

2019 MAWD Project of the Year

Buffalo-Red River Watershed - Oakport Flood Mitigation Project

The spring flood of 1997 was devastating for the Red River Basin. In the Oakport Township area, over 150 homes were flooded, and an additional 200 homes were isolated from public safety and services (septic/water). The Oakport residents wanted permanent flood protection. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) conducted a 205 Feasibility Study. In 2001, the USACE reported that a Federal project was not possible.

In November 2002, the Township asked the BRRWO to develop a project for them. The BRRWO accepted the task, and construction of the \$36 million project, started in 2007. The project was not finished during the 2009, 2010, or 2011 spring floods, so emergency measures were implemented, as necessary. The project's seven phases were completed in 2016, resulting in two FEMA-certified levee systems, totaling approximately five miles in length.



From Left: Mark Anderson, Manager, Clay County; John E. Hanson, Manager, Becker County; Bruce E. Albright, Administrator; Peter Fjestad, Manager, Otter Tail County; Gerald L. Van Amburg, Manager, Clay County; Kathy Fenger, Administrative Assistant; and Jay Leitch, Manager, Clay County