The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held their annual meeting on Monday, January 14, 2008, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. BRRWD Managers present were Roger G. Ellefson, Gerald L. VanAmburg, Curtis M. Nelson, E. Robert Olson, and John E. Hanson. Others attending included: BRRWD Administrator 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 12/10/07 regular meeting. **Motion** by Nelson to approve the minutes. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

**Treasurer's Report.** The Board reviewed the year-end financial reports, and the current 2008 monthly statements. The year-end transactions included interest allocation and account transfers. Albright reported that the accounts are all in order and ready for the 2007 audit. The Board also reviewed the Accounts Receivable Summary and the 2007 ditch spraying cost breakdown. Albright noted that we received $18,140.39 from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the Manston Slough Restoration project and $2,000.00 from Mark Green for the dam repair on his property associated with Becker County Ditch No. 5. Albright reported that the BRRWD currently has a total of $347,201.90 on hand. **Motion** by VanAmburg to approve the Treasurer's Report and year-end account transfers. **Seconded** by Olson. **Approved.**

**Business brought before the Board included:**

**Permit No. 07-122, City of Moorhead.** Jones has completed his review of SRF Consulting's permit application to do grading, concrete and bituminous surfacing, drainage, lighting, signing and striping, traffic signals, and bridge work in conjunction with the City of Moorhead's 34th ST S Corridor and Interstate-94 (I-94) Interchange project. SRF plans to let bids for this project in March 2008. Based on his review, Jones recommended that the Board approve the application. The Board plans to delay action on this application until we hold the Clay County Ditch No. 47 preliminary hearing for channel modifications associated with the project. At the same time, we will hold a redetermination of benefits hearing for Americana Estates to combine their ditch assessments into the City of Moorhead's assessments and a hearing to address a proposal to add about 6 acres to the ditch system benefit area in conjunction with a proposed project for the 20th AVE S/21st ST S intersection. **Tabled.** Albright said the hearing is tentatively scheduled for 2/28/08.

**Permit No. 07-129, Burlington Northern Sante Fe (BNSF) Railroad.** Applicant proposes to replace an existing three-span timber bridge on Clay County Ditch No. 41 in the NE¼, Section 12, Moorhead Township, with two lines of 8' x 8' reinforced concrete box (RCB) culverts. The existing timber bridge is deteriorated and should be replaced. During his review, Jones found a datum discrepancy in BNSF's
hydraulic analysis that could affect the recommended size of the structure. He will work with BNSF regarding this issue. **Tabled.**

**Permit No. 07-130, Harmen Tande.** Applicant proposes to remove an approach on the north line of Sections 5/6, Riverton Township, Clay County, to alleviate flooding on his property. Tande would like to see the approach moved east to its original location on the north line of Section 5. A former operator of the Girten property in Section 5 moved the approach/culvert to its current location several years ago without a permit. Tande installed a dike to protect his field, and a protracted lawsuit followed. A recent H.E. property survey done for Tande shows that about 90% of the approach is actually on Tande's property. Albright recently learned that the party who had been interested in buying the Girten property this summer is no longer interested. **Tabled** pending BRRWD contact with the affected parties.

**Permit No. 08-01, Monsanto.** Applicant proposes to install 76 acres of patterned tiling in the S½SW¼, Section 12, Glyndon Township, Clay County. The work will include 1,510 linear feet (l.f.) of 12" dia. dual wall outlet pipe and approximately 800' of outlet ditch cleaning with a maximum cut of 1.7' to allow the tile to gravity flow. The applicant expects to improve crop production and address high groundwater table/alkali problems on this tract. Allen Fave, Research Scientist, Monsanto, indicated that he expects to start work on the project in June 2008. **Tabled** pending Manager field review.

**Minch/Johnson Lawsuits.** Based on attorney/client privilege, and in accordance with Open Meeting Law, the Board went into closed session at 7:20 PM to discuss the status of both issues. At 7:40 PM, the Board reopened the meeting.

**Grove Lake Outlet.** Albright plans to contact Kern Kuhlman to schedule a Manager field review of his Maple Lake outlet concerns when weather permits. Grove Lake landowners continue to contact the office to encourage the BRRWD to move forward with an outlet project for their area. The Board briefly discussed the alternative outlet proposals. A bill has been drafted that provides funding ($50,000) for this project, which we hope will be approved in the 2008 Legislative Session.

