Immediate Release

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## **What is the Roseau River Watershed Districts?**

The Roseau River Watershed District (RRWD) is a local, special-purpose unit of government that works to solve and prevent water related problems. The boundary of the RRWD follows the natural watershed and consists of the land in which all water flows to one outlet, the Roseau River. Other government units – state, counties, cities and townships – have political boundaries. Water does not follow political boundaries, so it makes sense to manage water resources on a watershed basis.

The Minnesota Legislature authorized Watershed Districts in 1955 when it passed the Watershed Act, M.S. 013D which defined the role and responsibilities for watershed districts in Minnesota. The RRWD as we know it today was established in June, 1963.

Each of Minnesota's 45 watershed districts is governed by a Board of Managers appointed by the Board of Commissioners of the counties that have land in the district. The RRWD Board is made up of 5 managers; 4 appointed by Roseau County and 1 appointed by Kittson County.

### **What Watershed Districts Do:**

- Control or alleviate damages from flood waters
- Approve culvert size and placement through a permit process
- Manage legal drainage systems under their jurisdiction
- Provide for wildlife and enhance recreational opportunities as a benefit of projects to improve water quality and provide flood protection
- Establish, record and maintain hydrological data
- Conduct water quality surveys of lakes and streams
- Other projects related to the purposes of the district

### **For More Information Contact:**

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