

# ***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**

**February 12, 2007**

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) held their regular meeting on Monday, February 12, 2007, 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 1/22/07 regular meeting. Nelson noted two minor corrections. **Motion** by Nelson to approve the minutes, subject to correction. **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. Albright noted that we received \$58,563.86 from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation, general expenses. This year to date, we have received a total of approximately \$750,000 in reimbursement from the DNR for the Oakport project. Albright will meet this week with Midwest Bank to acquire a new loan in the amount of \$152,850.38 for the next scheduled home buyout on 2/15/07. The office will prepare a DNR pay request for their share (98%) of the buyout cost. Albright noted that the Clay County Board of Commissioners approved the bond sale for Project No 51, Clay County Ditch No. 68-Establishment, and Project No. 57, Moorhead Interstate-94 (I-94) Flood Control. The bond sale will take place on 2/27/07, and we should receive approximately \$440,000 by 3/27/07. The bond sale interest rate is expected to be about 4.25%. We also received the Counties' final tax payments for 2006. Albright met with a new account representative from Wells Fargo Bank last week. **Motion** by Olson to approve the Treasurer's Report. **Seconded** by VanAmburg. **Approved.**

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

**Permit No. 06-77, Robert Norby.** Applicant proposes to repair erosion in the NE¼, Section 22, Kragnes Township, Clay County, where the Buffalo River cut through his field during the 2006 spring flood. **Tabled** pending Manager field review. Norby was supposed to contact the office when the crop was off. Norby recently sent a letter requesting another permit to build a grain bin site in Section 22, Kragnes Township, Clay County. Albright will send Norby a permit application for this proposed project. He will recommend that Norby also contact Tim Magnusson, Clay County Planning and Zoning, regarding work in the floodplain.

**Permit No. 06-104, Paul Crume.** At the 11/13/06 meeting, the Board tabled this permit application to install a dike along the quarterline in the NW¼, Section 17, Riverton Township, Clay County, pending

a Clay SWCD area drainage survey. To date, landowner Paul Brendemuhl has not contacted the office regarding the status of this survey. **Tabled.**

**Permit No. 06-127, Brian Meyer.** Applicant proposes to repair erosion on Whisky Creek along his property at 361 2<sup>nd</sup> ST NE in Barnesville, MN. The river bank is eroding behind his garage in an area approximately 80' long, which could cause bank failure and property loss. H.E. completed a survey of the site, and Jones prepared a project design. He explained that the proposed project will reconstruct the stream bank and install riprap to control the undercutting. Jones noted that Robert G. Merritt, Area Hydrologist, DNR, suggested that riprapping the stream bank was probably the most feasible and least invasive repair alternative. Albright received a DNR comment form today for this project. The Board felt the proposed project was feasible, practical, and should be completed before the riverbank undercutting gets worse. The Board is prepared to issue a permit for the project, as soon as DNR issues their permit. **Tabled** pending receipt of the DNR permit.

**Permit No. 06-128, Brookdale Baptist Church.** Applicant proposes to do site paving, grading, and utility work for their church building expansion project in the northwest corner of the Southfield Estates (40<sup>th</sup> AVE and 14<sup>th</sup> ST S) in south Moorhead. Jones completed his review of the proposal and recommended permit approval. **Motion** by Hanson to approve Permit No. 06-128. **Seconded** by VanAmburg. **Approved.**

**Permit No. 07-01, Clay County Highway Department.** Applicant proposes to replace four structures, including: 1). Clay County Ditch No. 39 between Sections 31 and 32, Morken Township; 2). Clay County Ditch No. 2 between Sections 27 and 28, Moland Township; 3). Clay County Ditch No. 40 between Sections 27 and 28, Kurtz Township; and 4.) County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 52 in Section 31, Humboldt Township. Jones recommended permit approval. The Board had an extended discussion regarding the proposed bridge replacement on CSAH No. 52 south of Barnesville. This area has a history of flooding, and Ellefson was concerned that replacing a bridge with approximately 259 square feet (sq. ft.) of waterway area with two lines of 8' x 4' concrete box culverts having 60 sq. ft of waterway area could add to the flooding problems for the upstream homeowner, Randy Nelson. He thought that the County could install larger structures to facilitate water passage through the area. Ellefson suggested that the BRRWD could ask Otter Tail Valley Railroad (OTV) to consider installing larger structures in their downstream crossing, which currently has three lines of 60" dia. culverts with a waterway area of 59 sq. ft. Jones explained that the County has surveyed the area and determined that Nelson's house is higher than the road. The road will overtop before Nelson's home floods. Albright explained that the County plans to clean about 650' of the east road ditch from the new box culverts to Nelson's driveway, which should improve drainage for the homeowner. Jones felt that the proposed structure should handle the 4 square mile (sq. mi.) drainage area without changing the area flooding problems.

