

# ***BUFFALO-RED RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT***

BARNESVILLE, MINNESOTA 56514

123 FRONT STREET SOUTH – PO BOX 341

PHONE 218-354-7710

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## **MINUTES FOR MANAGERS' MEETING December 10, 2007**

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held their regular meeting on Monday, December 10, 2007, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. BRRWD Managers present were Roger G. Ellefson, John E. Hanson, E. Robert Olson, Gerald L. VanAmburg, and Curtis M. Nelson. 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 11/26/07 regular meeting. **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, summary of income, and the Accounts Receivable report. Since the last financial report, we received the second-half property/ditch tax payments from Becker, Otter Tail, Wilkin, and Clay Counties, totaling \$475,842.93. Albright noted that we should receive the final ditch tax payments from Clay County before the end of the year. We have another buyout for the Oakport Flood Mitigation project on 12/18/07 for the Thene house (approximately \$305,000). Albright suggested that we might have to advance some money from our Midwest Bank line of credit to cover this expense if we don't receive reimbursement from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for general expenses associated with Riverton Township Retention, Manston Slough Restoration, and the Oakport Flood Mitigation projects. In addition, the office also sent the DNR a reimbursement request for the Fetzer buyout. To date, we have not received that payment. Albright noted that according to the Grant Agreement, the DNR has 60 days to process our pay requests. We currently have \$370,838.20 on hand. At the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) annual meeting, the Managers met Pat Lynch, DNR, who will be taking over Ed Fick's position at DNR Waters. Fick will be retiring in the next few weeks. Fick told Albright that the DNR has appropriated another \$1 million for the Oakport project at the 98%-2% cost share rate. A grant amendment will be coming from the DNR regarding this funding for the Board's signature.

Albright noted that he has sent pay requests to the City of Moorhead, City of Dilworth, Oakport Township, and Clay County to reimburse the BRRWD in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding cost sharing for the City of Fargo's 2002 Aerial Mapping Project/Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Analysis. The Board approved payment to the City of Fargo at our 11/26/07 meeting (\$12,048.43). **Motion** by VanAmburg to approve the Treasurer's Report. **Seconded** by Olson. **Approved.**

### **Business brought before the Board included:**

Albright noted that the BRRWD processed approximately 130 permit applications in 2007. There are only a few applications still pending.

**Permit No. 07-51, Mike Lewis.** Albright noted that he has not had time to contact Lewis regarding a 60" dia. culvert he installed on the west side of Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 9 in the NE¼, Section 2, Barnesville Township, Clay County, without a BRRWD permit. The office sent Lewis a letter on 10/04/07 outlining alternatives for this culvert. To date, Lewis has not responded. A neighboring landowner, Ronald Erdman, has expressed concern about the culvert's condition and size. If it is too small, water will breakout of the ditch and flow across Erdman's property.

**Permit No. 07-122, City of Moorhead.** SRF Consulting filed an 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 34<sup>th</sup> ST S Corridor and Interstate-94 (I-94) Interchange project. SRF plans to let bids for this project in March 2008. Jones is working on his review and recommendations. The Board plans to delay action on this application until we hold a Clay County Ditch No. 47 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 20<sup>th</sup> AVE S/21<sup>st</sup> ST S intersection. **Tabled.**

**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. BNSF provided a copy of the hydraulic analysis completed by Gregg Thielman, H.E. Jones is working on his review and recommendations for this permit. He will discuss the proposal with Thielman. **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 one-half mile 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. 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. The Board had an extended discussion regarding Tande's request. Tande would like the BRRWD to contact the Girten family, and their renter, Curtis Nelson, regarding this proposal. Tande feels that if he has to pay to remove the approach, he will keep the culvert. **Tabled** pending BRRWD contact with the referenced parties.

