

BUFFALO-RED RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

BARNESVILLE, MINNESOTA 56514

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MINUTES FOR MANAGERS' MEETING

February 8, 2010

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held their regular meeting on Monday, February 8, 2010, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. BRRWD Managers present were Roger G. Ellefson, John E. Hanson, Gerald L. VanAmburg, and Curtis M. Nelson. Others attending included: Bruce E. Albright, BRRWD Administrator, Erik S. Jones, Engineer, and Julie Jerger, Administrative Assistant, Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.).

Chairman Ellefson called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. He announced that the proceedings were being taped to aid in preparation of the minutes.

Secretary's Report. The Board reviewed draft minutes for the 1/11/10 BRRWD regular meeting. **Motion** by Nelson to approve the minutes. **Seconded** by Vanamburg. **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 January, Albright reported that we incurred approximately \$24,000 in administrative expenses. He noted that Joel Carlson has drafted language for a bill to raise the Administrative levy limits from \$250,000 to approximately \$340,000(0.01 percent of the taxable market value). He will be working with our local Legislators on this bill. There is already precedence for raising the levy cap, as the Sauk River Watershed District has had their levy cap raised. The Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) is also considering a resolution to raise all Watershed Districts' administrative cap levies, but Carlson has advised that we go with our own bill at this time. Since the last meeting, the BRRWD has taken in approximately \$296,000, the majority coming from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for Oakport Flood Mitigation reimbursements. Currently, the BRRWD has \$1,359,787.36 on hand. Albright reported that we still have \$5,977,892.36 coming from the DNR for Oakport under the current contract. He noted that when the Revised Watershed Management Plan (RWMP) is completed, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will forward \$11,150.00, which is the balance of our grant for finishing the plan. Albright plans to bill the landowners and the City of Hawley for the Buffalo River Restoration project, who agreed to contribute \$2,000 each as their local contribution. The Clay Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) received their \$22,000 grant for the work, and they agreed to contribute \$20,000 to the Hawley project. Three of the landowners have remitted their share of the costs for the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 10 2009 ditch cleaning project, associated with Project No. 27, Clay County Ditch No. 55.

Albright discussed the budget tracking worksheet the office prepared for the Oakport project. Pat Lynch, Financial Coordinator, DNR Waters, provided the correct balance amount left in the current DNR Grant. According to Kris Carlson, Ulteig Engineers, Inc. (UEI), there is approximately \$2.65 million needed in unencumbered funds to complete the three construction phases bid last fall. Albright noted that Oakport Township residents have been calling the office with worries about a possible spring flood and questions about possible buyouts.

Midwest Bank has approved a resolution recognizing us as a customer and pledging securities to protect our deposits in excess of \$250,000 to indemnify our bank account balance. They provided a copy of a pledge sheet showing our balance and the amount of their securities. Wells Fargo Bank monitors our

balance on a daily basis and maintains a constant level of pledged securities for our funds. **Motion** by VanAmburg to approve the Treasurer's Report. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.** Albright mentioned that Harold Rotunda is in the process of preparing the 2009 audit.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Civic Engagement Process. Molly McGregor, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and Dr. Karlyn Eckman, Senior Research Associate, Water Resources Center, University of Minnesota (U of M), had planned to attend tonight's meeting to discuss their progress on the Civic Engagement component of watershed based BRRWD TMDL project, but because of the weather, McGregor asked Albright to make the presentation for her.

The Board reviewed a timetable Albright drafted regarding the status of the TMDL work plan. The first several items on the list relate to McGregor's work regarding civic involvement with water quality issues, including the "Study Circles" meetings, and the publication of a press release in that regard. On March 15, 2010, the TMDL Committee has a goal of having the Work Plan Part 1 drafted with a Work Group review of the draft on 3/30/10. Public informational meetings to discuss the draft TMDL plan are tentatively scheduled on 4/06/10 (Barnesville) and 4/08/10 (Hawley). The 2010 water quality sampling sites will need to be identified by 4/15/10. By 6/15/10, a draft work plan for Phase 2 should be started, and by 10/31/10, the grant contract for Phase 1 ends.