**Thomas Friederichs Diking Violation.** At their 10/22/07 meeting, the Board approved a motion to order Friederichs to open the dike he illegally installed along 150th ST S in the NE¼, Section 28, Elkton Township, Clay County, on land he rents from the Lamb Family. This dike restricts a centerline culvert in 150th ST S that carries natural drainage from the NW¼, Section 27, Elkton Township. On 10/23/07, the office sent Friederichs a letter giving him until 11/01/07 to make an opening in the dike in line with the centerline culvert to the natural ground elevation so that upstream water can continue to drain naturally to the northwest. Friederichs is working with the Fergus Falls Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop a Swampbuster restoration plan, which includes partial dike removal. The Board discussed their legal options and agreed to delay action until NRCS implements their restoration plan.

**James Giedt Drainage Concerns.** Pete Waller, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), contacted the office regarding a letter Jim Haertel, BWSR, received from James Giedt, regarding his drainage concerns in Section 2, Riverton Township, Clay County. Waller would like the BRRWD to provide information about this ongoing drainage issue so that they can send Giedt a response. The Board reviewed and discussed Giedt's letter. The letter included maps illustrating Giedt's concerns. Albright has sent some preliminary information to Waller and plans to work with him on their response.

**Zimmerman Drainage Concern.** Paul Fossum contacted the office last fall with concerns regarding road ditch maintenance in the NW¼, Section 4, Moland Township, Clay County, along Gerald Zimmerman's property. This general area has been the topic of several meetings regarding Clay County Ditch Nos. 3 and
65. The neighboring landowner would like Zimmerman to clean his ditch along 80th ST N to improve drainage to County Ditch No. 65. Albright sent Zimmerman a letter regarding this issue. Zimmerman responded that he is not interested in cleaning his ditch on the east side of County Road (C.R.) No. 89 unless Richard Wang cleans the downstream natural waterway on his property in Section 5, Moland Township. The Board discussed Zimmerman's letter. Albright will send a copy of Zimmerman's letter to Fossum.

**Lynn Brakke Drainage Concerns.** Albright sent Brakke a copy of the 11/22/04 H.E. survey, to review his drainage concerns in the NE¼, Section 10, Wolverton Township, Wilkin County. Among Albright's comments, he noted that the ditch along the SW¼, Section 3, Wolverton Township, appears to need grading, and a field approach for the Gary and Paul Israelson property could be lowered and the culvert resized. Albright suggested that Brakke work with the Israelsons regarding the concerns. The landowners will need to apply for a BRRWD permit for any work in this area that changes drainage.

**Project No. 62, Clay/Wilkin J.D. 1-Branch 4-Improvement/Extension.** The office has drafted the preliminary hearing notice. Albright had tentatively scheduled the preliminary hearing for 2/19/08, but Jones pointed out that he will be unavailable on that date. Albright will check with the Comstock Community Center for alternative dates. He will also contact Rick Brakke regarding the petitioner's bond.

**Project No. 61, Clay County Ditch No. 11-North-Improvement.** David L. Overbo, Engineer, Clay County Highway Department, contacted Albright today regarding the development of a new county culvert policy. Overbo also would like to set up a meeting with the BRRWD and John Leseth regarding a replacement structure for his bridge on Clay County Ditch No. 11N in the NW¼, Section 32, Kurtz Township. The County would like to eliminate Leseth's private crossing. Overbo also discussed installing two driveways for Leseth to keep the house and farmyard access separate. The BRRWD had previously approved a motion in support of a three-way split of the costs for this bridge replacement project with Leseth and Clay County.

**Project No. 60, Swede Grove Lake.** Nelson suggested that we schedule a meeting with landowner Chuck Carlson and the Clay County Highway Committee regarding this proposed outlet project. The Highway Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month. The Board discussed the status of the project. Albright will arrange the meeting once Overbo gets back to him on their next meeting. It appears 2/06/08 won't work because of another meeting on that same day.

