



USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference

The Red River Water Management Consortium

In 1996, the Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) established the Red River Water Management Consortium (RRWMC®) a partnership between key stakeholders in the Red River of the North Basin and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to address critical water quantity and quality issues. The overall goal of the RRWMC is to provide practical stakeholder-driven technical input for the development of long-term water management strategies focusing on water quality and quantity to ensure continued economic development of the area. There are currently fifteen RRWMC members, representing industry, municipalities, and other interested entities in basin. These members direct the development of work plan activities on an annual basis. The activities are organized under one of six program task areas: 1) technology assessment, development, and demonstration; 2) water resource assessment and analysis; 3) anthropogenic impacts on water resources; 4) water resource monitoring; 5) education and information dissemination; and 6) development of a water management conceptual model and strategy. An Advisory Group having representatives from state and federal agencies and local nongovernmental organizations with an interest in water issues provides advice and input on RRWMC activities. This poster presents the results of several key RRWMC program activities that have either been recently completed or are ongoing. Examples include developing water conservation strategies for agricultural processing facilities; providing water management assistance to small rural communities; investigating the impact of tile drainage from a local and regional hydrologic and water quality perspective; contributing to the development of phosphorus management plans for local municipalities; participation in regional total maximum daily load projects being developed by Minnesota and North Dakota regulatory agencies; assessment of water storage methods to provide emergency water supplies in times of drought; demonstration of agricultural waste-to-energy projects; and basinwide flood mitigation.

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