McGregor plans to hold two Study Circle meetings on 3/11/10 and 3/25/10 at Wells Fargo Bank in Barnesville. She wants to use the first meeting on 3/11/10 to recruit up to 12 individuals willing to discuss civic involvement in water quality and possible plans to host a water quality day at the Clay County Fair in July. The goal is to use the River Watch Team as a way to educate and inform the community about water quality. Supporters include the Barnesville Economic Development Authority (EDA) and the MPCA. McGregor would like to have the BRRWD's permission to list us as a supporter, as well. Albright recommended that the Board agree to go on record as a supporter of this effort. **Motion** by Hanson to support the civic engagement efforts. **Seconded** by VanAmburg. **Approved.**

Eckman plans to conduct a watershed-wide survey to collect citizen knowledge, attitudes, and practices about watersheds and water quality this summer. The actual distribution of survey is on hold because of a budget shortfall.

McGregor also requested that the Board provide contacts of agricultural producers for her to interview regarding field drainage practices, as a part of her Master's Degree program. Albright will provide her with this information.

Other business brought before the Board included:

Permit No. 06-116, Frank Schindler/Richard Peppel. Schindler visited the office last week to discuss the replacement of a 36" dia. corrugated metal pipe (CMP) in 140th ST S, between Sections 32 and 33, Barnesville Township, Clay County, with a 48" dia. CMP that he feels the Board promised if he allowed culvert changes between Sections 28/33, Barnesville Township. The Board discussed this issue at the last meeting, and Nelson had noted that Schindler had refused to sign the 2006 permit application he was referencing. After reviewing the paperwork, it was confirmed that Schindler did not sign the application. The Board discussed Schindler's request, the agreement language, and correspondence regarding the agreement. The Board is reluctant to change the referenced culvert because the downstream landowners are opposed. H.E.'s study recommended that the culvert downstream of Schindler's culvert should also be resized. In his report, Jones had cautioned that there could be downstream impacts without other channel improvements.

The Board discussed area drainage patterns/systems, the historic drainage concerns in Sections 27, 28, 33, and 34, Barnesville Township, and the old agreements that are still affecting area drainage. The DNR protected waterway in this area enters Whisky Creek just before Whisky Creeks joins the South Branch of the Buffalo River. Albright suggested that H.E. could conduct an investigation and provide comprehensive flood damage reduction (fdr) and natural resource enhancement (nre) recommendations for the entire area. A combination of work could be done on the waterway, including ditch cleaning, culvert changes, and the installation of detention sites. All of this could be reviewed with our Mediation Project Team (PT). Jones was also interested in investigating how the upstream drainage east of Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 9 affects this area. Albright noted that when he visited with Schindler, he suggested that Schindler consider a retention site east of his farmstead to protect his other property. Schindler was not interested. The Board felt that a retention site in this area would be a good idea. The Board reviewed an area elevation map that was prepared in the early 1980s, along with United States Geological Survey (USGS) quad maps. After an extended discussion, the Board felt it would be beneficial to have H.E. prepare a proposal, outlining the parameters of a comprehensive study for this area that could be similar in scope to the Whisky Creek Tributaries project. **Motion** by VanAmburg to authorize H.E. to prepare a concept report for a comprehensive study to address the drainage problems for the area southwest of Barnesville in Sections 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36, Barnesville Township, Clay County, which has a total drainage area of approximately 21 square miles (sq. mi.). The report should include a cost estimate and scope of work. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.** Managers cautioned that the landowners could perceive the report as the start of another project, which with a schedule that is already too busy, we currently don't have time to take on.

