MINUTES FOR MANAGERS' MEETING  
February 13, 2006

A regular meeting of the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), was held on Monday, February 13, 2006, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. BRRWD Managers present were Roger G. Ellefson, E. Robert Olson, Gerald L. VanAmburg, Curtis M. Nelson, and John E. Hanson. Others attending included: Bruce E. Albright, Erik S. Jones, and Julie Jerger, Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.).

Chairman Ellefson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He noted that the proceedings were being taped to aid in preparation of the minutes.

**Secretary's Report.** The Board reviewed draft minutes for the 1/23/06 regular meeting, the 12/20/05 Project No. 57, Moorhead/I-94 bid opening, and the 12/06/05 Project No. 56, Manston Slough, Preliminary Resolution Hearing. Manager Nelson noted a name addition to the Manston Slough minutes. **Motion** by Nelson to approve the minutes. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

**Treasurer's Report.** The Board reviewed the monthly financial statements, including the project account balance sheet, administrative disbursements, the summary of income, and the Accounts Receivable report. Albright noted that the BRRWD borrowed $64,000 from Midwest Bank in January. Since the last meeting, we received $91,772.33 from various sources, including the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Riverton Township, and the general county levies. Regarding the Accounts Receivable, Albright noted that Clay County and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) owe the BRRWD nearly $150,000. Both entities have indicated that payments will be made soon.

Wells Fargo Bank has released all security pledges for the BRRWD's account, as we have less than a $100,000 balance with their bank. Our Wells Fargo account status has also been changed from a Business Premium Market account, which required a $10,000 minimum balance, to a Business Market Rate account, which requires a $1,000 minimum balance. Albright noted that the interest rate is lower on the new account, but we no longer will be getting $15 service charges. The office is depositing new income to our Midwest Bank account, which has a higher interest rate and no minimum balance. For the time being, we will maintain our Wells Fargo account since they receive electronic fund transfers.

Carolyn Drude, CIPFA, Ehlers and Associates, Inc., a public finance firm, contacted Albright to discuss possible bonding options for BRRWD projects. The Board discussed if bonds would be considered as debt. Recently, Manager Nelson read that there is a $200,000 indebtedness cap for Watershed Districts set by Minnesota Statutes. Albright and Nelson will investigate this issue. **Motion** by Hanson to approve the Treasurer's report. **Seconded** by Olson. **Approved.**

**Business brought before the Board included:**

**Permits.** Albright plans to close out the 2005 permit files in the next few weeks. He added that we have several applications that will require field reviews this spring when weather conditions permit. The most recent technical permits will be forwarded to Jones for review.
**Frank Schindler Concern.** Richard Peppel has indicated that the temporary approach he installed last fall along the west line of Section 28, Barnesville Township, Clay County, will be removed as soon as possible this spring.

**Minch Lawsuits.** Based on attorney/client privilege, and in accordance with Open Meeting Law, the Board went into closed session at 7:10 PM. At 7:50 PM, the Board reopened the meeting.

**USFWS Generic Permits.** Mark Aanenson, H. E., called Albright regarding a request from Larry Hanson, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), for a generic permit for wetland restorations from the Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD) similar to the permits received from the BRRWD in the past. Albright has provided WRWD with information regarding the USFWS generic permits we granted. The WRWD would like to meet with the BRRWD regarding this issue. Steve Dalen is the new WRWD Administrator. The Board thought it might be possible to meet with WRWD during the upcoming Legislative Breakfast or March Conference.

**Drainage Concerns.** Craig Halvorson called the office questioning the source of excess water filling road ditches in the NW¼, Section 18, Riverton Township, near Glyndon. The Board noted that the warm weather has created wet conditions all over the district, and doubted if there was one specific source for the water.

**Elkton Township/Hay Creek Drainage Concerns.** On 10/06/05, Albright sent Larry Bontjes, Red River Rural Telephone and Telecom (RRT), a letter regarding drainage issues along Hay Creek, east of Downer. During their cable installation project in 2004, it appears that the telephone company may have opened a dike on the west side of Hay Creek, between Sections 22 and 27, Elkton Township, which allowed water to escape from Hay Creek and flow west and south onto private property. Other complaints regarding this project were also filed, including a bent culvert and a plugged township road ditch. Bontjes recently contacted Albright regarding these repairs and indicated that RRT plans to field review the area as soon as possible this spring, and will make the necessary repairs if the damage was caused by their contractor.

**Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 336/12th Avenue Study.** The Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG) sent a letter to the BRRWD on 1/17/06 asking for comments on their proposed study for T.H. 336/12th Avenue South. Albright sent a response to Brian Shorten, SRF Consulting Group, Inc. He informed Shorten that Manager Olson is a member of the Study Review Committee. In addition, Albright discussed a drainage problem in Section 18, Glyndon Township, along the west side of T.H. 336 that was created when the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) installed a centerline culvert between Sections 17 and 18. A petition has been filed for a project to install a lateral to Clay County Ditch No. 41. Albright indicated that the BRRWD has no comment on the westbound ramp proposed for T.H. 10, but advised Shorten that any construction would require a BRRWD permit.

**Buffalo River Levees.** At the 10/24/05 meeting, the Board met with some of the landowners in Sections 4, 5, and 6, Riverton Township, to discuss area drainage concerns and a possible long range off-channel levee project similar to the Deerhorn Creek project in Wilkin County. At that meeting, landowner Paul Simonson volunteered to contact Curtis Nelson, the renter of the Girten property in the W½, Section 5, regarding the possible cleaning of the ditch along that property. To date, there has been no response from those landowners. Albright suggested that we contact Nelson directly to set up a meeting with him to discuss this issue. The Board agreed.
Project No. 60, Swede Grove Lake Outlet. David Barsness, DNR, has provided a rough estimate of $5,200 in annual benefits if Swede Grove Lake could again be used as a walleye rearing pond. He did indicate that while fingerling production can vary widely from year to year, he felt this estimate was realistic.

Don Schultz, Area Wildlife Manager, DNR, provided the BRRWD with a copy of the 2005 Wildlife Lake Survey report with a map showing lake depths, etc. Albright noted that the Board should schedule a meeting with Jerry Waller, Clay County Commissioner, and Dave Overbo, Engineer, Clay County Highway Department, to discuss project alternatives.

Project No. 59, Clay County Ditch No. 41-Lateral 3. The office received a letter from John Boulger, Feder Properties Attorney, regarding the BRRWD's request that Feder increase his petition bond to $20,000. The project costs are currently $13,000 and the bond amount is $10,000. In his letter, Boulger alleges that H.E. erred when they concluded that MNDOT's T.H. 336 improvement project would not adversely impact the area drainage. The project included replacing a 24" dia. culvert with a 42" dia. culvert, creating a drainage problem on Feder's field in the E½, Section 18, Glyndon Township. The BRRWD, H.E., MNDOT, and Feder have been involved in negotiations regarding this issue, and Boulger requested that the BRRWD give Feder a six month extension on the bond increase in order to continue working on an alternative solution to this issue. MNDOT is considering a project for the T.H. 336 and 12th Avenue South interchange, which could include regrading the west road ditch to accommodate the larger rainfall events and prevent flooding on Feder's property. The Board discussed Boulger's request and Feder's options. They also reviewed the project financial sheets. Motion by Nelson to approve Feder's request for a six month extension. No additional fees will be assessed to the project during this time period, but according to Minnesota Statues, no project development can take place until the bond amount is increased. Seconded by VanAmburg. Approved. Albright will contact Feder by letter regarding the Board's decision.

Project No. 58, Riverton Township Retention. The Preliminary Resolution Hearing has been scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2006, at 7:00 PM in the Glyndon Community Center. Hearing notices have been sent to the publishers and landowners.

Project No. 57, Moorhead Interstate-94 (I-94) Flood Control Project. Jones has not heard from All Seasons Contracting regarding the construction contract and performance bond. Albright noted that the next step in project development will be to prepare a project budget, and schedule a preconstruction conference with the contractor.

Permit No. 56, Manston Slough Retention. Ed Fick, FDR Hydrologist, DNR Waters, has forwarded the remainder of our soil boring grant and our next project grant ($100,000) has been processed and signed.

