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PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Red River Retention Authority names Executive Director

West Fargo, ND April 10, 2012— The Red River Retention Authority (RRRA) has named Patrick Downs as the Executive Director of the organization.

Downs, a native of Langdon, North Dakota becomes the RRRA's first Executive Director. He will be responsible for the development of floodwater retention projects throughout the Red River of the North Basin as well as advancing RRRA's interests on international, national and state governmental and legislative issues. Most recently Downs was a Cooperative Development Specialist with the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives. He is a graduate of the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND.

The RRRA is comprised of the Red River Joint Water Resource District, a North Dakota political subdivision, and the Red River Watershed Management Board, a Minnesota political subdivision. These two entities are made up of special-purpose water district organizations from their respective states. The RRRA exists to ensure joint, comprehensive and strategic coordination of retention projects in the Red River of the North watershed.

"Flood damage reduction is a vital effort in the valley, and the RRRA is taking the lead on that front," said RRRA Board Co-Chair John Finney. "Bringing Pat on board as our Executive Director is another step in our continuing efforts to secure retention projects in the Red River Basin," he said.

The Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) has identified retention as a means to reduce flood potential in the Red River Basin. A comprehensive approach recommended by the RRBC is a flood flow reduction strategy to reduce flows on the Red River main stem by altering the hydrology of the contributing watersheds as a basin-wide effort.

Through the Red River Retention Initiative the RRRA has a goal to build water retention projects in the Red River Basin that would retain up to one million acre feet of water or 20 percent of the runoff from tributaries of the Red River. This initiative is a collaboration of the RRRA and other partner entities, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The NRCS is part of the United States Department of Agriculture.

In 2011, the RRRA secured \$10,000,000 in funding through the NRCS.

"I am excited to get started, especially so given the purpose and scope of our initiative," said Downs. "My background in economic and business development at the local, state and regional levels in the Upper Midwest and experience with federal, state and private grant and contract funding will align well with the RRRA mission," he said.

Downs will assume his new duties in late April at the RRRA's new office location at 1405 Prairie Parkway in West Fargo, ND.

About the organization:

The Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)

The Red River Retention Authority exists to facilitate construction and implementation of water retention projects in the Red River Valley. The RRRA serves as an advocate for local projects in the federal regulatory process, rigorous in pursuit of federal funding to offset local costs. The organization seeks basin-wide solutions to realize effective flood protection and flood damage reduction, accomplished on a strategic project-by-project basis.

More at www.redriverretentionauthority.net

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