**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 lawsuits. At 7:45 PM, the Board reopened the meeting. After the closed session discussion regarding the Kenneth Johnson lawsuit, **motion** by Hanson to follow BRRWD Attorney Tami Norgard's recommendation to send a legal representative to the creditor's meeting in Fergus Falls on 1/07/08 to be sure our claim regarding Kenneth Johnson's bankruptcy proceeding is listed properly. **Seconded** by Nelson. **Approved.**

**Grove Lake Outlet.** Albright plans to continue trying to contact Kern Kuhlman to schedule a Manager field review of his Maple Lake outlet concerns.

**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 150<sup>th</sup> 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 150<sup>th</sup> 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. In addition to this issue, Friederichs is now working with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) regarding a possible Swampbuster violation on the Lamb property. At our 11/26/07 meeting, the Board approved a motion to contact BRRWD Attorney Tami Norgard, Vogel Law Firm, concerning our options (civil and criminal) regarding Friederichs' violation. In addition, the Board directed Albright to contact Sharon Lean, District Conservationist, NRCS, to see if she has survey information for the dike area. Albright reported that NRCS has established that the dike will backup water onto the upstream property. In addition, the NRCS survey shows that Friederichs' dike also restricts a natural watercourse that feeds a downstream wetland area on the Lamb property in Section 28. The Fergus Falls NRCS office is now working with Friederichs to develop a Swampbuster restoration plan, which includes dike removal. Ellefson noted that we should contact the NRCS regarding Friederichs' BRRWD Rule violation. Albright noted that he has already discussed this issue with NRCS. The Board discussed their legal options and agreed to delay action until we see how the NRCS corrective plan is implemented.

**DNR Dock Permit.** Robert Merritt, Area Hydrologist, DNR, sent the Board an e-mail message regarding the DNR Docks Advisory Committee (DOC) conclusions regarding oversized dock platform permitting. The DNR issued a statewide General Permit for the 2007 boating season to temporarily authorize docks up to 170 square feet (sq. ft.). The Board discussed the DNR's efforts to make an informed decision regarding a new general permit for 2008 and their recommendations. The deadline for submitting comments to the DNR regarding this issue is 1/12/08.

**Project No. 62, Clay/Wilkin J.D. 1-Branch 4-Improvement/Extension.** Albright plans to set up a preliminary hearing some time this winter for this project. He added that he will contact petitioner Rick Brakke regarding the need to increase the bond for this proposed project.

**Project No. 61, Clay County Ditch No. 11-North-Improvement.** At their 10/22/07 meeting, the Board agreed to offer John Leseth a three-way split of the costs associated with a replacement structure for his bridge over Clay County Ditch No. 11N in the NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 32, Kurtz Township. Albright sent an e-mail message to David L. Overbo, Engineer, Clay County Highway Department, to see if they would be willing to participate in this cost share agreement. Overbo contacted Albright today to set up a meeting to discuss various issues, including Leseth's bridge. Albright expects that the meeting will take place early next year.

**Project No. 58, Riverton Township Retention.** Brian Winter, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), contacted Albright with a request to add language to the easement option agreement to address TNC's potential wetland mitigation issues and farm program benefits. Because TNC is listed as an agricultural producer, the wetland issues are NRCS's responsibility, and Sharon Lean, NRCS, 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, but Lean may have to do her own review. Aanenson contacted Bob Honeman, NRCS, who assured him that this issue would be resolved in the next few weeks. Winter has suggested that we wait for NRCS to resolve this problem before we revise the easement document once again.

Erik Anthonisen, NRCS, contacted Albright recently regarding TNC's application for a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Small Grant, titled "Restoring Wet and Mesic Prairie in the Bluestem Prairie Complex." TNC will use the funding to increase habitat for waterfowl and upland birds by restoring 121 acres in the Riverton impoundment area. Specifically, the grant will pay for harvesting and processing grass seed and for site preparation and seeding. The total grant amount with the match is \$133,100. Anthonisen has requested that the BRRWD designate \$66,550 of our total Riverton Township Retention project costs as matching funds for the NAWCA grant. Albright prepared a letter for Anthonisen to document the BRRWD's commitment to the grant. Albright called Manager VanAmburg, who supported offering the assistance, since it doesn't cost us anything, and fosters good relationships.

