

MINUTES FOR MANAGERS' MEETING
March 12, 2007

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) held their regular meeting on Monday, March 12, 2007, at 8:00 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.), David Watt, and Mark and Vicki Volesky.

Chairman Ellefson called the meeting to order at 7:55 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 2/26/07 regular and the 2/13/07 Oakport informational meetings. Nelson noted minor corrections for both sets of minutes. **Motion** by Nelson to approve the minutes, subject to correction. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

Treasurer's Report. The Board reviewed their current financial status and monthly reports. The office submitted a pay request to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the Oakport Flood Mitigation project expenses on 2/28/07. To date, there has been no response. Two more Oakport home buyouts are scheduled for 3/20/07 and 3/26/07. Albright noted that we will obtain Midwest Bank loans for these transactions. The office will submit pay requests to the DNR for 98% reimbursement of the closing costs. Clay County should receive the bond sale proceeds (\$440,000) for Project Nos. 51 and 57 on 3/27/07. The County should forward the funding as soon as they receive it. **Motion** by VanAmburg to accept the Treasurer's Report. **Seconded** by Olson. **Approved.**

Business brought before the Board included:

David Watt Drainage Concerns. Watt had several issues to discuss with the BRRWD. The first issue involves an ongoing concern in the SE¹/₄, Section 32, Spring Prairie Township, Clay County, regarding an illegal dike installed on the north/south quarterline in 1997 by the previous renter, Steve Wear. In 2002, Watt, Wear, Manager Bob Kloubec, and Albright met to discuss this issue, but nothing was resolved, as Wear left the meeting early. The BRRWD approved Permit No. 04-66 for Watt to install a new 24" dia. culvert in the southwest corner of the SE¹/₄, Section 32, on the north side of 15th AVE N, set 0.3' lower than the existing culvert to match the adjacent centerline culvert and provide grade to drain water west. Watt also installed a ditch along the quarterline to drain water south to the road ditch. However, drainage is still a problem in this area, and Watt would like to resolve this issue with the new owner, Fred L. Williams III, and new renters, Chad and Curt Leach. Albright read a letter from Steve Wear following the 2002 meeting regarding his suggestions to resolve the drainage problems. Watt noted that any drainage changes will affect the neighboring landowners, which complicates any solution to his drainage concern. Albright suggested that Watt work with his neighbors to install a ditch on the property line draining west. He said that the Clay Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) could conduct the survey. Watt said that the downstream ditch along

County Road (C.R.) No. 18, which is Clay County Ditch No. 63, also needs cleaning. Albright suggested that the landowners/operators could agree to install a 15" dia. pipe in the dike to allow Watt's low area to drain out at a metered rate. Watt is considering a tiling project for this field, but he can't tile a field with standing surface water. Albright suggested that Watt work with his neighbors to obtain a survey and design for a possible ditch.

The next issue regards another ongoing neighborhood dispute in Section 25, Moland Township, Clay County, between the Fischer and Stulz families. Watt is Stulz's renter. Over the years, Fischers have maintained a dike on the east-west property line, which blocks the natural drainage across their property and cuts off Watt's outlet to drain north and west to Clay County Ditch No. 2. Watt asked if he could pump the water across the property line to drain his field. Albright gave a brief history of this ongoing dispute. Last fall, after Fischers completed more work on the property line, BRRWD Attorney Tami Norgard sent Fischers a letter directing them to restore the property line to the documented 9/07/05 elevation and open a plugged 6" dia. culvert/swale by 12/01/06. Fischers complied with this request. However, the Fischer's dike still restricts Watt's drainage. The Board had an extended discussion about the area drainage and possible options to resolve this dispute. They have previously gone on record supporting Watt's drainage proposal to install a road and ditch on the property line. VanAmburg and Ellefson noted that it appears that Fischers are restricting natural drainage to Ditch No. 2. Ellefson suggested that the Board try one more time to invite the affected parties to a BRRWD meeting to discuss a solution to this dispute. Possible alternatives could include building a legal lateral to Ditch No. 2, or a redetermination of benefits for the two properties. The BRRWD could lower Stulz's benefits, since Fischers' dike restricts his access to the ditch system, and raise Fischers' benefits. Fischers could also be assessed for the redetermination hearing costs. The Board authorized Albright to invite the affected landowners to an upcoming meeting.