The Board discussed the condition of the waterway west of CSAH No. 52. Richard Peppel, the neighboring landowner, feels that the waterway between the county road and the OTV railroad crossing also needs cleaning. The Board agreed that it should be cleaned, but they also acknowledged that improving the upstream waterway might impact the downstream area, where there might not be an adequate outlet for the increased flows. Albright pointed out that the proposed structures in CSAH No. 52 match the railroad crossing structures. Even if the structures were enlarged, the water has no place to go, given the current condition of the waterway west of CSAH No. 52, the size of the railroad crossing, and the size of the structures downstream of the railroad tracks. Ellefson thought that if the area landowners continue to complain that the railroad crossing restricts flows, they might be able to persuade OTV to enlarge it. He felt the County should install larger culverts in their road now to

match the OTV crossing if they enlarge it in the future. Ellefson pointed out that it would cost the County less to put in larger culverts now, rather than wait. Albright noted that the house was built in a flood prone area. He reiterated that the culvert sizing in CSAH No. 52 should not make conditions worse, and the road ditch cleanout should significantly improve drainage for the Nelson property. He added that any future improvement projects would be expensive and would probably face downstream landowner opposition. **Motion** by VanAmburg to approve Permit No. 07-01. **Seconded** by Hanson. Ellefson was opposed to the proposed CSAH No. 52 bridge replacement. **Approved.**

**Permit No. 07-02, City of Dilworth.** Applicant proposes to install a water main extension along 34<sup>th</sup> ST N to 8<sup>th</sup> AVE NW, including a boring under Clay County Ditch No. 50 to provide water service to the new Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart inadvertently omitted this work from their construction permit. Jones recommends approval. **Motion** by Hanson to approve Permit No. 07-02, subject to the BRRWD's standard utility disclaimer. **Seconded** by Nelson. **Approved.**

**Permit No. 07-03, Steve Holubok.** Applicant proposes to lower a culvert in the quarterline approach along County Road (C.R.) No. 55 in the northwest corner of the NE¼, Section 20, Humboldt Township, Clay County, to enhance road ditch drainage to the west. **Tabled** pending Manager field review this spring.

**Permit No. 07-04, Steve Holubok.** Applicant proposes to lower a culvert on the quarterline approach along 190<sup>th</sup> ST S in the southeast corner of the NE¼, Section 6, Humboldt Township, Clay County, to enhance road ditch drainage to the south. **Tabled** pending Manager field review this spring.

**Permit No. 07-05, David Watt.** Applicant proposes to install three culverts in existing field outlets to the Buffalo River in Section 28, Moland Township, Clay County, and restore the riverbank to prevent further erosion. Albright noted that Watt owns the property adjacent to the proposed work site, so the work should not impact anyone else. Since the work site is above the Ordinary High Water (OHW) elevation, a DNR permit should not be necessary. **Motion** by Hanson to approve Permit No. 07-05. **Seconded** by VanAmburg. **Approved.**

**Minch and Johnson Lawsuits.** Based on attorney/client privilege, and in accordance with Open Meeting Law, the Board went into closed session at 7:43 PM to discuss the status of both lawsuits. At 8:03 PM, the Board reopened the meeting.

**Grove/Pete Lakes Outlet.** Jones discussed his progress with obtaining permission-to-survey forms from the affected landowners. He noted that he still needs survey forms from two landowners. One of the landowners is reluctant to sign because he does not want to help pay for the project. Jones hasn't been able to contact the other landowner. Where we had permission, H.E. has completed the field survey and is currently drafting the data. Jones should have plans to review at the 2/26/07 meeting.