**Project No. 58, Riverton Township Retention.** At the 12/13/07 Mediation Project Team (PT) meeting, Bob Honeman, Area Resource Conservationist, NRCS, suggested that we hold a meeting with Brian Winter, The Nature Conservancy (TNC); Sharon Lean, District Conservationist, NRCS; and landowner Tim Pender to discuss the wetland issues. Because TNC is listed as an agricultural producer, the wetland issues are NRCS's responsibility, and Lean has jurisdiction over the wetland review process. Mark Aanenson, H.E., who is a certified wetland delineator, has prepared a wetland delineation report for the project. Winter would like to have the wetland issues resolved before TNC signs the easement documents, or we should add language to the easement option agreement to address TNC's potential wetland mitigation issues and farm program benefits. To date, Winter has not contacted Albright about the easement concerns.

Jones is working with the DNR on the dam safety issues. He and Mike Love, H.E., had a conference call with the DNR regarding our dam safety permit application. Jones will send models to the DNR that will show the effect of snowmelt on the impoundment site for their review. Jones explained that a dam safety permit must be obtained if there are embankments over 6' high with a storage capacity of over 50 acre-feet. Jones didn't feel there were any dam safety issues that couldn't be resolved. He estimated it should take the
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DNR about two weeks to complete their review. Albright noted that the BRRWD’s goal is to let bids for this project in April 2008.

**Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration.** Don Schultz, DNR; John Voz, Ducks Unlimited and WRP Specialist; Corey Elmer, Vogel Law Firm; and Andy Beyer, past Chairman of the Kent Rod and Gun Club, met to discuss the status of the Kent Rod & Gun Club property in the NW¼, Section 30, Manston Township, Wilkin County. When this property was originally acquired in 1947, each member of the club received a 1/29th share. The Rod and Gun Club supports the project, but it could be very complicated to sort out the legalities regarding the ownership of this tract. The Club could be eligible for WRP, at the non-cropland payment rate. Elmer is updating the abstract to sort out the ownership issues.

Rick St. Germain, Engineer, H.E., Jones, and Albright met on 1/08/08 to discuss the project. St. Germain plans to revise the development schedule. Voz plans to contact Dennis VanWechel regarding a WRP easement on his property in the SW¼, Section 13, Mitchell Township, Wilkin County. Albright has not had a chance to visit with Steve Holubok regarding his request to crop the Holubok property in 2008. NRCS will conduct the archeological survey next spring as soon as conditions permit. Mark Aanenson, H.E., plans to have the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) completed for the Board's review and signature at the 1/28/08 meeting.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) forwarded another letter regarding some issues about the structure design. St. Germain will formulate a response and schedule a meeting with USFWS to discuss this issue. The Board discussed the structure changes the USFWS would like to have incorporated into the project. Jones noted that the downstream ditch capacity would be exceeded if we implemented their suggestions. Part of the issues relate to flood damage reduction (fdr) versus natural resource enhancement (nre) features. However, we also have to consider the existing condition.

**Project No. 54, Whisky Creek Tributaries.** David L. Overbo, Engineer, Clay County Highway Department, contacted Albright regarding the drainage issue in Sections 20/21, Humboldt Township, involving William Thompson, Greg Settelmeyer, and Wallace and Virgil Holt. Overbo found cross-sections for C.R. 25 from the 1930s, but no original plans. He noted that according to the information he found, the area is supposed to drain north along the east side of C.R. 25 to the DNR waterway that crosses C.R. 25 near Virgil Holt's farmstead. Albright advised Overbo that the Board plans to wait until spring to see how the upstream Nichol Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) site performs. It could be that the drainage problems in Sections 20 and 21 will be reduced significantly because of that project.

**Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation.** Albright is working on scheduling a landowner informational meeting possibly in early April. It has been difficult to find a venue large enough to accommodate the number of attendees we expect. The Dilworth Community Center is one possibility. Olson suggested the Technical College might have an auditorium that is large enough. The Oakport Technical Committee meets again on 1/29/08 at 9:00 AM in the Moorhead Police Department.

The Board discussed possible bonding legislation for this project. Representative Morrie Lanning introduced a bill last year for $10 million, but in light of other state disasters last fall, more money could be diverted to infrastructure repair around other parts of the state.

Albright reported that the Thene house was the last buyout in 2007. The Fetzer's have asked for an extension until the end of January to move out of their house. They will pay for the heat and personal
insurance until they move. Approximately 10 properties along North Broadway are eligible for buyouts. Of those, we have referred three to Appraiser Guy Miller. Kye Grundyson had Miller conduct an appraisal and decided to accept the value ($185,000). Miller has not yet contacted the other landowners. Albright is trying to contact Miller to check on his schedule.