Permit No. 10-02, Jerry Butenhoff. Applicant proposes to reroute a drainage ditch entering a DNR protected watercourse in the SW¼, Section 14, Alliance Township, Clay County. The existing ditch is providing a path for the unnamed DNR tributary to Whisky Creek, causing erosion and flooding on Butenhoff's property. Changing the ditch outlet should correct this issue. Butenhoff also suggested that he could install a culvert with a flapgate to help control the erosion/flooding. Butenhoff contacted the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and submitted an permit application to the DNR regarding his proposed project. DNR expressed concerns about fish passage in his field. Albright questioned if Butenhoff would need a DNR permit for this work. The Board discussed the possible installation of a culvert/flapgate to address the fish passage issue. **Motion** by Hanson to approve Permit No. 10-02. **Seconded** by Nelson. **Approved.**

Richard Peppel Drainage Concern. Peppel has concerns about a natural waterway crossing CSAH No. 52 south of Barnesville. The City is using this waterway as outlet for their Heartland Addition. He pointed out that the private waterway is plugged with trees, brush, rocks, and silt, and he feels it is not an adequate outlet for the City's drainage. Peppel requested that the BRRWD set up an informational meeting to discuss the waterway with the City of Barnesville, the Clay County Highway Department, the Otter Tail Valley Railroad, and affected landowners. He thought that someone should petition to make this waterway a legal ditch system. Albright suggested that the office could work with H.E. to schedule a meeting in the Barnesville office. The Board had an extended discussion regarding the condition of the waterway, area drainage patterns, and possible meeting invitees. The Board agreed to schedule an informational meeting regarding this issue.

Project No. 67, Helgeson, Randkler, Businger, Seim, & Pete Lakes Outlet. Jones presented a report on a possible outlet for a series of five lakes in northwestern Otter Tail County and provided a LiDAR elevation map showing a proposed route to drain water south to Project No. 63, Grove Lake, and eventually via a manmade outlet to Whisky Creek. Jones determined that the maximum discharge from Grove Lake is about 8 cubic feet per second (cfs), which would set the design discharge for the upstream lakes. Possible outlet options include an open channel or dual wall 18" dia. tile pipe. Jones thought that the lakes could be lowered in stages, starting with Pete Lake. He noted that we will probably need a DNR permit for the project because if we lower Randkler Lake to its Ordinary High Water (OHW) elevation, it will probably

drop the adjacent lakes below their OHW. Jones will also have to contact Terry Lejcher, Area Hydrologist, DNR, to clarify Randkler Lake's actual OHW. He suggested that if the Pete Lake residents are concerned about their lake elevation, we could just use it as a "pass through" waterbody to lower the other upstream lakes. There could also be fish passage issues. The Board had an extended discussion regarding the proposed outlet and downstream impacts. They agreed that if the lakes could be lowered naturally with an open channel, it would be more cost effective. Albright will work with H.E. to develop a contact list and schedule a landowner informational meeting to review this proposal with them, later this spring. Some feel that if the water comes up much more, it will start to affect T.H. No. 34.

Project No. 66, Tansem/Ranum Lakes Outlet. This project will be discussed with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) at their annual meeting on 3/09/10. Right now, Brad and Lanessa Hirsch are the only affected landowners. Their other options could be a buyout (pending available funding), relocation of their house, etc. If the water levels start to affect T.H. No. 34, then MNDOT will also be a project supporter.

Project No. 65, County Line Outlet. Prairie View Township Supervisor Mark Braton was in the office today to discuss this project. Chris Stepp is considering moving because the highwater is affecting his ability to conduct his home-based business, and Doug Duran wants the Township to buy a pump and follow through with their plans to pump water out of the area as discussed last fall. There wasn't time enough to implement the pumping before freeze-up. The Board discussed the pumping plan. Albright felt that a permanent gravity flow outlet is the best solution for this highwater problem. The BRRWD has submitted a request to the DNR for project funding from the 2010 bonding bill, which hasn't been passed yet. Jones noted that he discussed the potential project with Humboldt Township Supervisor Darrell Thomas last week. The Board had an extended discussion regarding possible project options. Jones has drawings showing where the project would pass through MNDOT's Interstate-94 (I-94) ditch right-of-way (r-o-w). The Board will also discuss this project with MNDOT at their annual meeting on 3/09/10.