Watt would like the BRRWD to install a rock drop structure at the outlet of Clay County Ditch No. 2 west of C.R. 68. We have already installed drop structures east and west of C.R. 68 to prevent washout problems. Watt thought that we could do the work while the contractor still has his machinery on site. The Board authorized Wade Opsahl, Technician, H.E., to investigate this request. Jones will provide a recommendation to the Board at their next meeting.

Clay County Ditch No. 32. Mark Volesky will file a repair request to conduct a survey of the lower 3.75 miles of Clay County Ditch No. 32, starting at the outlet and continuing upstream through Sections 18, 17, 16 and 15, Kurtz Township, ending at County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 7. Volesky would like the survey results compared with the "as-built" ditch records to analyze structure requirements for the Burlington Northern Sante Fe (BNSF) Railroad tracks on the quarterline in Section 16. Following the survey, the BRRWD, petitioners, and Ditch No. 32 landowners could determine if a repair will address local drainage/flooding problems, or if a ditch improvement might be necessary. Volesky also requested a field inlet with a culvert/gate in the northwest corner of Section 15, so he can raise/close the ditch berm adjacent to his property to prevent Ditch No. 32 flooding of his farmstead.

Volesky was responsible for a grass fire last fall that accidentally burned a private crossing on Ditch No. 32 in the northeast corner of Section 15, Kurtz Township. Volesky asked the Board to clarify his liability for the bridge repair costs. Last fall, David L. Overbo, Engineer, Clay County Highway Department, had the County bridge inspector evaluate the bridge damage. He recommended replacing the two guardrails, and noted that it would not be necessary to replace the deck planking. The County completed this work and billed Volesky for approximately \$800, which he paid. The BRRWD

contacted Ed Jerdee, Jerdee Bridge Company, to provide an estimate for the bridge repair. His recommendations were more extensive than the County's. He estimated that it would cost approximately \$2,900 to repair the bridge. Jerdee noted that the fire compromised the bridge's basic strength by approximately 10%. Albright forwarded Jerdee's estimate to Volesky for his review. The group discussed the damages. Volesky asked when his liability for the bridge repairs would end. Managers Nelson and VanAmburg both thought that once Jerdee completes the repairs, the Voleskys would not be responsible for further costs. Vicki Volesky questioned why the Board had Jerdee do another estimate and why it was higher. The Board felt that Jerdee's estimate would be the most accurate because he has had many years of experience with bridges, and actually built the bridge in question. As the drainage authority, the BRRWD is responsible for getting an estimate and hiring a contractor for the bridge repair. The County actually doesn't have jurisdiction to repair the bridge, as it is a private crossing. Albright read Jerdee's recommendations and the County's report. He explained that it is the BRRWD's responsibility to repair the bridge to keep it in working order for as long as possible. It could cost \$50,000 to \$60,000 to replace the bridge. Ellefson explained that if we don't repair this structure properly now, the ditch system landowners could end up paying much more in the future to replace it.

Vicki Volesky said that they do claim responsibility for the bridge damages. She added that it was apparent that the Clay County Highway Department really didn't have jurisdiction to authorize the bridge inspection or repair, as the structure was a private crossing on a BRRWD ditch system. Albright said that Clay County has acknowledged that they should have contacted the BRRWD when the fire occurred. Nelson noted that if the fire burned off the lumber treatment (creosote), it would compromise the bridge's structural integrity. Ellefson asked if the Voleskys have homeowners insurance to pay for the fire damage. Mark Volesky wasn't sure, but said he would check with his insurance company. **Motion** by Nelson that once Jerdee Bridge Company repairs the bridge according to the recommendations, Mark and Vicki Volesky would no longer be liable for further costs regarding this incident. In addition, Mark Volesky will contact his insurance carrier regarding fire damage coverage. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.** Vicki Volesky asked the Board to provide a written statement regarding their liability release. Albright noted that the official meeting minutes would provide a record of the Board's action, and the office will send them a copy as soon as the minutes are prepared and approved.

Permit No. 06-77, Robert Norby. Applicant proposes to repair erosion in the NE¹/₄, Section 22, Kragnes Township, Clay County, where the Buffalo River cut through his field during the 2006 spring flood. **Tabled** pending Manager field review after the crop is harvested. Norby will contact the office when the Board can complete the review.