Albright reported that we have received the signed Grant Agreement Amendment No. 2 from Pat Lynch, FDR Hydrologist, DNR Waters. Ulteig Engineers, Inc., (UEI) has provided an activities update for the Board's review. Albright met with landowner Jerry Skalicky in our Barnesville office on 12/11/07. Skalicky still has several reservations about the project. Steve Hofstad, Water Resources Management Technician, Clay Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and others have conducted a review of UEI's wetland delineation work. They had some questions that UEI will have to address. Another field review will be conducted in the spring. The Board would like to start project construction later this fall.

**Project No. 38, Farmstead Ringdikes.** Albright sent a letter to Kent Lokkesmoe, Director, DNR Waters, regarding the Kragnes Ringdike design. The site makes it difficult to construct a dike in accordance with the grant agreement language, which references a 2' minimum dike height criteria over the known highwater, or 2' above the administrative 100-year flood elevation. He suggested that the project description in Exhibit A on the grant agreement be revised to reflect the proposed design. To date, Lokkesmoe has not responded.

Jones has finally received answers from the BNSF Railroad, and has completed the BNSF license agreement for the Board's signature. He will forward the signed document to BNSF. Jones noted that he also mailed the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) permit application today. He has prepared an easement document for the Grindahl property. There will be some diking located west of their house. Jones has also prepared a draft Operation and Maintenance (O&M) plan for the Board's signature.

Albright has sent billings for the Butze ringdike to the DNR ($15,000) and John Butze ($2,187.40). The DNR has provided a new grant agreement for 2008 ringdike construction, which is valid until 6/30/09. They have increased their maximum share for a ringdike project from $15,000 to $20,000. Three pending BRRWD ringdike applications are still on file from previous years, but Opsahl feels that dike construction will be difficult at these sites. Albright suggested that the Board could field review the sites to see if they had any ideas regarding construction options. **Motion** by VanAmburg to authorize Ellefson to sign the 2008 DNR ringdike grant on the Board's behalf. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

**Project No. 35, Clay County Ditch No. 47.** Albright has tentatively scheduled a hearing for this ditch system regarding the 34th ST Interchange Project on 2/28/08 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Moorhead City Hall. He will check with the City of Moorhead regarding this date. The office will prepare a hearing notice for the Board's signature at the next meeting.

**Project No. 32, Hawley EDA Diversion.** Jones is still trying to get a response from Joe Kelly, Hancock Concrete Products Company, regarding the deteriorating diversion pipe on Project No. 32, and possible culvert replacement. The City of Hawley would like to meet on this issue as soon as possible.

**Mediation PT.** The BRRWD will hold their next PT meeting on Thursday, January 31, 2008, at 1:30 PM in the MSUM Science Center near Glyndon. The office will send notices.

**Comprehensive Planning.** Albright plans to start his review of the draft plan this week and forward his comments to Brennan Schaefer, Minneapolis office, H.E. The office has scheduled a Citizen and Technical Advisory Committee (CAC/TAC) full day meeting for 2/05/08 at 9:00 AM at the Eagle Café, Barnesville.
The group will review the problems identified during the regional meetings and work on possible goals for those areas. The office will prepare a meeting agenda and mail notices.

Jones needs to finish the hydrologic model. Following the CAC/TAC meeting, we'll have an idea if there is a need for this group to meet again. With the information from the CAC/TAC, H.E. can complete writing the draft plan. When the draft plan is finished, Albright plans to hold two more combined regional meetings for the landowners to review the proposed solutions, and then the plan can be distributed for agency review. The BWSR grant's deadline for RWMP completion is 12/31/08.

**Clay County Ditch No. 49.** Albright will schedule a hearing this winter for the redetermination of benefits. Downstream landowners have expressed concerns regarding the proposed structure changes, which can also be discussed at the hearing. Overbo plans to provide survey information for the structures to be added under his jurisdiction.

**Wilkin County Ditch No. 40.** Jones has completed his review of the DNR hydrology report for the Lawndale Creek Restoration project. He presented a letter summarizing his findings. Jones felt that the DNR's proposed project will improve conditions and provide better channel capacity. Jones had concerns about the DNR's proposal to block the natural waterway during the two-year revegetation period, which would force County Ditch No. 40 to overflow. His report includes recommendations regarding this issue. Jones feels the BRRWD should retain their right to maintain the existing flowline and to operate the stoplog structure as needed to regulate flows into County Ditch No. 40. The BRRWD office will forward Jones' report to the DNR for their review. The BRRWD will schedule a ditch system hearing this spring/summer. The DNR plans to start construction this fall. Right now, they are going through the environmental review process.