Jones is working on the dam safety issues. He will prepare models to determine the effect of snowmelt on the impoundment site. 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.

**Project No. 57, Moorhead/I-94 Flood Control.** Albright noted that the City of Moorhead's right-of-way (r-o-w) easement still needs to be recorded. The Clay County Recorder asked that the BRRWD provide documentation for our easement agreement with the City of Moorhead.

**Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration.** Albright attended an agency meeting in Breckenridge this morning. One of the discussion topics was a possible Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) project for Duane Stuehrenberg's property in the NE¼, Section 5, Meadows Township, Wilkin County, adjacent to the project area. Albright also talked with Dennis VanWechel regarding WRP and acquisition options for his property. He will forward the WRP information to VanWechel for his review. Albright still needs to schedule a meeting with the Kent Rod & Gun Club regarding their property and the various available programs. Attorney Cory Elmer, Vogel Law Firm, should probably attend the meeting to determine the Club's legal status, and to determine how we should proceed with program participation and easement acquisition. Albright has verified that the Holubok farm would be available for cropping again in 2008. He will contact Steve Holubok to find out if he is still interested in farming the land and to let him know that the Managers are looking for \$30/acre cash rent. The agencies would prefer that Holubok plant Round-Up Ready soybeans to keep the land weed free and ready for grass seeding in 2009.

Another topic discussed at today's meeting in Breckenridge was the upland treatment for the 25 square miles (sq. mi.) drainage area upstream of the Manston Slough Restoration project. Bob Honeman, NRCS, has prepared maps showing where potential buffers could be installed in this area. A realistic goal could be to seed approximately 25% of the possible area, or approximately 200-300 acres. Don Schultz plans to contact a person involved with the Working Lands Initiative (WLI) Grant, which could be used to enhance possible bufferstrip funding. Typically, bufferstrip projects associated with the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) are eligible for approximately \$80-\$90/acre. With the WLI grant, payments could be increased to \$125-\$150, which would make bufferstrips payments more competitive with current land rental rates. Albright noted that if Congress does not pass a new farm bill, CRP will end on 12/31/07.

The NRCS archeologist will handle the entire archeological review next spring. DNR has agreed to accept the NRCS's findings. NRCS will pay for the work.

Albright noted that once the office develops a landowner easement agreement, he plans to review the document with BRRWD's Attorneys Tami Norgard and Corey Elmer, as well as agency personnel. He felt a realistic timeframe for project development would be to hold the Final Hearing around 6/01/08, open bids by 7/01/08, and start construction by 8/01/08. The Board discussed the most beneficial ways the landowners could maximize WRP and easement payments. They also discussed plan changes that will reduce project costs. Albright noted that Township Supervisor Jerry Nordick has asked to review the most current drainage plan for the project. He will contact Rick St. Germain, H.E., regarding Nordick's request.

**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 Settlemeyer, and Wallace and Virgil Holt. Overbo found cross-sections for County Road (C.R.) No. 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.

**Project No. 51, Clay County Ditch No. 68.** Albright suggested that the Board approve a motion to forward their \$50,000 contribution to the project at tonight's meeting, as we won't meet again until 1/14/08. **Motion** by Nelson to appropriate funds from the M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3, financial account to pay our \$50,000 commitment. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

When H.E. completes the ditch easement drawings, the r-o-w will be recorded with Clay County. Landowner Ken Gilles called the office with questions regarding his project assessment. The office sent a letter with a benefit map to explain how the assessment process works. Gilles recently called the office to thank Albright for the information and to say that his questions had been answered.

**Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation.** Approximately 10 properties along North Broadway are eligible for buyout. Of those, we have referred three to Guy Miller for appraisals. Kye Grundyson asked for an appraisal when he first was notified about his property's status. Albright forwarded Miller's completed appraisal to Grundyson, who has decided to accept the offer (\$185,000). The Board discussed the North Broadway properties. **Motion** by Olson to designate the homes on the west side of North Broadway eligible for buyouts, and that Albright should proceed with the buyout process for these properties. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.** Nelson questioned if DNR will pay residents to move their houses on the existing lots so that the dike can be placed behind them. Albright will check with Pat Lynch, DNR, regarding this issue. He noted that Ulteig Engineers, Inc. (UEI), has the final alignment completed for the entire dike perimeter. A Technical Committee will be scheduled in January. The Board plans to schedule a landowner informational meeting in February or March.

Landowner Jerry Skalicky has requested more information regarding the project. Albright will meet with him tomorrow at 9:00 AM.

The Board discussed the status of the building removal and demolition for the properties that were sold at auction in May 2007. Two buildings were overlooked during the auction. One was a sauna and the other was a storage shed. The buyer of the property associated with the sauna thought that he had purchased it along with the house. Albright explained to him that he did not own the sauna and could not move it. Last week, the buyer had his moving company prepare the sauna for removal. Albright informed him that the BRRWD wanted the sauna left in place, and that it did not belong to him. Regarding the shed, we had received a report that it had been stolen, but the Moorhead Police Department finally located it, hidden in some trees and brush on a nearby lot. The Board felt the person who moved the shed should pay for it or return it to its original location. Ellefson suggested that the person should be given the option to buy it for \$600, or return it in 10 days at his expense. The Board felt that his actions could be considered theft, and if necessary, they might have to contact the police. They agreed to have Albright send a letter to the party advising him of his options.

UEI forwarded a project status summary for the Board's review. Jones prepared Pay Request No. 1 for Master Construction for the site demolition work in the amount of \$30,375.00, which reflects approximately 75% of the contract. Master Construction will finish capping the utilities and seeding next spring. **Motion** by VanAmburg to approve the referenced pay request. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

**Project No. 46, Turtle Lake Outlet.** Wade Opsahl, Technician, H.E., advised the Board that the Turtle Lake siphon should be shut down for the winter months as it poses an open water hazard in Long Lake for snowmobiling, etc. Turtle Lake is currently at elevation 1361.5 and Long Lake is at 1360.5. Opsahl suggested that we continue to operate the Long Lake siphon, and restart the Turtle Lake siphon around March 1, 2008. **Motion** by Hanson to follow Opsahl's recommendations regarding the siphon operation. **Seconded** by Nelson. **Approved.**

**Project No. 38, Farmstead Ringdikes.** Opsahl put together the final costs for the Butze ringdike. His estimate was \$30,330.00 and the final cost is \$34,539.83, or approximately 14% over budget. The landowner's share of the overage is \$2,187.41. Opsahl noted that construction was difficult as the site had many variables, such as trees, minimal workspace and borrow material, and spring and summer flooding. He felt that given the site conditions, the 14% overage was reasonable. Opsahl has contacted Butze, who was willing to pay the extra costs, but noted that the BRRWD would have to wait until next year for the money.

Jones is still waiting for a response from BNSF regarding their permission to use a small part of their r-o-w for the proposed Kragnes ringdike alignment. Jones explained that before we can start the agency permitting process, we will have to obtain a BNSF license to occupy their r-o-w. He felt that all the permitting issues should be addressed this winter, so that construction can begin next spring.

**Project No. 35, Clay County Ditch No. 47.** Albright plans to schedule a hearing for this ditch system regarding the 34<sup>th</sup> ST Interchange Project. Dave Kluck, Northwestern Power Equipment Company, Inc., declined the BRRWD's request that they reimburse us for the Otto's Welding bill (\$2,273.95) for the two flapgate openers on the Otter Tail Valley Railroad (OTV) culverts. Kluck advised the Board that if they wanted to replace the gates, he felt their current value would be almost as much as the 2001 purchase price. He added that if we still felt the flapgates were defective, we should contact the manufacturer. The Board discussed the flapgates and agreed to leave them open this winter and monitor their performance next spring.