Steve Holubok recently informed Albright that his father, Donald Holubok, who owns the SE¼, Section 30, Manston Township, Wilkin County, has decided to sell his farm and move out of the area. Steve will be handling all of the negotiations for his father. Albright arranged a meeting last Friday to start negotiations on easements/buyout for the Holubok property. The Board discussed Holubok's options and what the fair market value is for his property. They felt the first step would be to have the building site appraised. Motion by Hanson to authorize Albright to contact Guy Miller, Breckenridge, MN, per Holubok's request, to prepare an appraisal for the buildings. Seconded by VanAmburg. Approved. Holubok also proposed that the BRRWD buy his father's farm outright. Then we could deal with all the various agency programs/easements, and eventually resell it. According to Wetland
Reserve Program (WRP) guidelines, their appraisal is based on the market value of prime farm land in the township where it is located, without a water problem. Albright noted that Holubok plans to contact the office tomorrow regarding the Board's decision. The Board discussed the possible total value of the Holubok easements.

Pete Waller, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), notified Albright that there is about $189,000 left over from an expired three-year set aside BWSR program for wet areas that might be used in part for the Manston Slough Restoration project.

**Project No. 54, Whisky Creek Tributaries.** Wade Opsahl, Technician, H.E., is still working on the record drawings and the monitoring report. Scott Smith, NRCS, contacted Jones requesting project information. The office has not heard from Sharon Lean, District Conservationist, NRCS, regarding the money NRCS owes the BRRWD for the Vertin WRP. NRCS has also indicated that they could pay part of the fuel adjustment for the contractor, Dennis Drewes, Inc. Drewes will provide documentation of their fuel expenses for the WRP project.

**Project No. 51, Clay County Ditch No. 68/City of Glyndon.** Dave Pederson, City of Glyndon, notified the office that they have increased their project bond amount from $50,000 to $75,000. The Final Hearing has been scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 2006, at 7:00 PM, at the Glyndon Community Center. Hearing notices have been sent.

The City of Glyndon has requested that the BRRWD consider contributing $100,000 to their project. They referenced the contributions the BRRWD has made to other cities in the area for their water projects. The Board discussed Glyndon's request and their past contributions to other projects within the BRRWD. In light of the recent cash flow shortage the BRRWD is experiencing, the Managers weren't sure they would be able to grant Glyndon's request. Albright will calculate our contribution percentage for the other similar projects, and the Board will have a chance to discuss this again at their 2/27/06 meeting. VanAmburg noted that he is not going to be at the 2/27/06 meeting. He felt that we should consider a future contribution, based on a comparable percentage of past contributions, when revenue becomes available to the BRRWD. The Board agreed to consider contributing to the Glyndon project based on what we have given to other cities and availability of funding. At this time, the Managers couldn't promise anything, but would be willing to consider Glyndon's request if other sources of revenue can be found, for example, if the Legislature passes a bill to increase the BRRWD's cap on the M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3, ad valorem tax.

**Permit No. 49, Oakport Township Flood Mitigation.** A Steering Committee meeting was held 1/31/06. A Buyout Committee meeting will be scheduled in the near future. VanAmburg volunteered to serve on this committee and Olson agreed to be the Alternate. Ulteig Engineers, Inc. (UEI), estimates the project cost at approximately $17 million. Albright has forwarded their estimate to Representative Morrie Lanning, who will include this project in the House bonding bill. The Board discussed the 2% median household language, which needs clarification. Albright will contact Ed Fick, FDR Hydrologist, DNR Waters, regarding this issue.

The Board discussed UEI's questions about the project alignment and the Township's concerns with UEI's expenses. The Board agreed that the project will be constructed in phases and UEI will be asked to provide cost estimates with task completion deadlines.
Project Nos. 44/45, Clay County Ditch Nos. 2/39, Lateral Petitions. Albright contacted Joe Wipf, Spring Prairie Colony, to discuss these pending projects, as they are one of the only valid petitioners left in the area who signed both petitions. Wipf said he would get back to Albright on this issue, but to date, he has not called. Albright will call him again before the next BRRWD meeting.

