

**Lance Yohe**, Executive Director, Red River Basin Commission

Mr. Yohe, Executive Director of the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC), did his undergraduate work at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN graduating with a degree in Biology. While working toward his Bachelor of Arts degree he received training and experience in the United States Air Force in the Medical Laboratory field, acquainting him with quantitative and qualitative analytical analysis. Later, he attended Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, MN and received his Master of Divinity degree.

Lance has had first-hand experience in water and land resource issues from a pastor's viewpoint, in a local parish with churches in the Perley, MN and rural Gardner, ND areas next to the Red River. He is familiar with the unique resource and jurisdictional problems within the Red River basin as he was an early Board member of the International Coalition for Land and Water Stewardship in the Red River Basin as well as its Board Chair and later the President/CEO. After further experiences as the Executive Director of the Freshwater Foundation and as the pastor of a rural SD parish, he returned to the Red River Basin as Executive Director of the Red River Basin Board in 2001.

In 2002 several organizations: The International Coalition, The Red River Basin Board, and the Red River Water Resource Council merged to form the Red River Basin Commission. Lance has been the RRBC Executive Director since its formation. He has over 25 years of experience and familiarity with Red River Basin water and land resource issues.

The RRBC has a 41 member board that represents: Manitoba, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota at local: county, city, water resource district, and citizen; tribal; environmental; state; and federal (ex-officio) levels. RRBC works on issues and projects that are trans-boundary and promote cooperation and future driven visioning that has the potential to solve problems before they get to the conflict stage. The Red River Basin Natural Resource Framework Plan is an example of how RRBC is working to build a basin wide vision and unified voice for action.

Lance has given many conference presentations over the years on issues in the Red River Basin including such topics as: trans-boundary approach, grass-roots involvement, local leadership roles, international issues, resource issues: water quality, water supply, flooding, drainage, water laws, flow modeling, and others. He has managed numerous projects and co-authored the *"Land and Water Guide to the Red River Basin"* and the *"Red River Basin Drought: Scoping Document."*