A regular meeting of the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), was held on Monday, February 27, 2006, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. BRRWD Managers present were Roger G. Ellefson, E. Robert Olson, Curtis M. Nelson, and John E. Hanson. Others attending included: Bruce E. Albright, Erik S. Jones, and Julie Jerger, Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.); Robert Backman, Executive Director, River Keepers; Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator, Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB); Jim Ziegler, Detroit Lakes Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA); and landowners: Jim Haick and Joe Wulfekuhle.

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 2/13/06 regular meeting. Manager Olson noted a minor correction. **Motion** by Olson to approve the minutes. **Seconded** by Nelson. **Approved.**

**Treasurer's Report.** Albright reported that all the bills have been paid. The Midwest Bank note still has a $64,000 balance and our Midwest Bank Money Market Savings account has a $5,500 balance. The Board reviewed the Accounts Receivable report. We recently received $48,000 from Clay County for the Ditch No. 35 structure replacements. Harold Rotunda, CPA, is working on the 2005 audit and plans to present his findings to the Board at their 4/10/06 meeting.

**River Keepers.** Executive Director Bob Backman, River Keepers, presented a short video on the 2005 Water Festival. Last year, approximately 1,600 Fourth Grade students attended the 3-day event. This number represents 85% of all the fourth graders in the BRRWD and SE Cass Water Resource District. The festival provides "hands on" water activities with over 100 volunteers who donate nearly 1,000 hours of their time to make this event a success. Many of the volunteers are young adults who attended past festivals and are now returning as activity facilitators. With a budget totaling nearly $24,000, this festival is the second largest in the tri-state area and one of the largest in the entire United States. Backman thanked the Board for their support.

In 2003, River Keepers and the City of Moorhead filed a petition for the BRRWD to use its taxing authority under Minnesota Statutes Annotated (M. S. A.) 103D.905, Subd. 3, to contribute $36,000 per year for 2004, 2005, and 2006. This year, the funding petition will need to be renewed for 2007-2009. Backman will work with the City of Moorhead to draft a petition requesting the BRRWD to continue this support. The BRRWD will start preparing their 2007 budget in July/August for their budget hearing in September.

Managers Nelson and Olson attended a meeting with River Keepers regarding a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Grant to provide canoe portages and boat accesses along the Red River. The BRRWD and the Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD) have agreed to enter into a Joint Powers Agreement to sponsor this project and provide administrative services. Backman said that the DNR has given verbal approval for this arrangement. The DNR is in the process of drafting
the grant contract. A tentative meeting to discuss this proposal with the WRWD has been scheduled for 3/09/06 in H.E.'s Fargo office.

Ellefson discussed the BRRWD's request for the Legislature to increase our approximate $220,000 cap on M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3. We would like to raise the cap to approximately $660,000. The Managers felt that in order for the BRRWD to continue our support for organizations like River Keepers, we will need the proposed increase. The Managers asked for Backman's support on this issue. The office will forward information regarding this pending legislation to Backman for his review.

**River Watch Report.** Wayne Goeken, RRWMB Monitoring Coordinator, gave a report regarding the 2005 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies conducted within the BRRWD. Part of their work was done by the Barnesville and Hawley High School River Watch Teams. Thirty-five sites are being monitored within the BRRWD. Twenty-two of those sites are listed as non-supporting, meaning that they exceed the State's turbidity standard, which Goeken and Ziegler thought was very stringent. The biggest concern is turbidity and dissolved oxygen. The testing shows that in 2004, approximately 33,500 tons of sediment passed through the Buffalo River outlet at Georgetown, or on average, about 153 pounds per acre across the BRRWD. Goeken noted that the Barnesville High School River Watch Team is doing a great job coordinating the monitoring efforts for our area, and is probably the best team in the Red River Basin. They are one of the only teams that include biological sampling in their monitoring data. He added that Biology Teacher Sheila Carlson, the Team Supervisor, is an outstanding teacher. The Barnesville Team will be making a presentation at the River Watch Forum in Crookston on March 13, 2006. Goeken added that he considers the Barnesville Team the model of how schools should make their study presentations. The Hawley River Watch Team participates in the Adopt-A-River program where students are involved with river cleanup activities.

