

**PRAP**

**Performance Review and Assistance Program**

**2010 Level II Review: Roseau River Watershed District** (*Roseau, Marshall, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami & Kittson Counties*)

**Why BWSR did this review**

BWSR conducts Level II performance reviews to help local government water management entities to be the best they can be in plan implementation and overall operational effectiveness. In 2010 BWSR is conducting Level II performance reviews of eight different local water management entities.

BWSR has conducted a routine Level II performance review of the **Roseau River Watershed District** because they are near the midpoint in implementing their 10-year watershed management plan.

This document includes findings, conclusions and recommendations to enhance the overall operation and effectiveness of the district. The board of managers is responsible for taking any actions they decide are necessary in response to the recommendations in this report.

**Roseau River Watershed District  
Summary of Performance Review Results**

**What BWSR Found**

In their watershed management plan the district managers have set the dual goals for their district of flood damage reduction (FDR) and natural resource enhancement (NRE). The plan sets an ambitious agenda for project implementation, and the fact that they have constructed three major FDR projects in the past five years and aggressively pursued two others is evidence of a high level of commitment to that agenda.

This progress is evidence of an improvement in board purpose and intent and staff attentiveness to the complexities of the project development process. Past unfamiliarity with how to work within the project development system resulted in some lost opportunities.

Although the district has worked to establish better relationships and to collaborate with other local governments that have water management responsibilities in the Roseau River watershed, there is still room for improvement. The district is well-positioned to provide the needed coordination but must be more persistent in pursuing it.

There are five action items the managers and staff need to address in the short term:

- Rules: date of last revision or review
- Data practices policy: exists and reviewed within last 5 yrs
- Website: increase content
- Functioning advisory committee:
- Communication piece: sent within last 12 months

The Roseau River Watershed District is commended for meeting these high performance standards:

- ★ Administrator on staff
- ★ Obtain stakeholder input: within last 5 yrs
- ★ Coordination with County Board and City/Twp officials
- ★ Partnerships: cooperative projects/tasks with others

BWSR recommends that the district address the five action items, intentionally pursue collaboration with partners, consider staff development, and address operating guidelines and policies.