**Becker County Ditch No. 5.** Mark Green has paid the BRRWD for his share of the cost ($2,000) for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) dam repair in the SE¼NW¼, Section 22, Audubon Township. The Becker SWCD's share for the Green dam was $3,000, and $3,620 for the Froysland SCS dam in the W½SW¼, Section 22, Audubon Township, which they plan to pay following authorization at their Board meeting tomorrow. Jones has finished the site hydrology work for the design of the USFWS proposed second structure upstream of the Froysland dam on Becker County Ditch No. 5. At their 11/12/07 meeting, the Board approved a motion authorizing Jones to work with the USFWS to prepare the project concept.

**Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) Dispute Resolution.** The BRRWD met with Representative Lanning and Senator Langseth on 12/17/07 in Moorhead to discuss the extension of our M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3, levy increase. Lobbyist Joel Carlson also attended the meeting. Albright explained that while preparing the information packet with Carlson, they discovered that the Legislature had given us the levy increase for three years (2007, 2008, and 2009), instead of two as we thought. Due to the wording of the legislation, the BRRWD has the increased taxing authority until 2009. Representative Lanning suggested that the BRRWD present a bill proposing the changes we would like to see the RRWMB adopt. Carlson suggested that we have a draft bill ready for submission before the Legislative Session begins on 2/12/08. The Board discussed their ideas about RRWMB changes. They agreed there should be fundamental changes regarding the RRWMB's taxing methods, budget/auditing procedures, administrative expenditures, and Board membership criteria. The Managers will work with the office regarding their ideas.

The Board discussed the Wild Rice Watershed District's (WRWD) recent land acquisition at an auction near Barnesville. They questioned if it was advisable for a Watershed District to purchase land, especially in areas out of their jurisdiction. The office received a number of telephone calls regarding this issue from area landowners who were upset because they thought the BRRWD had purchased the property. When
Nelson discussed this issue with our Legislators, Langseth questioned if other districts were buying land for trade. Nelson contacted Naomi Erickson, RRWMB Administrator, to request information about the RRWMB funding for land acquisitions. Erickson responded to Nelson's verbal request by asking the BRRWD to submit a formal written request for the information. Albright sent a letter to Erickson requesting excerpts from the RRWMB minutes, etc, regarding this issue. The Board discussed some of the information Nelson received from Erickson. Nelson also read meeting minutes from the WRWD, where they discussed RRWMB funding for farmland acquisition. Albright pointed out that although the BRRWD purchased homes in Oakport Township and the Holubok farm in Manston Township, all the transactions were directly related to a specific project, and the properties will be turned over to other entities/agencies upon project completion. The BRRWD has always preferred taking easements for project construction and leaving the land in the hands of private landowners.

Albright noted that he found information on the internet about the Bois de Sioux Watershed District's newest project, El Dorado 7, which included an early, middle, late contribution map for their district. He said landowners have asked the BRRWD to provide this type of information when we develop projects for our district.

### Clay County Ditch No. 31 Repairs
Jones filed his recommendations regarding a 2006 repair request for County Ditch No. 31. Albright suggested that this report could be reviewed at the CAC/TAC meeting in February.

### Clay County Ditch No. 63 Repair
As part of the agreement between David Watt and Chad Leach (Permit No. 07-126), the landowners requested that the BRRWD investigate repairs for this ditch system, which is located along the south side of C.R. 19 north of Glyndon. At their 11/26/07 meeting, the Board authorized H.E. to conduct a repair investigation. Jones has completed an investigation regarding the original 1971 ditch construction records. Clay County repaired the ditch in the mid-1980s. In the spring, H.E. will take test pits and conduct a field survey.

### Becker County Ditch No. 19
Albright noted that the landowners have been advised that the BRRWD did not levy a 2008 assessment for this ditch system. The office plans to schedule a meeting regarding their request for ditch abandonment later this winter. The Board discussed the abandonment process. An area landowner contacted the office in this regard today.