Jim Ziegler, MPCA, asked for the BRRWD's financial support in 2006 to continue with the condition monitoring. His request was for $8,400, which is the same amount as in 2005. The group discussed the financial shortfall the BRRWD is currently experiencing and the need for the Legislature to increase our revenue cap per M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3. Ellefson noted that the River Watch program is valuable to the BRRWD and we would like to set up a means to provide long term funding for this program through our taxing authority. Nelson felt that until the cap increase is secured, the BRRWD couldn't make a funding commitment. Ziegler mentioned that even if the BRRWD is unable to contribute this year, the MPCA and RRWMB will continue their sampling work in the BRRWD. The Board agreed to keep the River Watch funding request on the agenda and revisit this issue in May or June. Ziegler commented that the Barnesville High School River Watch Team is one of the best in the region. Goeken noted that the River Watch program has started work with Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to do sampling, and they also plan to include flow monitoring in conjunction with the TMDL studies. The group discussed the use of sampling tubes to monitor water turbidity.

**Other business brought before the Board included:**

**Project No. 24, Wilkin County Ditch No. 44.** On 2/21/06, the BRRWD held an informational meeting to discuss repair of the ditch system outlet on the South Branch of the Buffalo River. Petitioner Jim Haick asked the Board when they plan to make a decision regarding this cleanout project.
Albright mentioned that Manager Ellefson and he met with Joe Wulfekuhle, who is a downstream landowner in Section 5, Manston Township, and Tom Arnhalt on a different matter, but Wulfekuhle indicated that he was in favor of this project. He added that Mark Yaggie, who also farms in this area, has given the proposal his support. Albright plans to draft a petition to establish a project area along the South Branch of the Buffalo River, from the Ditch No. 44 outlet in Manston Township to the confluence of Deerhorn Creek and the South Branch in Atherton Township, to provide for an assessment area to do minor maintenance work and to start investigations regarding a larger project for this area.

Albright has talked with Ronald and Walter Jerger, who would like to have the Board reconsider their request for a flapgate on a culvert through County Road (C.R.) No. 182 along Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 9 in Section 9, Manston Township, Wilkin County. There has been long standing controversy surrounding the placement of a flapgate at this location. Presently, Jerger has removed the flapgate, but last summer someone blocked the culvert with straw bales. Haick has been opposed to Jerger's request for a flapgate because he feels it holds water from the South Branch on his property on the north side of the county road. Jerger feels the open culvert allows water from the South Branch to drain back south through C.R. 182 onto his property. Both landowners claim flooding/crop loss concerns. Albright told Jerger that he could file another permit application for the reinstallation of a flapgate at this location in conjunction with Haick's ditch/river cleanout project. When considering Jerger's request, the Board would take into consideration how much drainage improvement the proposed river cleanout work might provide.

Jim Haick was still opposed to Jerger's flapgate. Ellefson stated that the Board would like to address both issues with the pending cleanout project. Jones noted that during large flooding events, the flapgate would not change Haick's flooding potential. Haick felt that if the flapgate won't make a difference during flooding events, why install it. Ellefson commented that if the flapgate won't hurt drainage, why not install it. Haick felt that he will have more water in his field if the flapgate is installed. He would prefer to see the flapgate remain off until a larger project for the South Branch is completed. Ellefson felt that perhaps since neither project will have an effect on the larger flooding events, maybe neither should be done. He pointed out that Wulfekuhle and other area owners who are directly in line of the South Branch project don't oppose it. Ellefson indicated that Haick should consider a compromise on the flapgate issue if the BRRWD goes ahead with his cleanout project. Haick told the Board that if they don't move forward on the outlet cleanout on the west side of T.H. 9, he might clean the waterway on the east side of T.H. 9 to the original grade, removing 4'-5' of sediment. However, Haick said he would prefer to have the BRRWD complete the project as proposed.