Permit No. 06-104, Paul Crume. Albright noted that renter Paul Brendemuhl contacted him last Friday regarding his work with the Clay SWCD to complete a drainage survey for the NE¹/₄, Section 17, Riverton Township. Paul Crume filed the permit application to install a dike along the quarterline in the NW¹/₄, Section 17, Riverton Township, Clay County. **Tabled.**

Permit No. 06-127, Brian Meyer. Meyer has received a DNR permit to repair erosion on Whisky Creek along his property at 361 2nd ST NE in Barnesville, MN. The riverbank is eroding behind his garage in an area approximately 80' long, which is causing bank failure and property loss. The DNR endorsed H.E.'s project design. **Motion** by Olson to approve Permit No. 06-127, subject to H.E.'s design recommendations and DNR's specifications. **Seconded** by VanAmburg. **Approved.**

Permit No. 07-03, Steve Holubok. Applicant proposes to lower a culvert in the quarterline approach along C.R. 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 190th 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. 07-09, Robert Norby. Applicant proposes to build a grain bin site in Section 22, Kragnes Township, Clay County. The work will include stripping the top soil on an area approximately 220' x 400' and using the spoil to fill field washouts. After he removes the top soil, Norby will fill the area with clay to about 4' above the flood elevation. He plans to develop the grain bin site to provide increased corn storage capacity. He wants the site elevated to protect the buildings from flooding. Norby will also need to contact Tim Magnusson, Clay County Planning and Zoning, regarding work in the floodplain. **Tabled** pending Manager field review this spring.

Permit No. 07-10, City of Sabin. Applicant proposes to construct underground utilities, paving, and grading for the Quarterline Crossing Third Addition in the SE¼, Section 7, Elmwood Township, Clay County. The City will develop a 4.5-acre subdivision to provide nine new residential lots. Currently, the area drains south to the C.R. 67 road ditch. The proposed project will redirect most of the drainage into a stormwater detention pond east of 5th AVE, west and north of C.R. 67. The pond is designed to handle the 100-year storm event. The backyard drainage on the south and west sides of the subdivision will still flow south to C.R. 67. Jones recommended permit approval. **Motion** by VanAmburg to approve Permit No. 07-10. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

Permit No. 07-11, City of Dilworth. Applicant proposes to construct underground utilities, including water main, storm and sanitary sewer, and grading and paving for the Woodbridge Fourth Addition in the NE¼SW¼, Section 1, Moorhead Township, Clay County. The project will provide 30 lots on 12.4 acres. All of the stormwater drainage will go to the existing Woodbridge Addition detention pond, which is designed to handle the 100-year rainfall event. The detention pond outlets via a lift station to Clay County Ditch No. 41-Lateral No. 1. Jones recommended permit approval. **Motion** by Hanson to approve Permit No. 07-11. **Seconded** by VanAmburg. **Approved.**

Permit No. 07-12, City of Dilworth. Applicant proposes to mill and overlay a number of city streets, which should have no impact on city drainage. The City also plans to improve a drainage swale along the north end of 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th ST NE to utilize existing area storm sewers. The swale will be graded to flow east into the east ditch of 7th ST NE, eventually outletting into Clay County Ditch No. 41-Lateral No. 1. Jones noted that the drainage area is small and the project will help eliminate ponding after rainstorms. Jones recommended permit approval. **Motion** by VanAmburg to approve Permit No. 07-12. **Seconded** by Nelson. **Approved.**

Permit No. 07-13, Moorhead Public Service. Applicant proposes to install an electrical wire line crossing under Clay County Ditch No. 47, approximately 250' north of the centerline of the C.R. 76 for the full width of the ditch right-of-way (r-o-w). This line is an extension of a crossing under the adjacent Otter Tail Valley Railroad (OTV). The work will provide electric service into the McCara Industrial Park. **Motion** by Hanson to approve Permit No. 07-13, subject to our standard utility disclaimer. **Seconded** by Olson. **Approved.**

Permit No. 07-14, Aggregate Industries, NCR. Applicant proposes to expand their future mining operations in Section 1, Riverton Township, Clay County, in a circular method consistent with their prior mining procedures. Four wetland basins are located within the proposed mining area. Steve Hofstad, Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Administrator, has determined that these wetlands are exempt from the WCA Rules because they are a result of past mining operations. Aggregate Industries will meet with area landowners on 3/19/07 to discuss potential downstream impacts. They have hired H.E. to develop a design to direct the water from the pit to their permanent pond area. Excess drainage will continue to outlet through the existing control structure. The Board discussed the project's potential for downstream seepage. They felt we might need to hold a landowner meeting as well, given the current landowner sentiments regarding gravel pit operations in this area. **Tabled** pending Jones' review and recommendations, and outcome of the 3/19/07 field meeting.