Project No. 64, LaBelle/Boyer Lakes Outlet. Since the last meeting, Albright has asked H.E. to prepare maps for the Appraisers to start their work. The Appraisers should be ready to start their work following the next meeting. The Board would like to have this project ready for construction by 6/01/10. Jones still needs to work with Sheldon Johnson regarding an alternate outlet. Assessment of benefits for this project needs to include a redetermination of benefits for Becker County Ditch No. 9, which would also trigger the required installation of one-rod grassed bufferstrips in accordance with Minnesota Drainage Law.

Project No. 60, Swede Grove Lake. Albright provided a copy of correspondence from Josh Kavanaugh, Ducks Unlimited (DU), regarding DU's interest in this project. Albright thought the next step will be to set up a meeting with landowner, Chuck Carlson. At the last informational meeting on 7/13/06, there wasn't much interest expressed in doing a project. Clay County is the project petitioner.

Project No. 58, Riverton Township Retention. The office submitted a pay request to the DNR for \$34,363.65. The DNR grant also includes the Grove Lake project. We still plan to extend the Grove Lake outlet pipe about 20' further into the lake to reduce silting in the outlet structure. After payment of the referenced pay request, there is about \$14,000 left in the grant contract, which will expire on 9/30/10.

Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration. Albright discussed the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LOHC) Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grant process. The State of Minnesota must be named as an additional insured on the BRRWD liability insurance policy

Now that the contractor has completed the well sealing on the Holubok farmsite, BWSR can authorize the BRRWD's Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) payment, and the DNR acquisition process can be completed. The DNR notified Albright that the original option to purchase the property has expired, and they will forward

paperwork for a new option. They also need a signed copy of 7/20/09 minutes where the Board authorized Albright to sign documents related to the property transfer. Secretary Hanson signed the approved minutes.

Project No. 54, Whisky Creek Tributaries. At the last meeting, Albright reported that the Clay County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee denied Virgil Holt's request to place spoil from the County Road (C.R.) No. 25 cleanout project being completed by Brian Durensky on his Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage. Currently, Holt is suffering some health concerns. Until he recovers, a meeting with Brian Durensky regarding his project to clean the ditch on the east side of C.R. No. 25 north to the DNR protected waterway just south of Holt's farmyard is on hold.

Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation. The office has been receiving calls from concerned landowners regarding potential spring flooding. Albright met with Duane Egge today regarding his home buyout appraisal, and he agreed to take the revised appraised value. Egge plans to keep his remaining tract to build a new house on. He would also like to buy the approximate 3-acre lot (Knorr) north of his property for the appraised value (\$36,000). **Motion** by VanAmburg to approve the purchase of Duane Egge's house and the sale of the Knorr property to Egge for the referenced price. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

At their 1/11/10 meeting, the Board approved a proposal to move the dike alignment off Wall ST/C.R. No. 96 to the south, which will require more home buyouts, but will reduce overall project costs. Most of the homeowners affected by this change have agreed to or are considering buyouts. David Albertson and his mother, Carolyn Albertson, who own houses on the north side of 58th AVE, are not interested in the buyouts. The houses were appraised at \$118,500 and \$129,000. The Township has suggested that the BRRWD send a letter to the landowners, explaining our need to buy their property. There is a possibility that the BRRWD might have to use condemnation to acquire these houses. The Board discussed the project budget and home buyout expenses. **Motion** by Nelson to authorize the office to send a letter to the Albertson's to advise them that we need to have their decision regarding a buyout by 4/01/10. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

The Board discussed insuring the buyout properties. Albright is working with John Hoffman, ICS Agency, Inc. to acquire the property and flood insurance for the properties. Hoffman has recommended that the BRRWD acquire a blanket policy to cover all the property we own in Oakport Township. According to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations, flood insurance must be in effect for 30 day prior to a flood event. Hoffman requested that the office provide the appraisals of the buyouts, so he can determine how much coverage we need. The office will scan the house appraisals and forward them to Hoffman tomorrow.