**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.

**Project No. 31, Deerhorn Creek Levees.** Carol Poppel, Wilkin Farm Service Agency (FSA), contacted the office with a request for documentation regarding the project r-o-w easements for the levee footprint. She wanted copies of meeting minutes, or letters, etc., referencing the BRRWD's ability to use eminent domain to acquire project easements. She is working on CRP re-enrollment for the landowners involved with the Deerhorn project, and this information could affect their eligibility. The office forwarded two sets of hearing minutes where the Board stated that we do have the right to invoke eminent domain to obtain r-o-w for our project.

**Mediation Project Team (PT).** The BRRWD will hold their next PT meeting on Thursday, December 13, 2007, at 1:30 PM in the MSUM Science Center near Glyndon. The office has sent notices.

**Comprehensive Planning.** The office plans to schedule a Citizen Advisory and Technical Advisory Committees (CAC/TAC) meeting in late January or early February 2008, where the members will review regional problems and identify solutions. The next step now is for Jones to finish the hydrologic model and for Jones and Albright to proof the draft plan.

**Clay County Ditch No. 49.** Albright will schedule a hearing this winter for the redetermination of benefits. The downstream landowner concerns regarding the proposed structure changes can be discussed at that time.

**Wilkin County Ditch No. 40.** Jones is working on his review of the DNR hydrology report for the Lawndale Creek Restoration project. Jones will look closely at the DNR's proposal to block the natural waterway during the two-year revegetation period, which would force County Ditch No. 40 to handle the entire area drainage. He plans on discussing his concerns with Luther Aadland, DNR. Ellefson discussed

area drainage patterns and how diverting all the high water flows into County Ditch No. 40 could cause problems. He would like to conduct a field review of this area.

**Becker County Ditch No. 5.** Jones mentioned that he has received the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) survey and elevation information regarding their plans to install a 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. Jones noted that he is working on the site hydrology.

**Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) Dispute Resolution.** The BRRWD will meet 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 will also attend the meetings. Albright will prepare an information packet. He will also ask for letters of support for the levy increase from the counties and area cities.

**Clay County Ditch Nos. 31 and 17 Repairs.** The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) is planning to clean parts of County Ditch No. 31 (Section 3, Barnesville Township) and County Ditch No. 17 (Section 33, Elkton Township) within their I-94 r-o-w. Adjacent landowners, Harlan and Nick Manston, have agreed to allow MNDOT to place the spoil on their property.

**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.

**Viewers' Compensation.** The Board discussed increasing the Viewers' per diem pay. They agreed to revisit this issue at the annual meeting on 1/14/08.

The Northwest Viewers' Association has been disbanded and merged with the Minnesota Viewers' Association. Ron Ringquist, Minnesota Viewers' Association, is willing to hold some Association meetings in this area, as long as the meetings are well attended.

**Gilbertson Drainage Complaint.** Gordon Gilbertson contacted the office to report that water from Stony Creek was backed up into the trees by his buildings. Opsahl checked for beaver activity, but found nothing. When the Board installed a new crossing on Stony Creek in Section 13, Humboldt Township, for Arvid Thompson, Opsahl noted that there was a fair amount of silt in the channel. The Board agreed to check the ditch elevations next spring and consider a possible cleanout project for the south end of the channel.

**United States Geological Survey (USGS) Agreement.** The USGS sent the BRRWD a Joint Funding Agreement for the continued operation of the stream flow gauging stations on the Buffalo River near Hawley and Sabin. The BRRWD's cost for both gauges is \$4,235.00, which reflects a 50/50 cost share with USGS. The Agreement runs from 10/01/07 to 9/30/08. **Motion** by VanAmburg to authorize Ellefson to sign the Agreement on behalf of the BRRWD. **Seconded** by Nelson. **Approved.**

**Beaver Control.** At the 11/12/07 meeting, the Board approved a motion to pay 50% of Elmwood Township's beaver control costs from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Beaver Control Challenge Grant, for beavers trapped on the outlets of the BRRWD ditch systems last winter. The townships recently asked for additional funding for beavers from non-ditch areas. The Board denied their request because they felt the Township's request does not fit the criteria established for the Challenge Grant funding.

**Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee.** The contractor, Adam Grothmann, Northern States Excavating, was not able to start work on this project because of the weather. He plans to move his equipment onsite so that he will be ready in the spring. Steve Hofstad, Water Resources Management Technician, Clay SWCD, sent a letter thanking the BRRWD for handling the contract bids. He proposed that the Clay SWCD make payments directly to the contractor, instead of having to reimburse the BRRWD. The Board was satisfied with this arrangement.

**NRBG Contribution.** Steve Hofstad, Clay SWCD, sent the Board a letter thanking them for offering in-kind services as a match to the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) funding from the State of Minnesota for the 2008 Natural Resource Block Grant (NRBG) application. Albright signed the Grant Agreement on behalf of the BRRWD as an in-kind contributor. Clay County uses this funding for wetland resources and related natural resources management programs.

**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." The registration cost is \$175. The early registration deadline is 1/07/08. Nelson noted that they are offering a one-day registration rate for those who can't attend all three days.

**Report of Indebtedness.** Otter Tail County sent their annual Report of Indebtedness form for the BRRWD to document any bonds, etc. that we might have issued. Albright will complete the form and return it with a letter stating that we have never issued any bonds regarding BRRWD operations.

**River Keepers Holiday Luncheon.** River Keepers will hold a luncheon tomorrow from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at their office in Fargo.

**2007 MAWD Annual Meeting.** The MAWD 2007 Annual Meeting was held on 11/30-12/01/07 at the Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria. The Board discussed a proposal for a new award for "Manager of the Year." They were concerned that it might become controversial.

**PTI Grant Meeting.** The Pulling Together Initiative (PTI) Grant Partners will be meeting with the new Clay County Ag Inspector, Kent Severson, on Tuesday, December 18, 2007, at 1:00-4:30 PM in the Clay County Courthouse. Nelson plans to attend.

The following bills were presented for approval:

<b>Accounts Payable</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Account</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Barnesville Phone Co.	11/25/07 billing	Admin	\$ 163.90
Bruce E. Albright	MAWD Lodging	Admin	\$ 1,112.68
Clay Co. Auditor	Becker Co. bond sale	Pj. 46, Turtle Lake	\$ 8,547.95
Clay Co. Treasurer	Culvert seeding	Clay 39, 5, 40, 12	\$ 1,800.00
H.E.	November billing summary	Varies-see attach.	\$ 70,583.79
Julie Jerger	Norton AntiVirus Subscription	Admin	\$ 42.59
Master Construction, Inc.	Pay Request No. 1	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 30,375.00
Northern States Excavating	#459, culvert repairs	Clay 32	\$ 7,444.75



Petty Cash	Postage, supplies, etc.	Admin	\$ 100.00
Premium Waters, Inc.	November billing	Admin	\$ 14.79
Randy Rick	November Property Manager fees	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 420.00
Red Oaks Concepts	Promotional Items	Admin	\$ 352.26
River Keepers	2007 2nd half payment	River Keepers	\$ 21,093.08
Roger Lundberg	12/01/07 billings	Varies/BWSR grant	\$ 5,283.71
RRBC	2007 2nd half payment	RRBC	\$ 13,175.44
RRWMB	2007 Collections Balance	RRWMB-Management	\$ 207.89
WREC	10/19/07-11/18/07 service	Pj. 46, Turtle Lake	\$ 125.82
			<b>\$ 160,843.65</b>

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

**Next Meeting**. The Board of Managers, BRRWD, will hold their annual meeting on Monday, January 14, 2007, in the Barnesville office at 7:00 PM.

**Adjournment**. Chairman Ellefson adjourned the meeting at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hanson, Secretary