

BUFFALO-RED RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

BARNESVILLE, MINNESOTA 56514

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MINUTES FOR MANAGERS' MEETING

March 22, 2010

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held their regular meeting on Monday, March 22, 2010, at 8:00 PM in the Barnesville office. BRRWD Managers present were Roger G. Ellefson, John E. Hanson, Gerald L. VanAmburg, Curtis M. Nelson, and Breanna Paradeis Kobiela. Others attending included: Bruce E. Albright, BRRWD Administrator, Zach Herrmann, Engineer, and Julie Jerger, Administrative Assistant, Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.); Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Bob Zimmerman, Engineer, City of Moorhead; Wesley A. Samuel, Judy Tims, and Reverend Ron Groninger, Church of the Nazarene, and landowners: Rick Oberg and Adrian Haugrud.

Chairman Ellefson called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM. He announced that the proceedings were being taped to aid in preparation of the minutes.

Clay County Ditch No. 49 Redetermination of Benefits Continuation Hearing. The Board reconvened the 3/16/10 redetermination hearing to provide an opportunity to speak for those who were not able to attend last week's hearing due to flooding issues. Rick Oberg encouraged the Board to install the new structures as soon as possible. **Motion** by VanAmburg to accept the Viewers' Report as presented and to order the structure replacement project to go forward. **Seconded** by Nelson. **Approved.** With the Board's signature on the Redetermination Order, the 30-day appeal period begins. Albright noted that in the near future, we need to schedule a meeting with Clay County, the Townships, and landowners to discuss the structure replacements/funding. The project plans need to be completed and submitted to the State for approval. The Board discussed the installation of the one-rod grassed bufferstrips and the project timeline. Albright questioned if we should try to mail the right-of-way (r-o-w) checks and work on structure replacements this spring, or wait until fall after the grain is harvested. There are areas along the ditch berm that also may need repairs. Albright suggested that the BRRWD could make the r-o-w payments following the appeal period (after 4/21/10) and complete the berm repairs and structure replacements before seeding the bufferstrips may be next spring. For work on the berms, the Board thought it would be helpful to have the proposed r-o-w seeded to small grain. By completing the repairs/structure replacements this year and seeding the bufferstrips next spring, we could avoid having to seed the r-o-w twice. Albright will send letters to the landowners regarding the project timeline.

Secretary's Report. The Board reviewed draft minutes for the 7/21/09 Clay County Ditch No. 49 Redetermination of Benefits hearing. **Motion** to approve the minutes by VanAmburg. **Seconded** by Nelson. **Approved.**

Treasurer's Report. The Board reviewed the BRRWD's financial status. Albright reported that we currently have \$2,188,718.04 on hand. We received the final payment for the Kragnes Ringdike project from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) (\$36,244.64). The office will prepare a pay request to the DNR for general expenses for Pj. 39, Georgetown Levee Improvements (\$67,354.97).

Other business brought before the Board included:

Project No. 65, County Line Outlet. Adrian Haugrud reported that water is flowing naturally to the west over the Prairie View Township road (310th AVE). He has been able to access his farmstead so far this spring. When Nelson and Albright met with Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) at their

annual meeting on 3/09/10, they brought up the issue of using the Interstate-94 (I-94) road ditch as an outlet for the project. MNDOT did not give a definite response. The Board would like to complete this project in 2010, but we are waiting for MNDOT to make a final decision regarding the outlet issue. We need to have project funding lined up before starting the project. The BRRWD has submitted a request to the DNR for project funding from the 2010 bonding bill.

Ellefson provided background information regarding this project to Clay County Commissioner Kevin Campbell. Albright asked Haugrud if Prairie View Township has installed the culvert the BRRWD approved last fall (Permit No. 09-129). Haugrud said they had not. Ellefson explained that the BRRWD approved a permit for the Township to install a culvert last fall to equalize the water elevation. The Board will review this project again at their next meeting. Haugrud noted that he had about 1' of water in his barn again this spring. He thanked the Board for their efforts. Ellefson discussed other area wetlands that are filling up with water and causing problems.