Albright noted that the utility companies have been billing us for service to a house that Chad Ohnstad purchased last fall (Sieben). The utility companies (Xcel Energy/Red River Power Cooperative) will contact the homeowner, who is responsible for the bills, and credit our payments.

The Board reviewed the appraisal rates from Chuck Anderson, ARC Appraisals, to acquire easements. According to Anderson's rates, one-acre lots or smaller are valued at \$60,000/acre and lots over one acre are \$40,000/acre. Ron and Jane Bedard, who has a lot slightly larger than one acre, is dissatisfied with their payment and want the same rate as their neighbors, who have smaller lots with a higher valuation. The Board had an extended discussion regarding the Bedards' concern and the appraisal classifications, which are based on the easement percentage the BRRWD is taking from the property. The higher the percent of a given lot the BRRWD purchases, the more value is placed on the property. The Board felt that we have to continue to follow the same criteria we have used for all the other easements. They also felt that if Bedard is not willing to negotiate, we might have to consider possible condemnation, which will negate our original offer.

Tim Crompton submitted an offer to purchase the Steve Buck house for \$12,000. Currently, the closing on the Buck house has been delayed. The Board agreed to consider Crompton's bid when the house is purchased.

A Construction Committee meeting is scheduled for 2/18/10.

Project No. 46, Turtle Lake Outlet. Both siphons are currently operating. Lake levels remain high. Expectations are that ground water influences are impacting flows/levels.

Project No. 39, Georgetown Levee. Jones presented the preliminary results of the geotechnical study. The Board reviewed the proposed alignment revisions. They discussed a possible buyout of the Justin Jackson property, which is directly in the way of the proposed dike alignment. Jackson has an assessed value of \$42,500. He currently uses the house for storage. Rick St. Germain, H.E., would like to schedule a meeting with the BRRWD, the landowners, and the City of Georgetown to discuss the proposed project. The new alignment, which will move the existing dike further away from the Buffalo River, could affect approximately eight to ten homes. We have asked the Legislature for a \$1.5 million grant for the project. Currently, the BRRWD has a \$155,000 DNR grant for design, soil borings, etc. The proposed Fargo-Moorhead flood diversion project could increase the flood stage about 5"-8", depending which side of the Red River it is located. Albright suggested that H.E. should prepare a report to the Board regarding the geotechnical findings, including potential number/costs of buyouts and the effects of the Fargo-Moorhead flood diversion placement for either scenario.

Project No. 38, Farmstead Ringdikes. Albright plans to submit a final billing for the Kragnes ringdike to the DNR for approximately \$36,000 later this week. Opsahl prepared a letter for landowner Jim Elliot, who contacted him to discuss possible revision/funding for a private ringdike that he constructed following the 2009 spring flood. Elliot constructed his dike without a BRRWD permit or a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) permit from Clay County Planning & Zoning. The Board discussed this request and felt that since we denied a request similar to this a few years ago for "after-the-fact" funding, we have already set a precedent not to fund private dike constructions. In addition, there is no funding available at this time, and the DNR cannot cost share on private ringdikes that are not constructed according to BRRWD Rules/specifications. **Motion** by Hanson to deny Elliot's request for funding. **Seconded** by Nelson. **Approved.** The Board directed Albright to send Elliot a permit application for his project.