Minch and Johnson Lawsuits. Based on attorney/client privilege, and in accordance with Open Meeting Law, the Board went into closed session at 9:30 PM to discuss the status of both lawsuits. At 9:40 PM, the Board reopened the meeting.

Grove/Pete Lakes Outlet. H.E. has completed the field survey in the areas where we had permission to work and is currently using the data to develop models for alternative project designs to lower Grove Lake. The Board would like to schedule another informational meeting with the Grove Lake landowners in the near future.

Boyer Lake Erosion Control Project. The Becker SWCD sent information for the Board's review regarding a shoreline protection project proposed for Boyer Lake on the Sunnyside Care Center property. Part of this project will be paid for out of funds the BRRWD contributed to the Becker SWCD for conservation projects.

Project No. 61, Clay County Ditch No. 11-North-Improvement. On 2/21/07, Jones, Albright, Managers Olson, Nelson, and VanAmburg met with David L. Overbo, Engineer, Clay County Highway Department, and Clay County Commissioners Kevin Campbell and Jerry Waller, County Highway Committee, regarding this proposed improvement project along C.R. 8 in Section 32, Kurtz Township. The County has plans to move the road further north and is concerned that improving the ditch (deepening the ditch bottom) could cause additional erosion. They suggested that the BRRWD coordinate our project with their work in 2008. The BRRWD has scheduled the Preliminary Hearing for 4/19/07. Ellefson signed the Hearing notice on behalf of the Board.

Project No. 60, Swede Grove Lake. Nelson noted that landowner Chuck Carlson has indicated that he is opposed to any project for Swede Grove Lake that would outlet on his property. Carlson owns a large portion of the downstream property. The Board discussed the fate of this project. Although the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and DNR Fisheries are interested in developing Swede Grove Lake from a fisheries standpoint, they have not offered significant funding in that regard. The Board discussed the project development costs. When H.E. completes a revised cost estimate, Albright will forward it to Ed Fick, FDR Hydrologist, DNR Waters, to determine its eligibility for State funding. At the 2/21/07 Clay County Highway Committee meeting, the County Commissioners were concerned about the changes in the project scope that significantly increased project costs. They recommended that the BRRWD forward the revised cost estimate to the DNR and discuss the project with neighboring landowners to see if they have any interest in a project.

Project No. 59, Clay County Ditch No. 41-Lateral 3. Albright talked with Petitioner Jerry Feder and his attorney, John Boulger, to discuss the project development and costs. Feder has decided to ask the BRRWD to dismiss the project. He contacted the Clay County Auditor to forfeit his \$10,000 bond to the BRRWD. The Board discussed the remaining account balance (\$4,582.53). Albright mentioned that when the County sent our check, they did not include the accrued interest. The Managers thought they could talk to the Clay County Commissioners regarding this issue. **Motion** by Hanson to dismiss the petition for Project No. 59, Clay County Ditch No. 41-Lateral No. 3. **Seconded** by VanAmburg. **Approved.** Nelson suggested that Albright contact the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) to see if they would consider cost sharing the remainder of the project development costs. **Motion** by Nelson to authorize Albright to contact MNDOT in that regard. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

Project No. 58, Riverton Township Retention. Albright explained that pending a review of alternative alignment options, H.E. delayed sending out the easement option to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) last week. Lowell Fetting, Midwest Testing, had reviewed the embankment design and had suggested changes that might potentially reduce costs. Upon further review, Jones said that the alternatives alignments were not feasible. Jones presented his recommendations regarding possible downstream ditch benefits. He thought that both Clay County Ditch No. 12 and the City of Glyndon would benefit from this project. Albright suggested that the assessments could be broken down as follows: a general assessment on Ditch No. 12, a smaller assessment on Glyndon for protection benefits, and an assessment on the specific area along C.R. 12 where flooding currently occurs. The next step will be for the Appraisers to start their work. **Motion** by VanAmburg to appoint Arvid Thompson, Lauren Peterson, and Eddie Bernhardson as Appraisers for Project No. 58. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

Albright noted that Ed Fick, DNR Waters, has indicated that there might be extra funding available for this project. The new cost estimate is \$794,460.00, which would translate into \$397,230.00 for the State on a 50/50 cost-sharing basis. The State already committed \$230,000 to this project in 2006. They would need to increase their share by \$167,230.00. Albright suggested that the Board might consider talking to Senator Keith Langseth and Representative Morrie Lanning about writing a bill to cover the increased project cost. Albright will also send the easement option to Brian Winter, TNC, with the understanding that the project can't bear any more cost increases. The Board discussed hiring out the fencing work separately from the project contract. The next step will be to schedule the Final Hearing. Albright also mentioned that the Board should schedule a meeting with Riverton Township regarding their road.