Albright discussed the process needed to establish a project area that could ultimately lead to a larger project for the South Branch of the Buffalo River. The first step would be to prepare and solicit petition signers to establish a benefit area that could be used for beaver removal, minor sediment removal, culvert replacements, etc. Next, the Board would appoint Appraisers to determine benefits/damages. A hearing would have to be held to determine if landowners want a project area established. The Board discussed possible benefiting areas. Albright noted that Wilkin County Ditch No. 44 drains parts of the Rothsay Slough. He questioned if this area might be suitable for a retention site. Albright noted that this issue should also be addressed with our Comprehensive Plan update. The office will assist landowners to prepare a petition for the establishment a project area for the South Branch to start working on a long term project for this area. One of the first steps will be to survey the river channel.
Joe Wulfekuhle was not opposed to any work that could be done on the South Branch whether the work is upstream or downstream. Haick stated his support for a long-term project that would establish a benefit area to help with river maintenance, but he was still opposed to Jerger's flapgate. Albright mentioned that the Mediation Project Team (PT) discussed this issue at their last meeting. The MPCA representative noted that any project could be questioned if it outlets to impaired water; however, he supported any measures to keep the river clean. Ellefson noted that the upstream areas should be encouraged to install buffer strips. The Board decided not to make a decision tonight on the river cleanout project. Tabled.

**Project No. 21, Wilkin County Ditch No. 13-Lateral.** Joe Wulfekuhle has requested to add 80 acres in the S½SW¼, Section 5, Manston Township, to this ditch system. He distributed photographs of the area and the existing culvert/flapgate for the Board's review.

Albright gave a brief history of the benefit assessments for Ditch No. 13-Lateral. Wulfekuhle has built up the river banks in this area so that the river should not escape and flow from this parcel to the ditch systems. Ellefson noted that a hearing would have to be held with the ditch system landowners to determine if they wish to include Wulfekuhle's property in the ditch system. Albright noted that the property will also have to be added to Project No. 2, Wilkin County Ditch No. 13.

Albright noted that Wulfekuhle will need to apply for a permit to downsize the culvert and remove the flapgate so his property can drain into the ditch systems. He will also have to file a petition to add his property to each ditch system. The office will schedule a ditch system hearing and notices will be sent to the landowners. Wulfekuhle would like to start the process so it could be done by spring.

Haick had questions about beaver dam removal from DNR protected waterways. Albright gave both Haick and Wulfekuhle a brochure listing DNR rules regarding this issue.

**Permit No. 05-49, Otter Tail Valley Railroad (OTV).** Applicant proposes to replace an existing timber bridge in the SW¼, Section 13, Barnesville Township, Clay County, on the Whisky Creek "east tributary". The new structure will consist of two lines of 87" x 63" corrugated metal pipe-arch (CMP-A) with a combined waterway area of 62 square feet (sq. ft.). Jones completed a hydraulic analysis for the crossing in 2004 and recommended three lines of 71" x 47" CMP-A with a combined waterway area of 54.3 sq. ft. OTV was required to file a separate DNR permit for this work. Recently, OTV received the approved DNR permit. The Board had tabled this permit until the DNR permit was processed. They discussed OTV's plans for the replacement structures. Jones has already recommended permit approval. Motion by Hanson to approve Permit No. 05-49. Seconded by Nelson. Approved.

**Minch/Johnson Lawsuits.** Based on attorney/client privilege, and in accordance with Open Meeting Law, the Board went into closed session at 8:50 PM. At 9:25 PM, the Board reopened the meeting.

**Project No. 60, Swede Grove Lake Outlet.** A meeting with County representatives has been tentatively scheduled for March 6, 2006, at 4:00 PM, at the Clay County Highway Department. Albright has invited Jerry Waller, Clay County Commissioner, and Dave Overbo, Engineer, Clay County Highway Department, to discuss project alternatives/status.

**Project No. 59, Clay County Ditch No. 41-Lateral 3.** The Board has given Feder Properties a six month extension (8/14/06) regarding our request that Feder increase his petition bond to $20,000. 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.