Project No. 37, Clay County Ditch No. 41-Lateral No. 1. The Board discussed a ditch easement issue regarding a small tract of land associated with this project. In 1998, the BRRWD issued a quit claim deed to the City of Moorhead for Auditor's Outlot 4-2 and 4-5, which is a triangular piece of land lying between 15th Avenue North/T.H. 75 and Ditch No. 41. Mark Payne purchased this lot from the City in 2004. Recently, Payne decided to sell this tract to another developer who wants to install storage units. There are questions about the right-of-way (r-o-w) for Ditch No. 41 and Ditch No. 41-Lateral as described on the deed. Albright sent a letter to Clair Hanson, City of Moorhead Engineer, explaining that the deed also includes part of the construction (temporary) easement area, which should have been voided when the project was completed. The Board authorized Albright to work with Attorney Norgard to correct the deed. They also felt that the City of Moorhead should pay for the legal work to resolve this issue, and that the permanent ditch system r-o-w/access needs to be maintained.

Project No. 34, Clay County Ditch No. 41. Jones is still working on a repair report for Clay County Ditch No. 41 with recommendations for ditch gradeline, etc. The BRRWD intends to begin at the junction of Clay County Ditch No. 41/47, and work upstream as soon as conditions permit. This work is required as part of the Project No. 57 construction, as requested by downstream landowners.

Project No. 32, Hawley Diversion. Jones has sent Hancock Concrete Products, Inc., a letter and photographs of the 60" dia. reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) culvert, which has continued to deteriorate since it was installed as part of this project in 1998. The letter asks Hancock for their recommendations to correct this problem.

Project No. 29, Buffalo River Maintenance. William Nichol Excavating has completed log jam repairs for the City of Georgetown and landowner Brian Thomas. The total project costs were $7,500 per Nichol's bid. The Board authorized Nichol to do the work with the understanding that he will be paid as BRRWD funds become available.

Project No. 24, Wilkin County Ditch No. 44. An informational meeting to discuss repair of the ditch system outlet on the South Branch of the Buffalo River is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2006, at 7:00 PM, in our Barnesville office. Notices have been sent.

Project No. 23, Becker County Ditch No. 15. Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), and USFWS, has informed Albright that he would like to discuss repairs for this ditch system. The USFWS has jurisdiction in Section 9, Hamden Township. The BRRWD will need to work with the USFWS on permitting, wetland identification, spoil placement, etc. Jones is still working on the repair recommendations. Murphy also has to request funding to do the repair work on Refuge property.

Mediation Project Team. The next PT meeting will be held on Thursday, February 23, 2006, at 1:30 PM in the MSUM Science Center near Glyndon. Notices have been sent. Albright noted that because the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Legislative Breakfast and the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction WorkGroup (RRBFDRWG)/Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) Conference are all coming up in March, the next PT meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 6, 2006.
Wilkin County Ditch No. 40/Lawndale Trout Stream Restoration. The landowner informational meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 15, 2006, at the Barnesville City Hall. The BRRWD will use the first hour of the meeting to discuss our project development process and then the DNR will discuss their decision to redesignate the trout stream to include three miles of the historic Lawndale Creek across the DNR's Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and downstream to where it meets Deerhorn Creek.

Landowner Steve Sakry, who lives in Virginia, called the office regarding the proposed project. His main concern was that the ditch system shouldn't give up maintenance rights, etc. The Board reviewed an article in The Forum regarding the trout stream restoration project.

MAWD Legislative Breakfast. The Board discussed the upcoming MAWD Legislative Breakfast, which is scheduled for March 22-23, 2006. All the Managers plan to go. Albright will mail their registrations this week. The office will send invitations to our legislators in the next few weeks. A regional meeting with our legislators has been planned, including the BRRWD, Wild Rice, Pelican River, and Cormorant Lakes Watershed Districts. Lobbyist Joel Carlson will assist in the arrangements and development of an agenda.

Revised Watershed Management Plan (RWMP). The Board reviewed a draft Phase 2 organizational flow chart the office has prepared that includes the regional and local Citizen Advisory Committees (CAC) and Technical Advisory Committees (TAC). They discussed how the committees would function and possible committee members.

Spring Prairie Erosion Control Project. In 2003, H.E. conducted a survey in Sections 28 and 29, Keene Township, to determine the storage potential for a floodwater impoundment to reduce discharges on the waterway flowing through County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 26 and control downstream erosion. This waterway eventually outlets to Clay County Ditch No. 39. This detention site has a 4.7 square miles (sq. mi.) drainage area. The report includes a plan sheet showing contours, a data summary for the storage site, and culvert information in the potential floodwater impoundment.