**Stanley Sandman Drainage Complaint.** Albright sent Brian Peterman a letter advising him that his recent drainage activities in Section 28, Highland Grove Township, Clay County, is effecting downstream property owned by Stanley Sandman. The work could also be in violation of BRRWD Rules. Peterman denied doing any new drainage work. He claims that he only did normal drainage maintenance work. Albright also suggested the installation of a metering pipe on the property line to limit the outflow and subsequent erosion on the downstream lands.

**City of Dilworth Master Plan.** Ulteig Engineers, Inc. (UEI), forwarded the City of Dilworth's Utility Master Plan for the Board's review and possible comments. The Plan contains information regarding Dilworth's existing and extra-territorial boundaries with respect to future stormwater runoff and discharge points. The City will file BRRWD permit applications as needed as future projects develop. The BRRWD will use this information for their Comprehensive Plan update.

**Flood Insurance Study.** The draft Flood Insurance Rate maps for Clay County are available for public review. Tim Magnusson informed Albright that parts of the City of Dilworth are still in the floodplain. According to the draft maps, the South Branch of the Buffalo River floodplain is quite large. The Board discussed how the new maps will affect existing homes in the proposed floodplain. The burden of proof regarding flooding impacts will be on the homeowners. They may have to file a letter of map review (LOMAR) at their expense for exemption from lending institutions' flood insurance requirements.

**Project No. 61, Clay County Ditch No. 11-North-Improvement.** Jones and Albright will meet with David L. Overbo, Engineer, Clay County Highway Department, and Clay County Commissioners Kevin Campbell and Jerry Waller, who are on the County Highway Committee, on 2/21/07 at 3:45 PM in the County Court House, to discuss the project. The County has concerns that improving the ditch (deepening the ditch bottom) could cause additional erosion along C.R. 8 in Section 32, Kurtz Township. The County has future plans to move the road further north. The petitioner has called the office and will continue to keep the project bond in place.

**Project No. 60, Swede Grove Lake.** Albright suggested that the BRRWD could discuss the development of this project with the County at the above referenced 2/21/07 meeting in Moorhead.

**Project No. 59, Clay County Ditch No. 41-Lateral 3.** The Board briefly discussed the history of this project. Jerry Feder, Feder Properties, is the petitioner. His attorney is John Boulger. Nelson quoted Drainage Law where it states that we can't legally continue with a project without a bond to cover the development costs. He wondered if we could legally hold a special meeting with Feder, as it might add to the development costs. Albright suggested that the Board could invite Feder and Boulger to a regular Board meeting to discuss this issue. It appears that the drainage problems Feder anticipated from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 336 project did not materialize. As it stands, Feder might not need the proposed lateral. However, as the sole petitioner, Feder is still liable for the project development costs to date (\$14,600). The Board directed Albright to invite Boulger and Feder to a regular meeting to discuss this issue.

**Project No. 58, Riverton Township Retention.** The Board met with Brian Winter, Program Director, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), after the 1/25/07 Project Team (PT) meeting. TNC has added several items to the draft agreement that will increase the project costs. Albright has advised Ed Fick, FDR Hydrologist, DNR Waters, that the project costs may exceed the initial estimate. The State has agreed to cost share the project (50/50) with the BRRWD. Jones will prepare a revised cost estimate, including native grass seeding, a contribution to TNC's adjacent wetland restoration, and the possible acquisition of "no-build" easements from the downstream landowners. Ellefson is concerned that if we are not able to move forward with the project in 2007, we might have to consider dropping the project. Since the BRRWD proposed this project several years ago, the initial costs have nearly doubled. He questioned if the project is still feasible. The Board discussed their concerns regarding the added costs arising from TNC's new requests regarding their easement option agreement and the project development schedule. Albright stressed that Winter has indicated that TNC wants to keep the project

development moving forward as quickly as possible. The office will mail the easement option to TNC for their signature.

**Project No. 57, Moorhead/I-94 Flood Control.** The Clay County Commissioners approved the bond sale for 2/27/07. Distribution of funds could come near the end of March. Albright will contact the County about recording the project easements. We still have to pay the City of Moorhead for project right-of-way (r-o-w), which will be done after we receive the bond sale proceeds.

**Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration.** Rick St. Germain, Engineer, H.E., presented the draft Engineer's Report to the Mediation PT on 1/25/07. He has also forwarded the report to Eric Mohring, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), who has agreed to assist the BRRWD regarding review of possible seepage. The next step will be for H.E. to prepare the easement drawings so the BRRWD can start the easement option acquisition process. Albright noted that once the seepage analysis is completed, we should schedule additional meetings with the road authorities, including MNDOT, regarding use of their roads as part of the dike. The Board discussed Ellefson's concerns about obtaining a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the dike installation from the Wilkin County Planning and Zoning Commission. Albright will contact Bruce Poppel, Wilkin County Environmental Officer, to reserve a time on a future Wilkin County Commission meeting agenda for Albright and Ellefson to make a brief presentation regarding the Manston Slough project.

**Project No. 54, Whisky Creek Tributaries.** Scott Smith, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), forwarded a copy of the revised Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) plans for the Nichol project in Section 21, Humboldt Township. Albright noted that the plan appears to be about the same as before with additional detail specifications. NRCS plans to hold a contractor showing this spring prior to the bid letting.

**Project No. 51, Clay County Ditch No. 68-City of Glyndon.** H.E. is working on the r-o-w drawings and legal descriptions so we can record the project easements. Jones noted that Ronald Erdman, Allstate Construction, has not contacted him regarding the unclassified excavation quantities. Jones had expected Erdman to furnish the actual construction cut depths by station. The Board felt that in order to address this issue, Erdman should contact Jones as soon as possible. The longer he waits, the less likely it will be that we will be able to adjust the quantities, as the County has scheduled the bond sale for 2/27/07.

**Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation.** The BRRWD has scheduled a meeting with a group of concerned landowners on 2/13/07 at 7:00 PM in the Oakport Township Hall. These landowners attended the 1/08/07 BRRWD meeting to discuss their concerns about the proposed dike alignment. UEI and Oakport Township officials will also attend. Two of the five landowners who have concerns about the dike alignment have now contacted Vogel Law Firm regarding a possible sale of their property. A Technical Advisory Committee meeting was held on 2/08/07. The Ostermann buyout is scheduled for 2/15/07.

Albright and Olson met with Pifer's Auction Company and Steffes Auctioneers, Inc. two weeks ago regarding sale of the buyout properties. The Board discussed the differences between the two auction companies' proposals. Olson and Albright felt that both companies were experienced and could do a good job. Pifer's Auction has an indoor facility to hold the auction if the weather is inclement. **Motion** by Hanson to hire Pifer's Auction Company to handle the auction process. **Seconded** by Nelson. **Approved.** Albright will contact Steffes Auctioneers, Inc. and John Villiard regarding Pifer's

selection. He noted that Pifer's plans to hold an open house for the buyout properties prior to the auction date. They will help provide staff for the houses during the open house.

Albright noted that we now have a signed Property Manager contract with Randy Rick for the buyout properties. Rick had to repair two furnaces that failed during the cold weather. Albright noted that two of the properties were broken into last Friday night. The Clay County Sheriff's Department now has a list of our properties and will patrol the area. The Board discussed house-moving options/specifications following the auction sale. The Board will set a deadline for buyers to move the houses. Nelson questioned how we would handle the home sale proceeds. Albright has discussed this with Ed Fick, and we will credit the sale proceeds to the project account to offset expenses.

The DNR sent a Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Agreement Amendment for the Board's signature that will increase our Oakport Township project grant amount by \$1 million for a total of \$3 million. **Motion** by Nelson to authorize Ellefson to sign the Amendment. **Seconded** by Olson. **Approved.**

UEI is still working on the dike alignment. They would like to finalize some of the sections of the dike in the near future. S. Bruce Langness, UEI, has reported that the soil borings along Broadway show potential problems. Albright heard about a pending house sale in the project area. He felt the BRRWD should try to acquire the property. The Board will talk to the Oakport Township officials regarding this issue at tomorrow night's meeting.

**Project No. 46, Turtle Lake Outlet.** Jones said that Sellin Bros., Inc. has received the repaired Long Lake valve, and they will reinstall it when the weather is warmer.

**Project No. 43, Clay County Ditch No. 30.** Moorhead has requested that the BRRWD prorate the Americana Estates benefits because currently each house pays benefits to Ditch Nos. 47 and 30, in addition to a storm water tax, assessed by the City.