Later in the meeting, Albright noted that at the MNDOT annual meeting, Manager Nelson and he provided MNDOT with the survey that H.E. prepared showing how we would use I-94 as the outlet for the proposed project. The cleanout along I-94 would be minimal. Albright asked MNDOT for a written response regarding our request as soon as possible. Herrmann pointed out that MNDOT would benefit from a ditch cleanout for their road r-o-w, especially since the BRRWD would share the expense of the work. Ellefson commented that if water is overtopping the township road by Haugrud's farmstead, then water is getting close to draining to the I-94 road ditch. The Board hoped that MNDOT would agree to our request to use their road for the project outlet to Wilkin County Ditch No. 41, Branch 5. Last fall, the Board approved a minor cleanout for Mark Braton along a natural channel that is part of Branch No. 5 in Section 6, Prairie View Township. Edward Ernst has also requested an investigation of the condition of Branch No. 5, including bufferstrips. Water broke out of the ditch and caused erosion in his field this spring. The ditch is full of cattails and should be cleaned. Ernst feels the berm and bufferstrips need to be reestablished. Albright noted that the Board should consider the repair request because if Project No. 65 is ever developed, we will need to have an adequate outlet. **Motion** by Hanson to approve the repair request. **Seconded** by Paradeis Kobiela. **Approved.**

FM Metro Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Flood Diversion. Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner, and Bob Zimmerman, Engineer, City of Moorhead, discussed the Metro Area Task Force's decision to choose the North Dakota Diversion as their Locally Preferred Plan (LPP) last week. Campbell explained that in order to continue the Study and get it completed by December 2010, an additional \$2.6 million is needed. The Federal government will share the costs with the local governments on a 50/50 basis, which means that the locals have to come up with \$1.3 million. Campbell reported that Senator Byron Dorgan notified the County today that the Federal share of the study costs has been acquired. For the local share, North Dakota will have to raise \$900,000 and Minnesota will be asked to contribute \$400,000. The North Dakota funding sources are as follows: \$300,000 from Cass County, which includes the Southeast Cass Water Resource District (SCWRD), \$300,000 from the City of Fargo, and \$300,000 from the State of North Dakota. The local Minnesota contributors include \$100,000 from Clay County and \$200,000 from the City of Moorhead. Campbell asked if the BRRWD would be interested in contributing the remaining \$100,000. He added that the Task Force wants to have the money secured by the end of this week. Campbell acknowledged that the split to continue the North Dakota Study alternative is not divided 90/10 or even 80/20, according to the original agreement, but he feels that it is important to move this alternative forward as quickly as possible. The Board discussed the request. Albright noted that there would be funds available in either our Construction Account or the M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3, account, which the Clay County Board of Commissioners supported by petition. VanAmburg thought this was certainly a worthwhile use of BRRWD resources. He felt it was important that we contribute to this project in a timely manner so we don't miss the 3/30/10 deadline. The COE agreed that the North Dakota study would be completed by December deadline if funding can be secured. Albright pointed out that the

BRRWD will receive approximately \$500,000 in 2010 tax proceeds from the M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3 levy. Bob Zimmerman, City of Moorhead, remarked that the City appreciated the BRRWD's partnership in this effort. Albright noted that this project will affect a large part of the BRRWD, and the majority of BRRWD landowners are in favor of the North Dakota Diversion. **Motion** by VanAmburg to contribute \$100,000 to fund the COE North Dakota Diversion LPP Study. **Seconded** by Nelson. **Approved.** Manager Nelson felt the BRRWD should also go on record in support of the Metro Task Force's selection of the North Dakota Diversion as the LPP. **Motion** by Nelson as referenced. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.** The City of Moorhead will be the fiscal host for the contributions, which will all be collected in one account. He advised Albright to send the check to the City of Moorhead. Campbell assured the Board that Clay County will hold firm on the 90/10 split for the construction costs. The group discussed the estimated project costs, which have been adjusted to account for inflation over the term of project construction. The Board also discussed possible environmental issues and downstream impacts, which could be significant.