**Project No. 58, Riverton Township Retention.** The Preliminary Resolution Hearing was held on 2/16/06. The office prepared a Preliminary Resolution Order, according to M. S. A. 103D.601, to continue with the project and authorize Jones to begin working on the project design. Jones noted that he plans to incorporate The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) suggested changes into the project design for their review. TNC would like to see the plans before signing their easement option. **Motion** by Hanson to sign the Order to continue the development of Project No. 58, Riverton Township Retention. **Seconded** by Olson. **Approved.**

Ellefson questioned how long Jones would need to complete his preliminary project design. Jones thought he could have a draft report ready for TNC's review in about 6 weeks. The Board would like to have TNC sign their easement option before the Final Hearing. The Board agreed to appoint the Appraisers so they can start their work. **Motion** by Nelson to appoint Eddie Bernhardson, Arvid Thompson, and Lauren Peterson as Appraisers, subject to their assent. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

**Project No. 57, Moorhead Interstate-94 (I-94) Flood Control Project.** Jones has received a construction contract and performance bond from All Seasons Contracting for the Board's signature. Jones has also prepared a permit application to Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) for culvert/ditch work associated with I-94 on their right-of-way (r-o-w). **Motion** by Hanson to sign both documents. **Seconded** by Olson. **Approved.**

**Project No. 56, Manston Slough Retention.** The BRRWD hired Appraiser David Lysne to conduct the Holubok building appraisal. Ellefson questioned if we would still need an appraisal in the event Holubok sells the building site privately. The Board decided the appraisal could still be useful when determining an easement value. An extended discussion followed regarding options for the building site.

Ellefson and Albright met with Joe Wulfekuhle and Tom Arnhalt regarding the exclusion of Arnhalt's property in the W½, Section 20, Manston Township, from the project. Wulfekuhle has concerns about seepage in the SW¼, Section 17, Manston Township.

Jones is in the process of preparing alternative alignments for the project. He has discussed installing piezometers for the groundwater study with Eric Mohring, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), who is interested in working with Jones to design a study to address seepage concerns. Ellefson felt that we will need expert advice regarding the seepage issue. Landowners will need scientific proof to ease their concerns. Jones presented a project development schedule at the last PT meeting.

**Project No. 54, Whisky Creek Tributaries.** Wade Opsahl, Technician, H.E., is still working on the record drawings and monitoring report. The majority of the easements will need more detailed legal descriptions before they can be recorded at the County Recorder's office. Opsahl will take care of this issue. Albright noted that the Minnesota Environmental Initiative (MEI) Award nomination application was submitted last week.
**Project No. 51, Clay County Ditch No. 68/City of Glyndon.** 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. Albright will meet with the Viewers before the meeting to help them prepare their testimony. Several landowners have contacted the office regarding this project.

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. Albright prepared a table showing our contribution percentage for similar projects in the BRRWD. The calculations show that the BRRWD's typical contribution was between 10%-30%, which would be approximately $31,000-$93,000 for Project No. 51. Because Manager VanAmburg planned to be absent tonight, Albright gave him a copy of this information last week, and VanAmburg had suggested that $50,000 would be an appropriate amount to contribute. **Motion** by Nelson to contribute $50,000 to City of Glyndon project, subject to the completion of the project. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.** The Board discussed selling bonds to finance the remaining costs associated with this project.

Truman Nelson has concerns about the project assessments and the proposed MNDOT removal of crossovers near his farmstead on T.H. 10. He feels that the BRRWD project may have to install a crossing with box culverts instead of the proposed texas crossing to provide access in his farmstead. The Board asked Jones to prepare some alternative structure estimates for the Final Hearing. Dale Fischer has also requested access to his property on the other side of the coulee in Section 3, Glyndon Township. Jones thought there was a texas crossing included in the project design for Fischer.