**Project No. 38, Farmstead Ringdikes.** Albright, Manager Nelson, and Wade Opsahl, Technician, H.E., plan to meet with Mark Rustad tomorrow morning at 9:00 AM regarding his concerns about his ringdike cost overruns. The Board authorized BRRWD Attorney Tami Norgard to send a letter to Solveig Mead regarding her delinquent ringdike payment. Norgard has requested information regarding this issue. The Board discussed sending another letter to Rehder regarding his payment.

The Board discussed possible DNR funding for the Kragnes project. To date there has been no firm commitment from the DNR to fund this possible project. Albright reported that four State Legislators, including local Representatives Paul Marquart (Clay County) and Kent Eken (Becker County), have written a bill to appropriate \$650,000 in 2008 and 2009 to assist the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) in the construction of farmstead ringdikes in the Red River Basin. The Board was concerned that this legislation could prevent the BRRWD from receiving future ringdike funding. The Board questioned the bill's language, which could have simply designated funding for the Red River Basin without naming a specific organization. VanAmburg plans to contact Marquart regarding this issue.

**Project No. 35, Clay County Ditch No. 47.** The office is working on a draft improvement petition for the City of Moorhead's proposal to reroute Ditch No. 47 for the 34<sup>th</sup> ST interchange project. In addition, Moorhead will need to add a small amount of property to the Ditch No. 47 benefit area because drainage patterns will change as a result of the 21<sup>st</sup> Street interchange project. Moorhead has also requested that the BRRWD prorate the Americana Estates benefits because currently each house

pays benefits to Ditch Nos. 47 and 30, in addition to a storm water tax, assessed by the City.

**Project No. 30, Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch No. 1 (J.D. 1).** The BRRWD has scheduled a meeting with the Branch No. 4 landowners on 2/19/07 at 8:30 AM in the Barnesville office to discuss a possible improvement/extension for this Branch.

**Mediation PT.** The BRRWD will hold their next PT meeting on 3/01/07 at 1:30 PM in the MSUM Science Center near Glyndon. The office will send notices. The Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction WorkGroup (RRBFDRWG) will hold their Annual Conference on March 29, 2007, at 9:30 AM in the Northland Inn, Crookston. Albright noted that the District Engineers and Administrators will meet on 3/28/07 to review the new Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Concurrence Points requirements. The Board authorized Albright to attend. The office will take care of the Managers' reservations.

**Comprehensive Planning.** The BRRWD has scheduled the Kickoff meeting for 2/27/07 at the Wells Fargo Bank Upstairs Meeting Room in Barnesville at 7:00 PM. Notices will be sent. The office sent letters to the Townships in Otter Tail County requesting suggestions for the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). Albright has also requested that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) designate a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) representative. The office sent a letter to the TAC/CAC members requesting input about meeting times/dates. Albright thought we could discuss future meeting scheduling at the Kickoff meeting. Jerger has emailed a substantial amount of information to Brian Fischer, H.E., who is working on the BRRWD's website. The website now offers a downloadable permit application, current meeting minutes/agendas, etc. Albright discussed the staff's ability to post information to our Website from our office, instead of emailing the information to H.E. for Fischer to post. The office would need to acquire a more advanced version of Adobe Acrobat to access the site. The office will prepare a cost estimate for obtaining the software for the Board's review. Albright noted that Mark Aanenson, H.E., plans to use the Website extensively during the plan update process.

Ellefson and Hanson signed the Revised Watershed Management Plan (RWMP) resolution on behalf of the BRRWD. The Board approved the resolution at their 1/08/07 meeting.