Project No. 37, Clay County Ditch No. 41, Lateral No. 1. Representatives from the Church of the Nazarene, Moorhead, discussed their concerns about the crossing over County Ditch No. 41, which they need to access the property for their new church building. Albright gave a brief history of the issues. Their property is at the intersection of 15th AVE N and Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 75, which Concordia College sold to them. MNDOT has decided to eliminate their current access to this site off T.H. No. 75 for safety reasons. Jones did a hydraulic analysis of the proposed new crossing. The proposed crossing is one line of 14' x 8' box culvert. Earlier this year, the Board approved cost sharing the new crossing on a 50/50 basis, minus what MNDOT allows the Church for damages by removing the old T.H. No. 75 culvert.

Reverend Ron Groninger provided site plans for the Board's review and discussed his concerns about the project. He mentioned that MNDOT has indicated that they need to do a "bridge" inspection of the proposed crossing because of its size. Albright discussed the Church's suggestion to share/coordinate access with the City of Moorhead Park Department. The City has indicated that they have no interest in sharing the crossing. Albright pointed out that the Church shouldn't worry about a MNDOT bridge inspection because it is a private culverted crossing, and MNDOT has no jurisdiction over the ditch system. Ellefson noted that the BRRWD inspects our ditches and repairs ditch system structures when needed.

Judy Tims pointed out that there is an ownership issue regarding a small strip of land along the ditch r-o-w that Concordia did not deed to the Church. The BRRWD has a ditch easement on this parcel. MNDOT needs to know that the Church owns the strip of property before they can complete their appraisal of the T.H. No. 75 crossing removal and provide funding for the new crossing installation. Rev. Groninger said that Concordia is willing to sell the property to the Church, but it isn't a high priority. Another concern is that if the crossing costs too much, the congregation might not be able to start construction on their new church. Quotes for the structure replacement are between \$85,000 and \$124,000. The Board thought that seemed high. Albright suggested that the BRRWD could assist the Church with the project bidding. Ellefson explained how the BRRWD handles bid openings. Rev. Groninger was interested in this offer, as they might be able to get a better bid. The Church had planned to start building construction on 5/01/10 with a completion date of 1/01/11, but they won't be able to proceed until the crossing issues are resolved. The Board reviewed the Church construction plans.

VanAmburg agreed to speak to a Concordia official to facilitate transferring the parcel of property to the Church so that MNDOT's concerns about ownership are addressed. Albright will contact BRRWD Attorney Corey Elmer, Vogel Law, to see if he could also help expedite the property transfer.

Site improvements, catch basins, and retention ponds for the church construction would require permits from the BRRWD and City of Moorhead. Albright provided the Church representatives with a BRRWD permit application for their use. Herrmann thought that the City might require a water storage plan. The

group discussed this issue. MNDOT may want to take some additional r-o-w for their roadway. Albright pointed out that MNDOT has stated that they would not object to the Church using the existing crossing for construction. Rev. Groninger will keep the BRRWD updated via e-mail.

Permit No. 09-131, Detroit Lakes WMD/USFWS. Applicant proposes to restore a wetland on Becker County Ditch No. 5, upstream of the Amer Froyland (Todd Branden) Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) dam in Sections 21, 22, 27, and 28, Audubon Township. Minnesota Statutes Annotated (M.S.A.) 103.227, Impounding Surface Waters on a County Ditch, will be applicable to this project. At their 12/14/09 meeting, the Board tabled action on this application until that process is reviewed. Albright and Jones met with the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District (WMD)/United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on 1/07/10, and they agreed to follow the Statutes regarding their project development. The process will include a petition, an Engineer's recommendations, and a hearing with the affected landowners. The USFWS would also have to furnish documentation that they have received flowage easements from the affected landowners. Once this process is completed, the BRRWD will be able to issue a permit for the wetland restoration. **Tabled**, pending receipt of the petition.