The Board reviewed Midwest Testing's preliminary comments and opinions for 12 proposed ringdike sites. Midwest indicated that their Scope of Work was limited to providing preliminary opinions based on the height of the dike, the proximity of the riverbank, and the preliminary ring dike alignments. They estimated that the geotechnical investigation would cost approximately \$4,000 to \$5,000 per site. If it appears that some ringdikes could be built, the landowners should be asked to sign a contract to cost share on the project before any work is started. Opsahl will send a summary of the geotechnical results to the landowners with recommendations regarding their individual sites.

The Board briefly discussed the Fargo-Moorhead Flood Diversion, and possible impacts that project could cause to floodplain areas along the Buffalo and Red Rivers. If built, the projected water level increases could result in more BRRWD requests for ringdikes, or improvements to existing ringdikes.

Project No. 33, Clay County Ditch No. 50. The Board reviewed a petition from MNDOT for work on the ditch involving a culvert in T.H. No. 10. H.E. is working on project recommendations. The BRRWD needs to schedule a ditch hearing regarding this project. There is another MNDOT petition for a project involving Clay County Ditch No. 9 that will also require a ditch system hearing. The Board plans to schedule both hearing for the same date.

Project 32, Hawley EDA Diversion. The City of Hawley would like to meet regarding the outlet pipe concerns. When H.E. completes repair recommendations for the pipe, the office will set up a meeting with the City, contractor, pipe manufacturer, and the BRRWD. Cromwell Township is very interested in a possible project to address their highwater concerns. The City feels that until their outlet pipe problems are addressed, we shouldn't be discussing the possibility of draining more water through their project.

Project No. 29, Buffalo River Log Jams. The BRRWD has qualified for NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) funding for logjam removal, but at this time, the NRCS funding is still on hold at the Federal level. The Board is concerned that if the funding is delayed much longer, the work will have to be delayed until after the spring runoff.

Project No. 8, Stony Creek Detention. Jones prepared a report regarding the dam site operation and Gordon Gilbertson's drainage concerns. It appears that the detention site is being operated properly and the drainage channel is in adequate condition. However, Gilbertson's field ditch leading into the channel is deeper than the channel, causing water to stand in his ditch. At this time, the BRRWD has the option of doing some minor work to remove some high spots in the project channel, but this will still not solve the problem of water standing in Gilbertson's ditch. Albright will contact Gilbertson regarding this information.

Mediation PT. The next PT meeting will be held March 25, 2010. Initially, we had thought about a meeting this month, but due to the heavy workload, etc., the Board felt it would be all right to delay it until March. Albright also felt that by meeting every month, the PT discussions have become repetitive. The purpose of the PT is to address solutions to problem areas, not to waste the Members' valuable time if there is nothing new to discuss.

RWMP. Meetings have been scheduled for 3/18/10 in Barnesville and 3/30/10 in Hawley for public review of the draft RWMP. Albright will present the draft RWMP to the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (RRBFDRWG) on 3/02/10. Hearing notices will be sent to the newspapers this week. Agency comments are due by 3/27/10.

Clay County Ditch No. 9. MNDOT has filed a petition for work on T.H. No. 75 involving their proposed roundabout. Jones has questions about their ditch relocation design. He will work with MNDOT and prepare a report for the Board's review. As noted earlier, the Board plans to schedule a hearing for this ditch system at the same time as one for Clay County Ditch No. 50.

Clay County Ditch No. 49. The third and final hearing for the redetermination of benefits for County Ditch No. 49 is tentatively scheduled for 3/16/10 at 7:00 PM in the Basement Meeting Room, Moorhead City Hall. Notices will be sent.

M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3. Albright will be meeting with the Clay County Board of Commissioners tomorrow morning to present two petitions for their review/adoption regarding the BRRWD's use of M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3. The first petition is for the general administrative levy and the second petition is for \$250,000 to provide the local share of project costs to match federal/state funding for qualified houses/properties that are located in a floodplain, were damaged by the 2009 spring flood, or are along a river where bank failures are occurring. Manager VanAmburg will also attend the meeting.

