

**Memorandum of Understanding
For Flood and Drought Mitigation on the Red River**

WHEREAS the Red River Basin is prone to periodic flooding to an extent that can have devastating consequences to humans, property and the environment of North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota and Manitoba; and

WHEREAS there is a clear need to continue efforts to reduce and prevent the damages caused by flooding in the Red River Basin; and

WHEREAS uncoordinated flood damage reduction efforts could have inadvertent adverse impacts on neighboring jurisdictions and would be less effective than measures taken on a coordinated basis; and

WHEREAS several organizations that cross state, provincial and international boundaries exist within the Red River Basin, these organizations are encouraged to continue their efforts to address water management within the Red River Basin and reduce future flood damages; and

WHEREAS each jurisdiction has the authority to undertake measures as necessary to protect themselves from the adverse impacts of Red River floods; and

WHEREAS efforts to mitigate flooding can' also have significant impacts on addressing drought issues;

THEREFORE the Parties agree to the following:

AGREEMENT TO MEET AND CONFER

The Governors of the States of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the Premier of the Province of Manitoba agree that they will meet at least annually to confer and to encourage and enhance cooperation and coordination of flood and drought mitigation activities at the local, state, provincial and federal levels in the Red River Basin in the United States and Canada in order to minimize the adverse consequences of drought and flooding of the Red River and its tributaries.

In furtherance of this agreement, each party agrees to appoint a key official within their administration to take the steps necessary to implement the terms of this agreement.

Any potential costs associated with this participation in this agreement will be borne by each state or province respectively and shared proportionally for joint activities,

Original signed by
Governor Tim Pawlenty

Original signed by
Governor Mike Rounds

Original signed by
Governor John Hoeven

Original signed by
Premier Gary Doer

Dated in Saint Paul, Minnesota, April 27, 2004