Permit No. 09-132, Bruce Yaggie. Yaggie notified the office that he has the tile installation scheduled for 4/09/10. The Board reviewed Yaggie's plans, and discussed the proposed project to install approximately 330 acres of patterned tiling in the S½, Section 20, Deerhorn Township, Wilkin County. The outlet ditch is graded to flow west to Wilkin County Ditch No. 5A. Jay Nord, the downstream landowner, has already approved the proposal. **Motion** by Hanson to approve Permit No. 09-132, subject to Manager field review and road authority approval to work within their r-o-w. **Seconded** by VanAmburg. **Approved.**

Permit No. 10-06, Oakport Township. Applicant proposes to block road culverts and build temporary levies on an emergency basis where necessary for protection from the 2010 spring flood. **Motion** by Nelson to approve Permit No. 10-06. **Seconded** by Paradeis Kobiela. **Approved.**

Richard Peppel Drainage Concern. Peppel was in the office to report that the new culverts County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 52 south of Barnesville experienced some erosion, and there is sediment in the culverts. Clay County didn't get the site seeded last fall because of the wet conditions. Albright noted that County should work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to correct this problem. Albright has e-mailed Dave Overbo, Engineer, Clay County Highway Department, about this problem.

Michael Hustad Highwater Complaint. Hustad has filed a complaint again this spring regarding highwater concerns in the northwest corner, Section 6, Norwegian Grove Township, Otter Tail County. Albright suggested that he and Manager Ellefson conduct a field review of this area.

Minch Lawsuit. Albright reported there is nothing new regarding the lawsuit. Currently, we are awaiting the Federal Appellant Court decision. Minch had requested oral arguments, but Norgard does not expect to have to travel to St. Louis, MO, to argue the appeal.

Project No. 67, Helgeson, Randkler, Businger, Seim, & Pete Lakes Outlet. The BRRWD discussed this project with MNDOT at their annual meeting in Detroit Lakes on 3/09/10. Landowner Wayne Bakken called today regarding a possible informational meeting. The Board plans to schedule a landowner informational meeting later this spring, after the spring runoff. Opsahl furnished an elevation graph of Grove Lake, which would be the outlet for Project No. 67. Grove Lake is currently about 1' above the maximum drawdown elevation. Opsahl stopped the outlet on 3/12/10, according to the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Agreement. VanAmburg asked if there was a target date to reopen the outlet. Albright thought that we could open the Grove Lake outlet in the near future after the spring runoff.

Project No. 66, Tansem/Ranum Lakes Outlet. Albright and Manager Nelson discussed this project with MNDOT at their annual meeting. It appears they would rather raise T.H. No. 34 than participate in an outlet project. Albright noted that Tansem Township has erected a fenced barrier to limit access to the township road, which is now underwater by the Hersch residence. Ellefson felt that this project probably wouldn't be developed without MNDOT assistance. The Board discussed the downstream concern.

Project No. 64, LaBelle/Boyer Lakes Outlet. Albright will meet with the Appraisers tomorrow morning. The office has been receiving phone calls regarding high water on Boyer Lake. Hanson noted that water isn't on T.H. No. 10 yet. Since the Board approved an emergency declaration for this project, they would like to move forward with the Final Hearing by 5/01/10. We might be able to start construction by 6/01/10. The group briefly discussed the location of a possible old outlet for Boyer Lake. The survey crew couldn't find the culverts in the railroad tracks, as they are underwater. They need to find out what the culvert elevations are. Landowner Steve Guttormson has photographs of the erosion on Boyer Lake. The redetermination of benefits for Becker County Ditch No. 9 might have to wait until later this summer. The Board discussed keeping the two projects separate. Project No. 64 might just have to pay a one-time outlet fee to County Ditch No. 9.

Project No. 58, Riverton Township Retention. Bud Beckett called the office with reports that the retention site worked well this spring. Nanik Construction has cleanup work to complete this spring.

Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration. Albright received a certified letter from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) notifying us that they plan to move forward with the easement acquisition of the former Holubok property, and we should expect payment this week (\$340,000). BRRWD Attorney Tami Norgard, Vogel Law Firm, is working with Albright on draft language for the easements. According to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) Program, the easements need to reference the LSOHC grant. Andy Beyer, past President of the Kent Rod & Gun Club, told Albright that the BRRWD should go ahead with condemnation on the Rod & Gun Club property. There's just no way to determine ownership. Albright explained that we will furnish notice to the best of our ability. We'll just have to file the payment with the Court, and let the Court distribute the money. Albright noted that Jones was going to discuss the project at Wilkin County Ditch 6A meeting with the County. Herrmann wasn't sure what took place.

Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation. Howard Fees would like to purchase the Anderson and Finke lots, but felt the appraised value was too high. The Board discussed the question of selling the property for the appraised value. Albright prepared a summary of the appraised values/acres for the Board's review. Albright felt the Board should use appraised value rates. **Motion** by VanAmburg to sell the property for the appraised value of \$10,000/acre. **Seconded** by Paradeis Kobiela. **Approved.**

The Board discussed the Ronald and Jane Bedard land valuation concern. The Bedards have refused to sign their easement agreement because they feel that the BRRWD's \$40,000/acre offer for their project r-o-w payment is unfair. Their property value is less than what their neighbors received (\$60,000/acre). The property valuations that Chuck Anderson, ARC Appraisals, provided to the BRRWD at the start of the easement acquisition process were based on \$60,000 for lots less than 1.0 acres and \$40,000 for lots greater than 1.0 acres. The assumption being that the owners of smaller lots were sacrificing more of their property for BRRWD easements than the owners of larger lots. The Bedard lot is 1.21 acres, and their neighbors' lots were less than 1.0 acres. All of the BRRWD acquisitions to date have been based on this valuation rate. Attorney Norgard has recommended that the Board could start the condemnation proceedings on Monday, March 29, 2010. **Motion** by Hanson to approve and begin the condemnation proceedings as noted. **Seconded** by VanAmburg. During discussion of the motion, the Board talked about how the appraised easement valuation rates were calculated. Ellefson was concerned about the fairness of the valuation. After Albright explained the easement value calculations to the Board, the Managers agreed

that the valuations were reasonable. Albright noted that if the condemnation proceeds, the BRRWD will have an appraiser determine the actual value of the Bedard easement, and the Board and the Bedards will have to abide by that value. He felt that it would be much less generous than the current BRRWD offer. **Approved.** The BRRWD's offer will expire on 3/29/10 at 8:00 AM, when Attorney Norgard will initiate the condemnation proceedings for the Bedard property.

Project No. 46, Turtle Lake Outlet. The Board reviewed a current lake elevation graph. Turtle Lake is maintaining its elevation, but Long Lake is actually rising slightly. The siphons are operating, but conditions are just too wet. The Board agreed that lake levels are high all through the eastern part of the BRRWD. The DNR has decided to allow us to continue to operate the siphons during the two weeks that we normally need to stop the Long Lake for their walleye planting. Most of their other rearing ponds are no longer suitable because of high water elevations.

Opsahl investigated options for increasing flows from the Long Lake siphon. The best option would be to install an inline booster pump in the siphon line. The cost estimate for temporary pumping would be \$15,000-\$20,000. Opsahl felt this was probably too expensive to be pursued at this time. Albright will forward this information to the homeowners.

Project No. 42, Clay County 67. The Board plans to schedule a redetermination of benefits hearing regarding Joy Stumbo's assessment in the near future. Since we won't be able to hold a hearing in time to adjust her 2010 property tax assessment, we will need to rebate the appropriate amount of her tax payment.

Project No. 39, Georgetown Levee. The BRRWD bought Justin Jackson's property this morning for \$26,000 in the City of Georgetown. The office will prepare a pay request to the DNR for reimbursement. A meeting is tentatively scheduled with the City to discuss the levee improvement project tomorrow night. The City had to do some pumping to control stormwater backup and didn't have to do any emergency diking for the 2010 spring flood.