Project No. 57, Moorhead/I-94 Flood Control. The BRRWD should receive the bond proceeds after 3/27/07. We still owe the City of Moorhead approximately \$50,000 for their r-o-w easement, which we will pay out of the bond funds. Albright has not yet recorded the easement at this time.

Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration. Albright and Ellefson will attend the Wilkin County Board of Commissioners' meeting in Breckenridge tomorrow morning to discuss the Manston Slough project. Shawn Norman visited with Albright last week regarding his concerns about the project. Norman is concerned about seepage issues related to the dike alignment and his property. Rick St. Germain, H.E., wants to hold another road authority meeting before spring fieldwork begins. He has the exhibit easements prepared. Albright will pick them up this week. The office will develop an

easement form that Attorney Norgard can review. The easement will reference the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) agreements.

Albright met with Steve Holubok last week regarding the purchase of his father's, Donald Holubok, farm in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 30, Manston Township. Albright, Holubok, and BRRWD Attorney Corey Elmer are in the process of drafting a purchase agreement. The Board reviewed and revised the current draft purchase agreement and discussed the financial negotiations. In order to expedite this process, Albright suggested that he could mail a final draft of the purchase agreement to the Board for their review and comment, instead of holding a special meeting. **Motion** by VanAmburg to authorize Chairman Ellefson to sign the purchase agreement, subject to the Managers' review and approval of the final draft. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.** Ellefson noted that if for some reason the Wilkin County Commissioners indicate opposition to the project, he felt we should not proceed with signing Holubok's purchase agreement.

Jones noted that the soils investigation currently indicates that it might not be necessary to put the clay embankment all the way down to the clay soils. Lowell Fetting, Midwest Testing, has been working with St. Germain on this issue. When the seepage report is complete, H.E. will forward it to Eric Mohring, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), for his review. Albright noted that the Board should also discuss increased costs for this project with our Legislators at the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Legislative Breakfast this week.

Project No. 51, Clay County Ditch No. 68-City of Glyndon. Contractor Ronald Erdman brought in information regarding his excavation quantities. Jones said that he had discussed the issue with Erdman's associate, Merrill Miranowski. Jones will review their information and prepare a recommendation for the Board's review at their 3/26/07 meeting. H.E. is working on the r-o-w drawings and legal descriptions so we can record the project easements.

Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation. The office has prepared a document with the auction sale general terms and conditions for the Board's review. The goal is to have the property catalog completed by 4/01/07. Pifer provided a draft auction contract. Attorney Elmer reviewed it and made several suggested revisions.

The Wally Thomas closing is scheduled for 3/20/07 and Gerald Overmoe's closing is set for 3/26/07. The BRRWD will take out Midwest Bank loans for both property acquisitions. As soon as the transactions are completed, the office will prepare pay requests for reimbursement from the DNR. The Board discussed asking our Legislators to consider a bill for additional project funding.

Ronald and Monica Ostermann have asked for the Board's permission to keep their yard barn. The BRRWD bought the Ostermanns' house on 2/15/07. **Motion** by Hanson to allow Ostermann to remove the building by 5/01/07. **Seconded** by VanAmburg. **Approved.**

Project No. 46, Turtle Lake Outlet. Jones said that Sellin Bros., Inc. reinstalled the repaired Long Lake valve, and the Long Lake siphon is running. Both lakes are about 6" above the amended DNR Ordinary High Water (OHW) elevations. Once the ice is off, Opsahl plans to restart the Turtle Lake siphon.

Project No. 44/45, Clay 2/39 Lateral Petitions. Albright plans to meet with the Spring Prairie Colony to discuss restarting these projects.