New Office. Albright met with Karen Lauer, Barnesville EDA, regarding possible lots for a new building. Lauer provided Albright with a list of lots and buildings that are available. The Board briefly discussed the information.

Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee Clean Water Legacy (CWL) Project. The Clay and Wilkin SWCDs submitted an application for funding to continue project construction in December 2010. They were recently informed that the project was not funded.

Another opportunity for project funding is available for stormwater projects from MPCA. The deadline for this funding opportunity is 3/05/10. Josh Kadrmas, Engineer, H.E., will look into submitting an application on behalf of the City of Barnesville for their Blue Eagle Lake project.

MAWD Legislative Breakfast. MAWD has scheduled their Legislative Breakfast in St. Paul for March 10-11, 2010. The office will handle the reservations. Albright noted that we plan to arrange a regional meeting with our Legislators, Lobbyist Joel Carlson, the BRRWD, Pelican Lake, and Cormorant Lake Watershed Districts. The office will send invitations to our Legislators next week. The Board discussed proposed bonding bills. The Legislators are asking for funding proposals for projects that can be built this year. The Board discussed the projects that the BRRWD would like to have funded this year. The DNR has requested that the Watershed Districts provide a five-year plan for project development.

Army Corps of Engineers (COE) F-M Metro Area Study. The Metro Task Force meeting will be meeting on Thursday, February 11, 2010. VanAmburg noted that the Minnesota representatives will also meet to discuss their strategy regarding the negotiations about the project location. The group discussed alternate routes for the diversion project, the COE's recommendations, current weather patterns, and utilization of wetlands for retention.

The following bills were presented for approval:

Accounts Payable	Description	Account	Amount
Assumption Catholic Church	Hildebrand Hall Rental 3/18, 4/08	RWMP/TMDL meetings	\$ 400.00
City of Hawley	Community Center rent, 3/30, 4/06	RWMP/TMDL meetings	\$ 30.00
Clay Co. Auditor/Treasurer	Becker County bond sale collections	Pj. 46, Turtle Lake	\$ 603.82
Gilbertson Tax Office	2009 W-2s/1099s	Admin	\$ 204.00
Haugen's Landscaping	#336, snow removal	Pj. 46, Turtle Lake	\$ 600.00
Houston Engineering, Inc.	January 2010 billing summary	Varies-see attached	\$ 99,175.18
ICS Agency, Inc.	#38628, house insurance	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 1,484.74
Mark M. & Tamara A. McRae	Easement	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 17,622.50
Mark S. & Sue Ringham	Easement	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 25,200.00
Matt Bjerke	Sediment control basins/SWCD	M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3	\$ 1,185.00
Mattson Excavating	#257, repairs	Varies	\$ 9,570.62
MN Viewers Association	2010 membership dues	Admin	\$ 125.00
Post Office	PO Box 341 annual rent	Admin	\$ 40.00
Premium Waters, Inc.	#366590-01-10	Admin	\$ 22.50
RRBC	2010 Contribution	M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3	\$ 25,000.00
Stephanson Law Trust Acct.	Fischer easement	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 2,533.50
Terry Kohler	Sediment control basins/SWCD	M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3	\$ 1,611.00
TRN Abstract & Title F-M	Abstract update (1)	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 155.00
UEI	#11412, 12/01-12/31/09 CLOMR	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 16,962.40
WREC	12/18/09-1/19/10 service (2)	Pj. 46, Turtle Lake	\$ 327.95
Xcel Energy	1/08/10-1/27/10 service (2)	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 137.08
			\$ 202,990.29

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

Next Meeting. The Board of Managers, BRRWD, will hold their next regular meeting on Monday, February 22, 2010, in the Barnesville office at 7:00 PM.

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Adjournment. Chairman Ellefson adjourned the meeting at 10:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hanson, Secretary