Project No. 38, Farmstead Ringdikes. The City of Kragnes didn't experience extensive flooding this spring. No water from the Buffalo River came overland to the City; however, there was some minor local flooding. We received reimbursement from the DNR for the Kragnes project today. The BRRWD plans to have at least five ringdikes ready to build in case funding becomes available for ringdikes this year. The State did not provide the DNR with any general funding for ringdikes. There could be some NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding available for ringdikes later in the year.

Project No. 37, Clay County Ditch No. 41-Lat No. 1. Albright suggested that either Manger VanAmburg or Paradeis Kobiela could join him to review the Minnkota Power Cooperation easement agreement to replace the existing poles in Section 1, Moorhead Township. **Tabled.**

MNDOT Petitions. Hearings will be held on Monday, April 5, 2010, at 7:00 PM and 8:00 PM, in the Moorhead City Council Chambers to review petitions filed by MNDOT to work on Clay County Ditch Nos. 50 (T.H. No. 10) and 9 (T.H. No. 75). H.E. has furnished project recommendations. Notices have been sent and published.

Project No. 29, Buffalo River Log Jams. The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) contracts are ready for Board signature. The work didn't get started before the spring flooding. The Board decided to allow the contractors to take out the logjams wherever they were located. The work is authorized up to a total of \$95,000. **Motion** by Hanson to authorize Ellefson to sign the contracts and issue a Notice of Award for the log jam removal contracts to American Enterprises and H&S Contracting, Inc., and to G&G Farms for Sites 8 and 9. **Seconded** by Nelson. **Approved.**

Project No. 27, Clay County Ditch No. 55. Only one landowner has not paid their share of the 2009 ditch clean out project along CSAH No. 10. Some landowners complained about the high water problems before the ditch opened up earlier this month. Albright noted that Bill Austin's drain tile continues to drain to the County Ditch No. 55 via the CSAH No. 10 road ditch.

Becker County Ditch No 15. The repair project will be delayed until site conditions are drier.

Project No. 14, Clay County Ditch No. 10. Landowner Michael Nugent, who lives in the NW¼, Section 24, Morken Township, contacted the office several times this spring regarding his concerns about too much water in the northwest corner near his farmstead. He has the same problem every year. He also noted low spots in the road and ditch berm. He asked the BRRWD to authorize an elevation survey for both the road and ditch berm. He would like to have fill added to both the road and berm to help protect his farmstead. **Motion** by Hanson to authorize H.E. to conduct the referenced survey. **Seconded** by Nelson. **Approved.**

Project No. 8, Stony Creek Detention. Albright will forward the report that Jones prepared regarding the dam site operation to Gordon Gilbertson to address his drainage concerns. Gilbertson's field ditch leading into the channel is deeper than the channel, causing water to stand in his private ditch. The BRRWD has the option of doing some minor work to remove some high spots in the project channel, but this may not solve the problem of water standing in Gilbertson's ditch.

Mediation Project Team (PT). The next PT meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 25, 2010, at 1:30 PM at the MSUM Science Center, Glyndon.

Revised Watershed Management Plan (RWMP). The Board discussed the 3/18/10 informational meeting/hearing in Barnesville. Ten attendees completed questionnaires with all positive comments. Tom Langseth and Everett Erickson, Otter Tail County Commissioners, met with Albright this afternoon to discuss Langseth's concerns about the BRRWD's inclusion of optional watershed management districts (WMDs) in the RWMP. Albright noted that we have received comments from the COE, the USFWS, and the City of Hawley. The 60-day comment period will end on 3/27/10. The Board had an extended discussion regarding the factual basis of the letter from the City of Hawley and the issue of WMDs. The next RWMP hearing will be on 3/30/10 in Hawley.

A BWSR hearing will be scheduled for either the end of April or early May in Barnesville. The BWSR Northern Planning Region Team will tentatively meet on 5/12/10 to review the Plan. Dwight would like to meet with the Board again after the hearing. The Final hearing could be on 5/26/10 with BWSR. Albright has requested that BWSR extend our Plan completion deadline until 6/30/10. BWSR will send out the notices for their hearings.