**Project No. 49, Oakport Township Flood Mitigation.** Representative Morrie Lanning notified Albright that he is scheduled to testify before the Agricultural, Environment, and Natural Resource Finance committee at 8:15 AM on 3/02/06 in St. Paul. The office will prepare hearing materials for the committee members. Greg Anderson, Oakport Town Chairman, will also attend. Representative Lanning would like to meet with Albright to discuss this project and the bill to increase the BRRWD's taxing authority via M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3. Nelson questioned if Senator Langseth has contacted Albright regarding this issue. The Board would like to see the levy cap raised in the 2006 session bill. According to BRRWD Lobbyist Joel Carlson, our bill has been drafted and has been delivered to Senator Langseth. Albright mentioned that the 2% median household income threshold language means that $439,400 will have to be raised at the local level for the Oakport project with a one time 1:1 match from the BRRWD/benefited parties. Albright suggested that the BRRWD could sell bonds to raise this amount. An extended discussion followed regarding the legislation to increase M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3.

**Project Nos. 44/45, Clay County Ditch Nos. 39/2, Lateral Petitions.** Joe Wipf, Spring Prairie Colony, has agreed to be the petitioner for Project No. 44. The Colony will provide the $20,000 petitioner's bond. Regarding Project No. 45, Albright needs to check on the owner of the property where the proposed lateral is located. Wipf would also be interested in completing this project, if possible. He thought the Colony could do the work with their machinery, and might even consider donating the r-o-w for the project.

Albright reported that the previous project bonds have expired. The Board was concerned that the bond company allowed the bond to expire without notifying the BRRWD. In the future, Albright suggested that we send letters to bonding companies indicating that bonds must remain in force until projects are ordered in or dismissed, and that the BRRWD must be notified if premiums aren't kept current.
Project No. 37, Clay County Ditch No. 41-Lateral No. 1. Albright will send a letter to the City of Moorhead indicating that they should be responsible for the costs associated with the deed preparation regarding a ditch easement on a small tract of land in Auditor's Outlot 4-2 and 4-5. At the last meeting, the Board authorized Albright to work with Attorney Norgard to correct the deed for a triangular piece of land lying between 15th Avenue North/T.H. 75 and Ditch No. 41. The Managers 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. 32, Hawley Diversion. Jones 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. To date, Jones has not received a response.

Project No. 23, Becker County Ditch No. 15. Jones presented a summary of the results of H.E.’s ditch repair investigations. On 12/29/05, Manager Hanson, Albright, and Jones reviewed the ditch for needed repairs. Jones noted that the repair recommendations start at the junction of the main ditch and Branch 7, proceeding upstream, and should be completed according to the 1991 Record Drawings. The repairs are estimated to cost approximately $40,000, excluding the portion of ditch on public land within the Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Jones noted that the estimate might be slightly high. Meetings with the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District (WMD) and Michael Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), should be scheduled, as 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.

Project No. 5, Spring Creek Detention. Landowner Harlan Manston contacted Albright to ask if he could install a ditch in the project easement area to drain a wet area associated with his gravel pit operation. Albright told Manston that the Board would have to investigate his request before any decision could be made. The Managers agreed to field review Manston's proposal this spring when conditions permit.

Mediation Project Team. The 4/06/06 PT meeting will be rescheduled, as this date conflicts with the Shallow Lakes Forum to be held in Willmar, MN, on April 5-6, 2006. The office will send out notices when a date has been selected.

Wilkin County Ditch No. 40/Lawndale Trout Stream Restoration. The landowner informational meeting was held on 2/15/06. The office is preparing meeting minutes.

MAWD Legislative Breakfast. The Board discussed the upcoming MAWD Legislative Breakfast, which is scheduled for March 22-23, 2006. All Managers plan to attend. The office has already sent in the registrations. A regional meeting with our Legislators is planned, including the BRRWD, Wild Rice, Pelican River, and Cormorant Lakes Watershed Districts. The Managers discussed when this meeting should be held. Lobbyist Joel Carlson has suggested that the regional meeting could be scheduled for approximately 5:00 PM on 3/22/06. Once the regional meeting time/locations are determined, the office will send invitations to our Legislators.