### BWSR Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP)
Following the 2007 Legislative Auditor's Watershed Management Report, the Legislature amended Minnesota Statutes Annotated (M. S. A.) 103B.102 to give BWSR new responsibilities to monitor, report, and enhance the performance of local government water management entities. BWSR has hired Don Buckhout, formerly with DNR, as the full-time PRAP administrator. This program will function as a performance oversight mechanism for SWCDs and Watershed Districts.

### Southside Flood Control Project (SSFC)
Albright, Olson, and Nelson attended a Steering Committee Meeting on 2/06/07 to view a presentation of the SSFC and review project alternatives. The City of Fargo has scheduled another meeting regarding this proposal for 2/07/08 at 1:00 PM in the Fargo City Hall.

### Liability Insurance
Albright noted that the Legislature has mandated an increase in the 2008 court liability limits. John Hoffman, ICS Agency, indicated that the BRRWD's liability insurance premium could increase approximately $750 per year. The Managers' Directors and Officers (D&O) liability insurance premiums will not go up, as our current coverage meets the new regulation limits.
Managers' Appointments. The office sent a notice to the Clay County Auditor that Managers VanAmburg and Nelson's terms will expire on 8/31/08. The office also filed Manager Ellefson's 2007 appointment with the various agencies.

319 NonPoint Source Management Grant. The office received the 319 Grant Agreement from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for our signature. This 319 Grant, titled "Buffalo-Red River Watershed Sediment Modeling for BMP Implementation," will fund a model of the South Branch and Main Stem of the Buffalo River. It is a continuation grant for Phase 2 of their Section 319/Clean Water Partnership (CWP) Implementation Pilot Project. The project will provide real application strategies for the BRRWD and County Comprehensive Plans and will expand on the previous study done by the University of Minnesota to develop a computer model using annualized Agricultural Non-Point Source (annAgNPS) model. The Board has already approved a motion to enter into this grant agreement, so Albright signed the contract on behalf of the Board, following review by Brennan Schaefer, H.E. Schaefer indicated that this modeling probably won't be completed in time to provide much data for the Revised Watershed Management Plan (RWMP), but the modeling information will be used as a reference.

PERA Report. Albright prepared the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) Annual Exclusion Report and Certification form for the Board's review. Motion by Nelson to authorize Ellefson to sign the Certification form on behalf of the Board. Seconded by Hanson. Approved.

Lobbying Activities Report. Because the BRRWD employs a Lobbyist, we are required by law to file an annual report regarding our lobbying activities with the State Auditor's office. Albright will prepare the online form and have it ready for the Board's signature at the next meeting.

Bush Foundation Grant. Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator, RRWMB, has applied for a Bush Foundation Grant to provide funding to expand on the High School River Watch program's success by developing projects to integrate River Watch into the area schools' curriculum. The proposed Watershed Training, Research, Action, Capacity, and Engagement (TRACE) project will connect River Watch Teams with local resource professionals and decision-makers, organize, and host regular training sessions through teacher academies, and ultimately engage at least five communities in dialog that will lead to a sustainable future for the River Watch program. Goeken asked Albright to be a reference for the grant application. Sheila Carlson, Barnesville High School Biology Teacher and River Watch Team leader, has also been working with Goeken on this grant application.

County Delinquent Taxes Reports. In preparation for the 2007 audit, the office has sent a tax receivable form and letter to Wilkin, Becker, Clay, and Otter Tail Counties to request that they report their delinquent Watershed District collections. The information should be returned to the BRRWD by 2/01/08.

2007 Dam Inspections. Opsahl has completed the annual dam inspections for Stinking Lake Detention, Hay Creek Detention-Bjornson, Spring Creek Detention-Henry and Stony Creek Detention. He prepared a report of his findings and repair recommendations for the Board's review. No major repairs were noted. The BRRWD plans to work with the DNR regarding the 2008 pool elevations. The report included a summary of activities at each project, as well as water elevation graphs.
Subsurface Drainage Forum. The North Dakota/Minnesota Subsurface Drainage Forum will be held at the North Dakota State University (NDSU) on Thursday, February 14, 2008, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Registration deadline is 2/08/08. Topics will include drain tiling.

Red River Basin Mapping Initiative (RRBMI). At their 11/26/07 meeting, the Board approved a motion to send a letter to William Hunt, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), NRCS State Conservationist, in support of the RRBMI and encouraging the NRCS to consider committing additional federal funds in 2008 and 2009 to ensure successful completion of the project. Albright sent our letter on 12/18/07.