**Wilkin County Ditch No. 40.** Mark Yaggie filed a repair request to clean the ditch and repair breakout areas in Section 34, Atherton Township, and Section 2, Manston Township. Jones has completed the repair survey. H.E. surveyed 2.6 miles of Ditch No. 40 and took test pits to determine sediment depths in the channel. They compared the centerline profile to the original 1967 as-built ditch plan grades. In the report, Jones noted that certain areas of the ditch show evidence of significant down-cutting, while other areas have sediment buildup with depths from 0 to 3.5'. He also found that the current ditch is approximately 360' longer than indicated on the as-built plans. Based on the survey, H.E. advises that the BRRWD authorize the repairs per the survey recommendations, which include repair of 7,500' of the ditch and the installation of an 18" dia. corrugated metal pipe (CMP) with flapgate where the ditch breaks out along the west side in Section 34. The estimated repair cost is \$15,000 to \$17,000. Albright will send the survey report to Yaggie for his review. The Managers would like to conduct an area field review before they make a decision regarding this project. **Tabled.**

Albright noted that the DNR has scheduled their Lawndale Trout Stream Restoration project to begin construction in 2008.

**Hamden Slough NWR.** Michael Murphy recently informed the BRRWD that the USFWS has decided to close the Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) headquarters. The BRRWD sent letters to Representative Collin Peterson and Senators Amy Klobuchar and Norm Coleman to express our concerns regarding this issue and to ask the USFWS to reconsider their decision. To date, there has been no response.

**Becker County Ditch No. 5.** Albright forwarded H.E.'s repair survey report to Todd Krieger for his review and comments.

The USFWS has wetland easements associated with the Amer Froysland and John Green Dams. As a result, the USFWS will review the repair plans. We will probably need a USFWS permit for the work, and a USFWS representative may need to be onsite during construction.

**MAWD Legislative Breakfast.** The Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) has scheduled their Legislative Breakfast on March 14-15, 2007, at the Kelly Inn, St. Paul. There will be a legislative briefing at the Kelly Inn from 7:00-9:00 PM on 3/14/07. Albright and BRRWD Lobbyist Joel Carlson are in charge of scheduling a regional meeting with our local Legislators on 3/14/07. The office will handle the Managers' reservations. VanAmburg noted that the International Water Institute (IWI) Conference is scheduled on the same date. Managers Nelson, Ellefson, and Hanson plan to attend the Breakfast. Olson had to check his schedule, and VanAmburg will be attending the IWI Conference. The office will send invitations to our local Legislators for this event.

**Watershed Management Report.** The Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) released their Water Management evaluation report on 1/25/07. Albright provided copies of the report for the Board's review. The Board discussed OLA's findings. Generally, they felt most watershed districts are doing a good job. The OLA report stated that the BWSR needs to improve their watershed district oversight.

**Tiling Workshop.** The University of Minnesota and the North Dakota State University Extension Services are sponsoring the 2007 Agricultural Tile Drainage Design and Soil Water Management Workshop on February 14-15, 2007, at the Courtyard by Marriott Conference Center, Moorhead. Early registration is \$160 for 2 days, and is due by 2/05/07. The workshop is an opportunity for interested parties to learn about a variety of topics related to agricultural drain tile.

**Landscaping Workshop.** The DNR has scheduled a Landscaping for Wildlife and Water Clarity Workshop for Local Units of Government on 2/22/07 at The Lodge on Lake Detroit in Detroit Lakes from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Registration deadline is 2/16/07. The workshop is free to agency personnel. Albright and Nelson plan to attend.

**Wilkin County 10-Year Plan.** Bruce Poppel, Wilkin County Environmental Officer, has scheduled a Local Water Plan Action Committee (LWPAC) meeting on 2/26/07 at 9:00 AM in Breckenridge to begin the review of their plan update. He provided their water quality/erosion assessment draft report for the Board's review.

**BRRWD Lobbyist Update.** Joel Carlson, BRRWD Lobbyist, provided a legislative update for the Board's review.

**National Watershed Coalition (NWC).** Albright provided copies of the NWC newsletter regarding the proposed 2008 Federal Budget allocation for Watershed programs. In the newsletter, the NWC criticizes the Administration for what it calls "zero" funding for USDA watershed programs.

**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. Walaker asked Albright to participate on an Advisory Committee comprised of local agency and jurisdictional representatives, to provide the City with a broad based perspective in selecting a preferred project alternative. Managers Olson and Nelson also participated on the Committee. The Board reviewed a Forum newspaper article regarding the possible Southside project and discussed local concerns about the possible effects the project could have on Moorhead area flooding problems.

**Beaver Damage Control Report.** The office submitted our Annual Report No. 1 for the Beaver Damage Control Grant. To date, we've spent \$6,920 of the \$15,000 grant. We've removed 52 beavers and 27 dams.

