

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

For Immediate Release

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## **How watershed districts are funded?**

The Roseau River Watershed District (RRWD) receives a portion of its funding from local property tax levies. The rest is received from various federal and state grant programs. The paragraphs below explain the tax levy portion of the District's funding.

Each Watershed District in Minnesota, including the RRWD, may levy annually for a General Fund. This ad valorem tax, known as the "Administrative Levy," is based on property value. The Watershed District General Fund levy may not exceed 0.048 percent of the taxable market value or \$250,000, whichever is less. This annual levy is determined and justified through the RRWD's annual budget process and adopted at the September meeting each year. This funding is used for the general administration expenses of the district.

The RRWD also receive funds from ditch assessments for legal ditches under watershed jurisdiction. Ditch assessments or ditch funds are collected for land within a specific benefitted area of the ditch system, usually established with the system was built. When a County is the ditch authority for a legal drainage system, the funds collected go into the ditch fund for that drainage system and are administered by the County. Ditch levy funds can only be spent on maintenance of the legal system for which they were levied. Ditch assessments cannot be used to improve a system beyond the system's original design.

In 1976 the Minnesota Legislature created the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) to provide a basin-wide perspective on flood damage reduction and water management. The RRWD is a member of the RRWMB and as such may also levy an ad valorem tax on the taxable market value of all property within the district. Half of this levy is credited to the local district for the development, construction, and maintenance of projects and programs that benefit the local watershed district and is referred to as the "Construction Fund." The other half of this levy is credited to the general fund of the RRWMB to fund the development, construction and maintenance of projects and programs that benefit the Red River Basin.

If you have any questions about the RRWD's levy authority and budgeting process, please contact the RRWD Administrator, Tracy Halstengard, at the District's office.

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

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