



Memorandum of Understanding

Memorandum of Understanding For the Legislators Forum and Steering Committee

- WHEREAS** legislators from the four jurisdictions of Manitoba, North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota met together for the first time in May of 2001 at the request of the International Flood Mitigation Initiative (IFMI); and
- WHEREAS** the legislators discussed issues related to flood mitigation on the Red River as well as other issues, such as tourism, energy, agriculture harmonization, animal health and food safety; and
- WHEREAS** the legislators came to an early understanding of how much the four jurisdictions have in common; and
- WHEREAS** the legislators were able to arrive at early, general agreements on many of the issues they discussed in a very short period of time; and
- WHEREAS** the legislators formed a Steering Committee to continue the work they began in May; and
- WHEREAS** Minnesota has invited the legislators of the four jurisdictions to come together again in May of 2002 in St. Paul; and
- WHEREAS** the Steering Committee has suggested that the 2003 meeting be held in South Dakota, the 2004 meeting in North Dakota, and the 2005 meeting begin the rotation again in Manitoba; and
- WHEREAS** the legislatures of the four jurisdictions desire to encourage the four jurisdictions to discuss common issues and develop agreements on how the jurisdictions can work together for the good of all the people in these jurisdictions,

NOW, THEREFORE, WE AGREE that the undersigned will designate 8 legislators from each of our jurisdictions to continue the Legislators Forum; the eight legislators will be designated considering political, geographical and gender balance, for two-year terms and can be re-appointed to ensure continuity. We further agree to designate two legislators from each jurisdiction as members of the Steering Committee to continue activities between the meetings of the Legislators Forum and to plan for the next year's Forum. We further agree to seek appropriate funding for the designees' attendance at, support for and hosting of the Legislators Forum meetings.

Original Signed By: _____

Manitoba Premier,
Gary Doer

Original Signed By: _____

Minnesota Speaker of the House,
Steve Sviggum

Original Signed By: _____

South Dakota Chair of the Legislative
Research Council Executive Board,
Arnold Brown

Original Signed By: _____

North Dakota Chair of the Legislative
Council, Wes Belter

Original Signed By: _____

Minnesota Senate Majority Leader,
Roger Moe

Dated in Bismarck, North Dakota,
May 20, 2002