Two Rivers Watershed District News

Providing Flood Control, Drainage, & Water Quality Solutions Since 1957

March 11, 2019

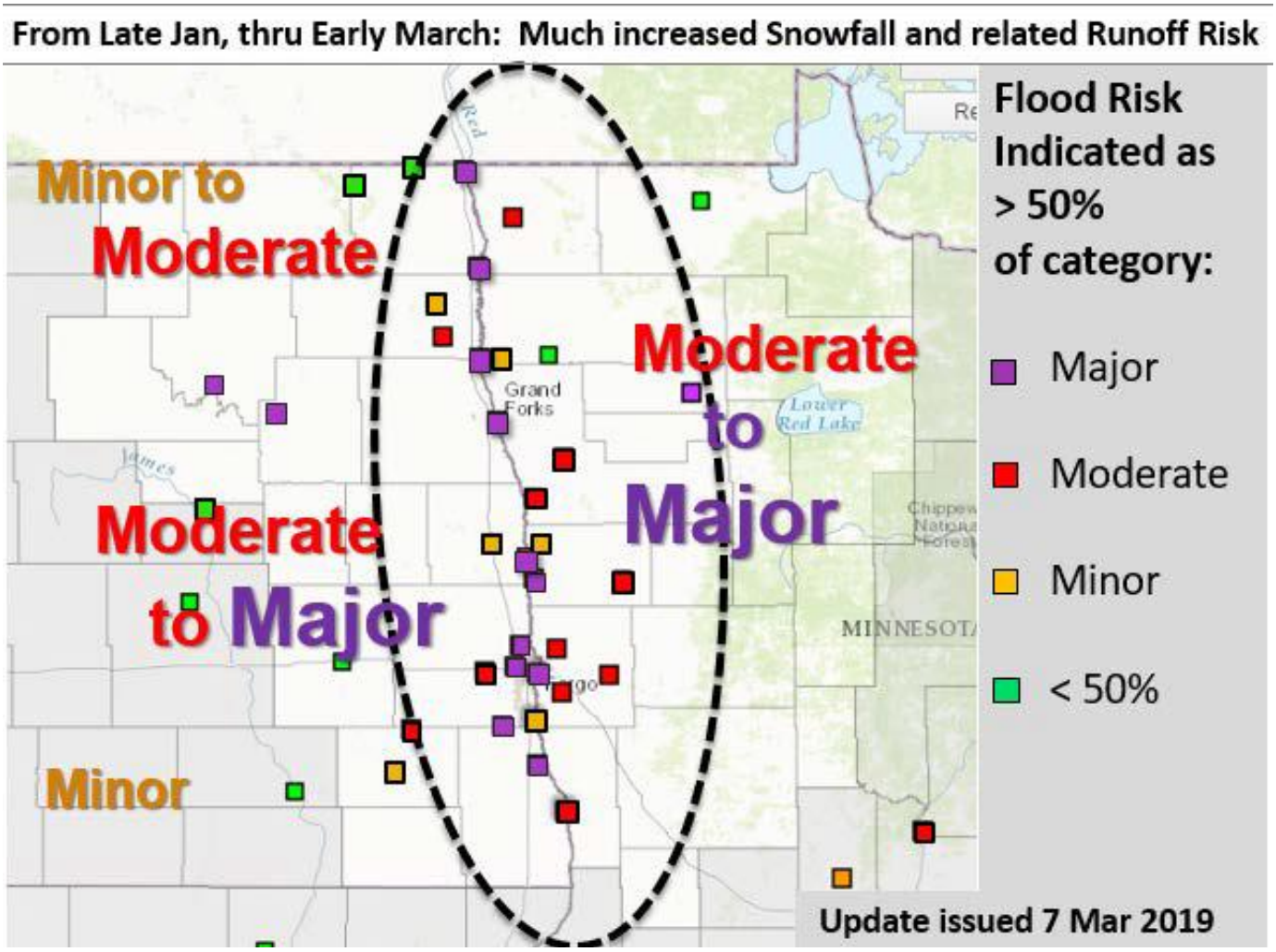
NEWS RELEASE – *FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*
CONTACT: Dan Money

Spring Flood Outlook Released for Red River of the North and Two Rivers

On March 7, 2019 the National Weather Service released an updated spring flood outlook for the Red River of the North Basin. The report provides probabilities for spring flooding at numerous locations throughout the U.S. portion of the Basin. It takes into account soil moisture conditions from fall 2018, base streamflows in the rivers, frost depth, winter snowpack and snow water equivalents, precipitation that has occurred, and predicted short and long term weather and climate trends.