ALLTEL Communications Tower. Tom Eagen, Egan Realty Services (ERS) sent the BRRWD a letter asking the Board to consider leasing a small tract of land in Oakport Township so they could erect a wireless communications tower for ALLTEL Communications. Albright will contact Kent Lokkesmoe, DNR, to find out if the buyout property that we own in Oakport Township could be used in this manner. He noted that most of the property is probably in the floodplain. The Board felt the request should also be forwarded to Greg Anderson, Chairman, Oakport Township.

WCA Meetings. BWSR is holding several statewide meetings in order to involve local government units (LGUs) in the permanent rulemaking process for the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). A meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow, January 15, 2008, in Fergus Falls. Albright noted that these meetings are targeted for agencies that are directly involved with WCA enforcement.

Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) 2008 Annual Conference. The RRBC Annual Conference will be held on January 22-24, 2008, at the Ramada Plaza Suites, Fargo. The Conference theme is "The Power of A Dream." Managers Nelson, Hanson, and VanAmburg plan to attend. The RRBC is offering booth space for the BRRWD. Albright will set up the BRRWD's booth.

Tax Reporting Forms. Albright noted that the office has prepared the 1099 and W-2 tax information and will forward it to the Gilbertson Tax Office in the next few weeks. The Form 1099 and W-2 filing deadline is 1/31/07.


Cryptosporidium Research. Jon McEvoy, PhD, NDSU, requested a letter of support from the BRRWD to the USDA for his research proposal to study the source, fate, and transport of cryptosporidium in the BRRWD. Albright prepared a draft letter for the Board's review. Motion by VanAmburg to approve the referenced letter. Seconded by Hanson. Approved.

Lobbyist Report. BRRWD Lobbyist Joel Carlson provided a report regarding the Governor's 2008 budget proposals for the Board's review.

2008 BRRWD Annual Meeting. Election of 2008 Officers. Motion by Olson to cast a unanimous ballot to re-elect the 2007 officers. Seconded by Hanson. Approved. The BRRWD officers for 2007 will be as follows: Chairman-Roger Ellefson, Vice Chairman-Gerald VanAmburg, Treasurer-Curtis Nelson, and Secretary-John Hanson.
Appointment of 2008 Consultants. Jones presented H.E.'s 2008 proposal for engineering services. The individual staff members will remain the same. The fee schedule reflects about a 3%-4% increase. The Board discussed H.E.'s proposal. The Board also reviewed Vogel Law Firm's proposal for 2008 legal services. Attorneys Tami Norgard and Cory Elmer will again be the BRRWD's principal legal staff. The Board discussed BRRWD Lobbyist Joel Carlson's 2007 consulting agreement proposal. His fee for 2008 will be $850/month. **Motion** by Hanson to appoint Vogel Law Firm as the 2008 legal consultant on an as needed basis at the Board's discretion, H.E. as the BRRWD's 2008 engineering consultant, and to retain Joel Carlson as the BRRWD's Lobbyist for 2008. **Seconded** by Nelson. **Approved**.

2007 Financial Audit. Harold Rotunda, Certified Public Accountant (CPA), submitted a letter of agreement regarding his services to conduct the 2007 audit. He indicated that the fee for his services will be $1,900. **Motion** by Olson to hire Rotunda to do the 2007 audit, and for Gilbertson Tax Office to prepare the 2007 W-2s and 1099s. The motion also includes designating Wells Fargo Bank and Midwest Bank, Barnesville, as the official 2008 BRRWD depositories, subject to the use of any other depositories within the District as needed throughout the year, provided they are FDIC insured. **Seconded** by VanAmburg. **Approved**.

Viewers' Compensation. The Board discussed increasing the Viewers' per diem pay. **Motion** by VanAmburg to approve a $10 per diem pay increase (from $50 to $60) for the Viewers. **Seconded** by Nelson. **Approved**.

Computer System Update. John Murray, H.E., prepared an estimate to update the office computer system. Murray's estimate includes new server technology that will provide more secure backup capabilities and increased access for staff and Managers. Julie Jerger's computer workstation and printers will be also be updated. The total estimated cost is approximately $14,800. **Motion** by Hanson to approve expenditures for the computer system up to $15,000. **Seconded** by VanAmburg. **Approved**. The office transcriber also needs to be replaced. **Motion** by Hanson to authorize the office to purchase a new transcription machine. **Seconded** by Olson. **Approved**.