Revised Watershed Management Plan (RWMP). Mark Aanenson, H.E., would like to meet with Albright regarding the comprehensive plan update process. The Maple Grove H.E. office is working on the BRRWD Website design. Albright noted that he has spoken to Pete Waller, BWSR, regarding additional funding for the RWMP.
**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 to 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 and culvert information in the potential impoundment area. This potential project will be discussed with the PT. Albright noted 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 reported that Kevin Olsgaard has refiled the $10,000 petitioner's bond. **Motion** by Nelson to authorize H.E. to prepare the preliminary engineer's report. **Seconded** by Olson. **Approved.** The Board discussed the need to minimize engineering expenses.

**Office Supplies.** Albright plans to purchase an updated Wilkin County plat book. He has had trouble contacting the publisher. He added that several of our office chairs are broken and will need to be replaced. **Tabled.**

**Dick Nelson Memorial.** The Nelson Family sent a thank you to the BRRWD for our $100 memorial.

**Drainage Concern.** Two landowners are involved in a property line dispute in Section 3, Glyndon Township. Truman Nelson has asked the BRRWD to investigate his neighbor's drainage activities that cause water to back up along his adjacent field.

**EIS Comments.** Wenck Associates, Inc., has completed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Aggregate Industries Rollag area sand and gravel mine expansion project. Albright prepared a response to the EIS, which was sent to the Becker County Zoning Administrator, along with a copy of our Rules. In the correspondence, Albright noted that only part of the proposed project is within our boundaries and that a permit application should be filed for work within the BRRWD.

**BWSR Reorganization.** The Board discussed the recent BWSR staff reassignments.

**Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee.** H.E. filed their review of the proposed project area, including culvert locations/elevations inventory, permit work, channel maps, etc., for the Board's review. Jones noted that there are gaps in the channel profile information, and since there was no LIDAR data available for Wilkin County, no information was included for that area. The landowners want to schedule another Sub-PT Committee meeting before spring.

**Bond Sales.** Carolyn Drude, CIPFA, Ehlers and Associates, Inc., a public finance firm, recently forwarded information regarding a resolution for establishing procedures relating to compliance bond regulations under the Internal Revenue Code. Albright explained how the Board might be able to establish a resolution at the beginning of the year to help finance projects.

**Wilkin County Ditch No. 40 Repair.** Landowner Mark Yaggie has filed a petition to investigate the repair of Ditch No. 40. The repair work would start in the northeast corner of Section 2, Manston
Township, and continue west for 1.5 miles and then north 1.0 mile. Yaggie is concerned because water breaks out of the ditch onto his property, and during extreme flooding conditions, water will flow overland toward Wilkin County Ditch No. 44. **Tabled** pending Manager and H.E. field review.

**Clay County Ditch No. 40 Repair.** Mark Beedy filed a repair petition for Ditch No. 40. There are some plugged field inlets he would like to have cleaned on the land he rents from Neil Weezer. **Tabled** pending Manager field review in the spring.

**Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).** Albright visited with Scott Smith, NRCS, regarding funding for the Vertin Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) project associated with Project No. 54, Whisky Creek Tributaries. The NRCS owes the BRRWD about $90,000 for this work. Dennis Drewes, Inc., forwarded their fuel adjustment information for the Vertin site. According to the Fuel Escalation Clause (FEC), NRCS owes the BRRWD $750.46. Albright noted that he forwarded a bill to NRCS for the fuel adjustment today.

**Shallow Lakes Forum.** Several environmental agencies are sponsoring a forum to explore the relationships that shallow basins have with watersheds, land practices and hydrology alterations impacts, and shallow lake management. The Forum will be held April 5-6, 2006, at the Holiday Inn and Willmar Conference Center in Willmar, MN. Registration deadline is 3/22/06.

**Rapid Watershed Assessment.** NRCS is calling for proposals to do a rapid watershed assessment. The federal government has allocated $2 million to do initial studies, or $50,000 per project with a 1:1 match. Albright suggested this program could be applicable to the Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee area. He has contacted John Beckwith and Bob Honeman, NRCS, regarding this program. The application is due 3/15/06.

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

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**Motion** by Nelson to approve payment of the bills. **Seconded** by Olson. **Approved.**

**Next Meeting.** The next regular meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Monday, March 13, 2006, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office.

**Adjournment.** Chairman Ellefson adjourned the meeting at 11:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hanson, Secretary