All of this data is analyzed, fed into computer models, and used to provide a range of potential flood levels. The report indicates that for the Red River downstream from Grand Forks, there is a 75% probability of major flooding. For Drayton, there is a 90% chance the river will reach a level of 41.4, and for Pembina there is a 90% chance the river will reach a level of 50.3. The record flood at Drayton was 45.55 in 1997 and the at Pembina it was 54.94 in 1997. On the Two Rivers, the report indicates moderate flooding is probable with a 50% chance of reaching 808.5 and a 90% chance of reaching 806.6. The record flood at Hallock was 810.7 in 1997.

Although it doesn't look like we will reach record flood levels, it does appear that a good size flood is possible. This can all change in a hurry for good or bad depending on future precipitation and the speed of the snowmelt. With that in mind, the Two Rivers Watershed District is preparing to monitor and provide up to date daily flood information, operate its flood control impoundments to reduce flood impacts, and help monitor and predict flood crests. The TRWD will work with and assist local emergency personnel, counties, and others as the flooding progresses.



In late March, look for the District's snow survey information to be put out. This information reports on snow depths and snow water equivalents at 11+ locations throughout the drainage basin of the Two Rivers. This data goes back to the mid 1990's and so this provides an excellent reference to judge the current flood potential. Before, during and after the runoff, the District will monitor and measure streamflows at over 15 locations in the watershed. This information is reported to the National Weather Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and other state and local agencies. It is used to help predict flood crests and is also used to compare against historical data.

Also during flooding, the TRWD will operate and maintain 3 flood control impoundments aimed at reducing the duration and severity of flooding. The Nereson Impoundment, located east Greenbush, MN can hold up to 3,500 acre feet of floodwater, and controls the runoff from roughly 15 square miles. The Ross Imopundment, located east of Badger, MN can hold up to 3,600 acre feet of floodwater, and controls the runoff from over 18 square miles. The Horseshoe Lake impoundment is located northeast of Lancaster, MN and hold up to 2,130 acre feet.

Ross #7 Impoundment During 2009 Spring Flood

Now is the time to start preparing for potential flooding. The TRWD reminds homeowners with farmstead ring dikes to check and monitor any culverts you may have through your dikes. Be sure to close the gate on the culvert prior to flooding, and make sure the gate is operable and accessible. Homeowners who are in the floodplain or near the floodplain should consider the national flood insurance program. If you live on a site that is affected by flooding, be sure to monitor conditions not only on site, but also roads that may flood and affect access to your location. Remember, "Turn Around, Don't Drown"!

Below are a few websites that have good information regarding flooding, flood preparedness, and other pertinent information:

Federal:
https://www.floodsmart.gov/
www.weather.gov/fgf
https://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/water/ahps/resources/Hydrologic_Web_Products_Manual.pdf
https://www.weather.gov/fgf/PFOS
https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=FGF
https://waterdata.usgs.gov/mn/nwis/rt

State:
https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/climate/floods/index.html
https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/csg/index.html
https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/floodplain/index.html
https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNDNR/bulletins/208f419#link_1513957640488
https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/Pages/default.aspx

Local
www.tworiverswd.com

TRWD Welcomes New Board Member & Elects Officers for 2019

With the new year, another new Board member joined the 7-member Board of Managers of the Two Rivers Watershed District. Scott Klein was appointed by the Kittson County Commission to serve the remainder of the seat vacated when former Board member Darrel Johnson was elected to the County Commission. Klein's farm is located in west central Kittson County, and he has farmed with his family over 30 years. He is also a past Board member of the Kittson County Soil & Water Conservation District. The TRWD welcomes Scott to the Board, and thanks Darrel for his years of service!

The Board held it's Annual Meeting on January 2, 2019. The elections of officers was held, and the new slate of officers is: President – Paul Olsonawski, Vice President – Roger Anderson, Secretary – Daryl Klegstad, Treasurer – Joel Muir. Other members of the Board include Bruce Anderson, Rick Sikorski, and Scott Klein.

The Two Rivers Watershed District is a local unit of government established in 1957, the second watershed district in the state. The TRWD is governed by MN Statute 103D, the "Watershed Law", and focuses on water related issues of flooding, drainage, water quality, and other duties as described in statute. District operations are funded by a local tax, federal, state, and local grants, and fee services. For more information, check out our website at www.tworiverswd.com

Weather Watch

It has been a long winter, and it seems everyone is ready for Spring! Here are a few weather tidbits from this past winter:

- From November 4, 2018 through March 11, 2019 there have been 7 days that have been above 32 degrees F.
- For the same time period, there has been 51.5" of snowfall at Hallock, with 2.43" snow water equivalent. There is currently approximately 20" of snow on the ground (depending where it is measured!)
- As of March 11, 2019, there have been 62 consecutive days below 32 degrees F.
- Also as of March 11, 2019, the National Weather Service has so far this winter issued 4 winter storm warnings, 6 blizzard warnings, and 5 wind chill warnings.

THINK SPRING!