**River Watch Team.** Albright met with Wayne Goeken, Monitoring Coordinator, RRWMB, Sheila Carlson, and the River Watch Team to discuss the sampling sites for this year. The Team will be making a presentation regarding their water quality sampling work again this year at the IWI Conference in Grand Forks on 3/15/07. They will also schedule a date to make a presentation to the BRRWD at an upcoming meeting. Albright has provided copies of the St. Anthony Falls Laboratories (SAFL) 319 Water Quality Study Report to Goeken and Carlson for their review and use.

**State Auditor's Report.** The office has prepared the financial income report for the State Auditor, which is due by 2/15/07. Albright plans to discuss the State report's format with BRRWD Auditor Harold Rotunda to see if he could reformat our audit to provide more of the information requested on the State's form.

**T.H. 336/12<sup>th</sup> AVE Study.** The Metropolitan Council of Government (MetroCOG) has scheduled a meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2007, at 3:30 PM in the MetroCOG Fargo Office. They provided a summary of the project development for the Board's review. Manager Olson plans to attend.

**Clay County Ditch No. 32.** A landowner in the northwest corner of Section 15, Kurtz Township, was burning ditch r-o-w on 11/08/06 when the fire got away from him and burned a private crossing (bridge) before the Sabin Fire Department could extinguish it. Ed Jerdee, Jerdee Bridge Company, documented the bridge damages for the BRRWD in the event the bridge needs future work. Jerdee did not provide a cost estimate for repairs. He noted that the bridge's basic strength has been compromised by approximately 10%. Opsahl will contact Jerdee for a cost estimate.

**BRRWD Advisory Committee.** The BRRWD has tentatively scheduled their annual Advisory Committee meeting for March 23, 2007, at 1:30 PM at the Galaxie Supper Club in Barnesville.

**Digital Elevation Model (DEM).** Albright, Chuck Fritz, IWI, and Former North Dakota Governor George Sinner met with Senator Keith Langseth on 1/05/07 to discuss the DEM effort. Nelson mentioned that Langseth and Senator Rod Skoe have sponsored a bill Albright drafted that would provide \$600,000 for the IWI to develop a DEM for the Red River Basin. Fritz and others testified in Washington, DC, regarding the DEM on February 6-7, 2007. The Board briefly discussed the project. Recently, the Environmental Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) has indicated that the DEM should be under their jurisdiction.

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

Accounts Payable	Description	Account	Amount
Petty Cash	Postage, supplies, etc.	Admin	\$ 100.00
DeZURIK Water Controls	Long Lake valve repair	Pj. 46, Turtle Lake	\$ 1,642.23
Barnesville Phone Co.	1/25/07 billings	Admin	\$ 176.68
Clay Co. Auditor	Becker Co. Collections	Pj. 46, Turtle Lake	\$ 416.32
Gilbertson Tax Office	2006 1099s /W2s	Admin	\$ 147.00
Xcel Energy	12/19/06-1/25/07	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 13.78
Wild Rice Electric	12/17/06-1/19/07	Pj. 46, Turtle Lake	\$ 36.74
Matson Oil Co.	100 gals. fuel oil	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 212.90
Lyle Wilkins, Inc.	#138, FEMA Repairs	Pj. 28, Clay2	\$ 14,586.84
H.E.	January Billing Summary	Varies-see attch.	\$ 67,207.17
Randy Rick	January Property Manager fees	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 1,795.00
Premium Waters, Inc.	#366590-1-07	Admin	\$ 20.02
Vogel Law Firm	#12, home buyouts	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 4,375.00
Wm. Nichol Excavating	2007 log jams (4)	Pj. 29, Buffalo River	\$ 9,300.00
Moorhead Public Service	January service	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 225.43
MAWD	Legislative Breakfast	Admin	\$ 140.00
			<b>\$ 100,395.11</b>

**Motion** by VanAmburg to approve payment of the bills pending availability of funds. **Seconded** by Olson. **Approved.**

**Next Meeting.** The Board of Managers, BRRWD, will hold their next regular meeting on Monday, February 26, 2007, in the Barnesville office at 7:00 PM.

**Adjournment.** Chairman Ellefson adjourned the meeting at 10:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hanson, Secretary