MAWD Annual Report. Ray Bohn, MAWD, forwarded the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) annual report for the Board's review.

Project Open House. SRF Consulting is holding an open meeting regarding the City of Moorhead's proposed project for the 20th AVE S/21st ST S intersection on January 15, 2008, from 5:00-7:00 PM at the Moorhead Technical College.

The following bills were presented for approval:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accounts Payable</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barnesville Phone Co.</td>
<td>12/25/07 billings</td>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>$163.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce E. Albright</td>
<td>Norton Internet Security</td>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>$53.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruce E. Albright</td>
<td>12/17/07 meeting dinner</td>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>$78.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay Co. Treasurer</td>
<td>Ditch listings</td>
<td>Pjs. 35/62</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtis M. Nelson</td>
<td>Voucher #0728, 11/01-12/31/07</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>$1,150.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deluxe Business</td>
<td>250 checks</td>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>$99.92</td>
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<tr>
<td>E. Robert Olson</td>
<td>Voucher #0728, 11/01-12/31/07</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>$760.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerald L. VanAmburg</td>
<td>Voucher #0730, 11/01-12/31/07</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>$1,064.62</td>
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<tr>
<td>H.E.</td>
<td>December billing summary</td>
<td>Varies-see attach</td>
<td>$42,620.06</td>
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January 14, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date/Category</th>
<th>Voucher/Note</th>
<th>Admin</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IRS</td>
<td>Form 941 4th Qtr. Taxes</td>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>$734.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>J&amp;J Braton Properties</td>
<td>January 2008 office rent</td>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joel Carlson</td>
<td>January 2008 Lobbyist fees</td>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>$850.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>John E. Hanson</td>
<td>Voucher #0727, 11/01-12/31/07</td>
<td>Varies</td>
<td>$850.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN Viewers Assn.</td>
<td>2008 associate/memberships (3)</td>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moorhead Public Service</td>
<td>11/05/07-12/04/07</td>
<td>Pj. 49, Oakport</td>
<td>$187.81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern States Excavating</td>
<td>#470, ditch repair</td>
<td>Clay C.D. No. 33</td>
<td>$8,484.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petty Cash</td>
<td>Postage, supplies, etc.</td>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prairie Restorations</td>
<td>#110916, seed cleaning</td>
<td>Pj. 58, Riverton</td>
<td>$7,790.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Premium Waters, Inc.</td>
<td>#366590-12-07, monthly statement</td>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>$27.52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Randy Rick</td>
<td>December property management</td>
<td>Pj. 49, Oakport</td>
<td>$220.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red River Coop</td>
<td>11/10/07-12/10/07 service</td>
<td>Pj. 49, Oakport</td>
<td>$152.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roger G. Ellefson</td>
<td>Voucher #0726, 11/01-12/31/07</td>
<td>Varies</td>
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<tr>
<td>RRBC</td>
<td>Hanson Conference Registration</td>
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<td>TDS Metrocom</td>
<td>Long distance billings</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRN Abstract &amp; Title</td>
<td>Grundyson abstract</td>
<td>Pj. 49, Oakport</td>
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<tr>
<td>UEI</td>
<td>#36087, 11/01-07-11/30/07</td>
<td>Pj. 49, Oakport</td>
<td>$30,070.69</td>
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<td>Vogel Law Firm</td>
<td>#23, November billing</td>
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<td>Vogel Law Firm</td>
<td>#24, 1/04/08 statement</td>
<td>Pjs. 49/56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vogel Law Firm</td>
<td>#9, 1/07/08 statement/Johnson</td>
<td>Admin</td>
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<td>Vogel Law Firm</td>
<td>#1, Johnson collection</td>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>$268.50</td>
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<td>WREC</td>
<td>11/18/07-12/18/07 billings</td>
<td>Pj. 46, Turtle Lake</td>
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<td>Xcel Energy</td>
<td>12/20/07-12/26/07 service</td>
<td>Pj. 49, Oakport</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Next Meeting. The Board of Managers, BRRWD, will hold their next meeting on Monday, January 28, 2008, in the Barnesville office at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment. Chairman Ellefson adjourned the meeting at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hanson, Secretary