



RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY

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Retention Committee

PL – 566 Sub-committee

Chair: Dan Money

Committee Recommendations:

- Increase *watershed size* limit from 250,000 acres to 1,000,000 acres, and use only the upstream contributing area to determine eligible size, not any downstream areas.
- Increase the *single site storage volume* from 12,500 acre feet to 75,000 acre feet.
- Increase the *total project storage volume* from 25,000 acre feet to 250,000 acre feet.
- Increase the *eligible construction cost-share* from 0 percent to 75 percent federal cost-share for natural resource enhancements.
- Add language to alter the *eligible technical assistance cost-share* to make technical assistance costs associated with natural resource enhancement portions of the project eligible for 75 percent cost-share.
- Add language to limit the *total project sponsor cost-share* (non-federal) to 25 percent. Also, amortize the future expected operations-maintenance-repair-replacement-rehabilitation costs to a present value and allow the local sponsor to use this obligation towards the max of 25 percent cost-share on initial construction.
- Increase *project cost / timing approval by Congress requirement* from projects that exceed \$5 million and/or 4,000 acre feet to:
 - 1) allow approval by the NRCS State Conservationist for projects up to \$25 million (or 25,000 acre feet), and
 - 2) allow approval by the NRCS Chief for projects up to \$50 million (or 50,000 acre feet). Approval by Congress would be required for projects over \$50 million/50,000 acre feet.
- Eliminate the requirement under *economic and environmental principles and guidelines for water resources implementation studies* for individual benefit to cost ratio calculations on each individual project and instead allow flood control projects to be based upon an overall basin plan.
- Designate the Red River Retention Authority as the unit of government who will develop the *benefit to cost ratio* to be used collectively for all projects within the Red River of the North basin. Projects that fall under the basin plan will not need to meet an individual cost benefit ratio criteria, but will need to meet the basin cost benefit criteria.

- Under ***technical services contracting***, issue a Request for Proposals for a multiple award of indefinite delivery / indefinite quantity contract for planning, design, and implementation of flood control planning focused specifically for the Red River of the North Basin.
- Under ***dam rehabilitation***, utilize Section 313 of Public Law 106-472 to provide dedicated funding for rehabilitation projects in the Red River Basin where the primary purpose is the development of gated flood storage. The intent is to retrofit existing PL 566 projects that have little or no storage to be able to build into them a storage component where possible.