In the report, Jones noted that there were some possible limiting factors including potential landowner conflict over land use (gravel mining), and impacts on the township roads, seepage questions, etc. Jones concludes that there is potential for this site to provide flood damage reduction (fdr) and erosion reduction on the Clay County Ditch No. 39 tributary by reducing discharges on the waterway.

This potential project will be discussed with the PT. Albright suggested that a meeting should be held with the project landowners, including Northern Improvement Corporation (NIC) and Roger Wang to discuss the survey.

Redetermination of Benefits. The Viewers will be meeting in the near future to wrap up their work for Clay County Ditch Nos. 40, 11N, 11S, 36 and 60. Albright noted that field reviews will need to be done this spring when weather permits.

Clay County Ditch No. 11N. Albright has visited with Kevin Olsgaard regarding this project petition. The office faxed the petition to Strand & Marcy Insurance Company, who is preparing the bond. To date, the BRRWD has not received the bond.

M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3. Lobbyist Joel Carlson sent Albright a draft copy of a bill that would increase the BRRWD's basic water management ad valorem levy via Minnesota Statutes Annotated
(M. S. A.) 103D.905, Subd. 3. Albright changed the proposed rate from 0.096% to 0.02394%, and sent it back to Carlson for rewriting. The revised rate will raise approximately $667,000, which is about the same amount the BRRWD would receive if we were members of the RRWMB. Carlson plans to schedule a meeting with Senator Keith Langseth regarding this issue. He indicated that Langseth considers the RRWMB a valuable organization, and he is very interested in seeing the BRRWD rejoin. He is concerned that if our levy were increased, the BRRWD would have no reason to rejoin the RRWMB.

The Board discussed RRWMB membership. Nelson suggested that the office prepare a worksheet that calculates the percentage each watershed district contributes to the total RRWMB tax collection. The BRRWD has the largest tax base. VanAmburg pointed out that the other watershed districts also have the ability to raise revenue through the use of M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3. He questioned why they needed to levy the maximum 2 mil RRWMB tax when they could fund local projects with the ad valorem tax, which provides for more grass roots involvement in taxation issues by requiring local sponsors for specific projects. VanAmburg added that increasing the tax cap would not necessarily preclude the BRRWD from rejoining the RRWMB. The Board feels that besides the taxation issue, they have a number of other RRWMB organizational/governing/funding concerns that need to be addressed before they will be interested in rejoining. More discussion followed regarding the Managers' concerns with the RRWMB. The meeting with Senator Langseth is tentatively scheduled for 2/17/06. VanAmburg and Ellefson agreed to attend. Carlson will let Albright know the meeting location and time.

**DNR Red River Access Grant.** BRRWD Managers Olson and Nelson along with Albright attended a meeting with Robert Backman, Executive Director, River Keepers; Jim Skaurud, WRWD; and Rick St. Germain, H.E., on 2/02/06 in the River Keepers Fargo office to discuss a $300,000 DNR grant that has been made available for improved Red River access. River Keepers has access to $200,000 of the grant to install boat ramps and portages on the Red River. Albright prepared a memo of the meeting for the Board's review. River Keepers is looking for a project sponsor.

The Board discussed possible projects that could be developed in conjunction with this grant, including work on the Christine and Hickson Dams and the North Dam in Moorhead. Boat ramps could also be installed in Halstad and Hendrum. Through a Joint Powers Agreement in accordance with M.S.A. 103D.335, Subd. 2, Districts and Managers' Powers, the BRRWD and the WRWD could be sponsors for this project. At this time, the BRRWD wouldn't have to commit any money to the project, but costs that include administrative expenses, such as holding meetings, etc., could be counted as in-kind contributions. **Motion** by Nelson to enter into a Joint Powers Agreement with WRWD to sponsor this project. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.** Albright will contact Steve Dalen, WRWD Administrator, about who will draft the Joint Powers Agreement.

**River Watch.** Albright will meet with Sheila Carlson, Barnesville High School, to discuss the 2005 and 2006 River Watch Programs on 2/21/06.

**River Keepers.** Backman will be attending our 2/27/06 meeting to make a video presentation about the Water Festival.

**Tiling Workshop.** The University of Minnesota (U of M) Extension Service in partnership with North Dakota State University (NDSU) and South Dakota State University (SDSU) Extension Services, and MNLICA and Industry Partners are sponsoring the 2006 Agricultural Tile Drainage Design & Soil Water Management Workshop on February 21 and 22, 2006, in the Courtyard by Marriott Conference
Center in Moorhead. The workshop will provide information on agricultural tile drainage to farmers, landowners, crop advisors, consultants/technicians.