2010 Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Water Management Plan. The USFWS submitted the Hamden Slough 2010 operation plan for the Board's review. Jones reviewed the annual report and didn't find any problems. A summary of his review will be on file in the Watershed office.

Becker SWCD Envirothon. The office received a request from the Becker SWCD, asking for a contribution for their Area II Envirothon. **Motion** by Nelson to contribute \$150 to the event. **Seconded** by Paradeis Kobiela. **Approved.**

River Keepers. Starting 5/02/10, River Keepers will be hosting a group from the international environmental river keepers from Moldova in Eastern Europe. They are participants in the Sister Rivers project that is designed to develop a relationship between American and Moldovan partners, focusing on the Dniester River in Eastern Europe and the Red River of the North. There is a "mixing of the waters" ceremony planned. On 5/06/10, the group will visit the BRRWD, where they will observe the River Watch

Team taking water quality samples, and tour some of our project sites, such as Whisky Creek and Manston Slough. The BRRWD activities will end with supper at the Galaxie Supper Club in Barnesville.

River Watch. The Board had an extended discussion regarding the goals/focus of the River Watch Program. Sheila Carlson, River Watch Advisor, provided a survey for the Board to review so they can provide her with guidance regarding future River Watch objectives. The Board was interested in promoting the educational component of the program. The River Watch Team will present their 2009 sampling results to representatives from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) tomorrow in the Barnesville office.

The following bills were presented for approval:

Accounts Payable	Description	Account	Amount
Becker SWCD	2010 Envirothon donation	M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3	\$ 150.00
Bruce E. Albright	3 rolls of stamps	RWMP	\$ 132.00
Bruce E. Albright	Leg. Breakfast-meals/lodging	Admin	\$ 553.38
Bruce E. Albright	Viewers' supper/lunch	Clay C.D. No. 49	\$ 56.93
City of Moorhead	2010 Assistance COE Study	M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3	\$ 100,000.00
Clay County Union	#140, RWMP Hearing Notice	RWMP	\$ 264.00
Conrad & Karen Bueng	Easement	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 19,213.50
Daily News	RWMP Hearing Notice	RWMP	\$ 166.32
H.E.	#0003507, February services	M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3	\$ 738.00
J&J Braton Properties, LLC	April 2010 office rent	Admin	\$ 540.00
Joel Carlson	April Lobbyist fees	Admin	\$ 850.00
Katie Jerger	Hearing Notice mailing assistance	RWMP	\$ 40.00
Lako Drilling, Inc.	Seal two wells	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 2,195.35
Moorhead Public Service	2/08/10-3/08/10 (2)	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 62.16
Petty Cash	Postage, supplies, etc.	Admin	\$ 200.00
Quill	#4031630, supplies	Admin	\$ 54.03
RRV Coop Power	2/10/10-3/10/10 billings (3)	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 374.15
TDS MetroCom	3/13/10 long distance billing	Admin	\$ 24.96
The Forum	#CL01564546, Hearing Notice	RWMP	\$ 112.56
TRN Abstract & Title F-M	Abstract updates (5)	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 775.00
UEI	February billings (4)	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 52,885.05
Vogel Law Firm	#30746, LOHC	Pj. 56, Manston	\$ 752.00
Vogel Law Firm	#30831, February	Admin	\$ 160.00
Vogel Law Firm	#30832, February	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 21,194.36
Vogel Law Firm	#30833, February	COE Metro Flood	\$ 4,460.00
Wm. Nichol Excavating, Inc.	#33, 2010 spring flood	Varies-see attached	\$ 6,801.00
			\$ 212,754.75

Motion by Hanson to approve payment of the bills. **Seconded** by Paradeis Kobiela. **Approved.**

Next Meeting. The Board of Managers, BRRWD, will hold their next regular meeting on Monday, April 12, 2010, in the Barnesville office at 8:00 PM.

Adjournment. Chairman Ellefson adjourned the meeting at 11:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hanson, Secretary