**Liability Insurance.** Our Officers and Managers liability insurance carrier, St. Paul Fire and Marine Company, has sent the BRRWD a precautionary notice of non-renewal. Our current coverage expires on 4/14/06. Because of the costs associated with our two ongoing lawsuits with A.R. Minch and Kenneth Johnson, the insurance carrier could increase our premium, or may even choose not to renew our coverage. The Board discussed possible alternate coverage if our insurance is cancelled.

**Becker County Ditch No. 5.** The Board discussed a letter the office received from Amer Froysland regarding another Soil Conservation Service (SCS) dam that is in need of repairs. Froysland would like the BRRWD to consider adding some type of covering to keep debris from entering the structure. The new owner of the property, Mark Green, is interested in having the structure repaired. H.E. has copied the SCS plans. After Opsahl completes his investigation this spring, H.E. will provide repair recommendations and a cost estimate. The Becker SWCD is willing to partner with the BRRWD for the cost of the work. **Tabled** until spring.

**Groundwater Mapping Presentation.** On 2/16/06 at 9:30 AM in the Moorhead City Council Chambers, Harvey Thorliefson, Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS), will be giving a 3-D presentation on recent geology/groundwater mapping, conducted by the MGS and DNR, as part of the Bureau of Reclamation's water supply study for the Fargo-Moorhead area. VanAmburg pointed out that this should be a very informative presentation.

**Water Supply Project EIS.** A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2006, at 7:00 PM in the Ramada Plaza Suites and Conference Center in Fargo on the draft Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project.

**Low Impact Development Seminar.** The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Public Policy Program are co-sponsoring a seminar featuring Larry Coffman, Low Impact Development (LID) Expert, regarding water resource and ecosystem protection and restoration. Coffman will present information on the latest technology in stormwater management, urban planning, and landscaping.

**BRRWD Lobbyist Newsletter.** Albright distributed copies of Carlson's press release for their review. Albright said Carlson has discussed the new eminent domain reform bill with the proponents, who reassured Carlson that they intend to draft language that will exclude Watershed Districts from their bill.

**MN Wetlands Protection Report.** The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) has published their 2006 annual report on their website. The report identifies causes for wetland losses and recommendations to reduce the trend.

**Waterfowl Symposium.** The 9th Annual MN Waterfowl Symposium will be held in Maplelag Resort on April 7-9, 2006. The symposium theme will be Management of Border Prairie Habitats for Waterfowl.
**Washington Testimony.** Albright testified before the Department of Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Rural Development and Research in December. The purpose of the hearing was to review the United States Department of Agriculture’s Watershed Programs. Albright recently received a transcript of his testimony.

**National River Rally.** The 2006 National River Rally will be held at the Mount Washington Resort in New Hampshire on May 5-9, 2006. Participants will be able to choose from a variety of activities including workshops, speakers, and meetings with agency representatives. Rally information is on file in the office.

**RRBFDRWG Proposal.** The RRBFRWG has asked their Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC) to consider a study of methods to quantify natural resource enhancement (nre) benefits that might be established as part of the flood damage reduction projects in the Red River Basin. Some TSAC members have suggested that an empirical rating system similar to the RRWMB's STar value might be useful. Brent Johnson, H.E., asked Albright to solicit comments from the Board regarding this proposal. VanAmburg hasn't heard the status of this proposal after the recent RRBFRWG meeting held on 2/01/06.

**March Conference.** The annual March Conference will be held on 3/30/06 in Crookston. To date, no further information has been made available.

**CREP II.** Pete Waller, BWSR, has gathered comments from agencies and watershed districts in the region regarding how to improve participation in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) II. Albright's comment was that there just wasn't enough funding to make the program attractive to landowners. Sign up for another Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) starts on 3/27/06.

**The following bills were presented for approval:**

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<td>Legislative Breakfast</td>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$66,630.23
Motion by Hanson to approve payment of the bills. Seconded by Nelson. Approved.

Next Meeting. The next regular meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Monday, February 27, 2006, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office.

Adjournment. Chairman Ellefson adjourned the meeting at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hanson, Secretary