Project No. 38, Farmstead Ringdikes. Ed Fick, DNR, has set aside \$50,000 for the Kragnes Ringdike in 2007. He also has an additional \$15,000 for the BRRWD to construct one more ringdike in 2007. Albright noted that the BRRWD actually needs \$57,000 for Kragnes. He will contact Fick regarding the correct amount. Nelson asked if the bill language for the 2008-2009 ringdike funding program allocation had been changed. Albright explained that the Senate had changed the bill language to read Red River Basin instead of Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB). Albright noted that several of our pending applicants have very poor sites to build a dike. The office forwarded information regarding Solveig Mead's ringdike contract to BRRWD Attorney Tami Norgard. Albright noted that Mead's costs have increased because we had to reseed the grass last fall. Mark Rustad has agreed to pay the Board \$1,500 to close out his 2006 ringdike contract. To date, Rustad has not sent his payment.

Project No. 35, Clay County Ditch No. 47. Albright reported that he and the City of Moorhead are nearly finished with the draft improvement petition to reroute Ditch No. 47 in conjunction with Moorhead's 34th ST interchange project. Moorhead City Mayor Mark Voxland has been authorized to sign the petition, as soon as the petition is finalized. The Board discussed holding the Preliminary Hearing and the Final Hearing for this project on the same night.

Project No. 32, Hawley EDA Diversion. Albright said that Lisa Jetvig, City of Hawley, had told him that someone from Hancock Concrete Products was in Hawley during the cold weather in February to epoxy the 60" dia. culvert. Jones wasn't sure if they had worked on the pipe, but he said Opsahl suspected that someone had done some work on the pipe. Once Hancock notifies H.E. that they have completed the repairs, Jones will send them a letter noting that the BRRWD will continue to monitor the pipe. Copies of all correspondence should be sent to the City of Hawley.

Project No. 30, Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch No. 1 (J.D. 1). Albright forwarded a draft petition and signature sheet for the landowners to review and sign regarding a possible improvement/extension project for Branch No. 4 to address drainage concerns in Sections 3, 4, 9, and 10, Deerhorn Township. Albright has received three signed petitions from two renters and one landowner. Before the Board can move forward with the project process, the petitioners will have to post a \$10,000 bond to cover the project development costs. The landowners have stressed that they want a simple/cost effective project.

Mediation PT. The BRRWD will hold their next PT meeting on 4/26/07 at 7:00 PM in the MSUM Science Center near Glyndon. The office will send out the meeting notices. The Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction WorkGroup (RRBFDRWG)/RRWMB will hold their Annual Conference on March 29, 2007, at 9:30 AM in the Northland Inn, Crookston. Albright noted that Watershed District Engineers and Administrators will meet on 3/28/07 to review the new Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Concurrence Points requirements.

Comprehensive Planning. The BRRWD held the Kickoff meeting 3/01/07 in Barnesville. The office has scheduled the Western Sub-Region meeting for 4/03/07 in Comstock, MN, and the Lakes Sub-Region meeting is tentatively scheduled for 4/24/07 in Callaway, MN. The office created a poster to use for mailing and advertising the meetings locally.

Becker County Ditch No. 19. Albright sent Brad Wentz, Engineer, Becker County Highway Department, a letter directing him to lower the riprap on the C.R. 27 culvert on Ditch No. 19 near Momb Lake.

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, and Albright forwarded the survey to Yaggie for his review. Albright and Ellefson will conduct a field review the spring before the Board makes a decision regarding this project.

Becker County Ditch No. 5. Albright forwarded H.E.'s repair survey report to Todd Krieger for his review and comments. To date, Krieger has not responded.

MAWD Legislative Breakfast. MAWD has scheduled their Legislative Breakfast and Briefing 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. The regional watershed districts will meet our local Legislators on 3/14/07 at 3:00 PM in the Capitol. The office will prepare a letter to the Legislators regarding BRRWD projects and a Regional meeting agenda. Albright noted that both Senator Langseth and Representative Lanning plan to attend.

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

RRWMB Membership. The BRRWD and the RRWMB cancelled their negotiation meeting in St. Paul, and have not scheduled another meeting. Albright forwarded the BRRWD's response to the RRWMB regarding their 11/28/07 proposals. Albright noted that Wilkin County Commissioner Lyle Hovland told him that he thinks the BRRWD and RRWMB should try to work out their differences.

BWSR Challenge Grant. Albright noted that BWSR has funding available statewide for 2007 Challenge Grants. Applications are due 4/13/07. The Board discussed possible projects.

Watershed District Displays. MAWD has the opportunity to have Watershed District displays at the State Capitol. The BRRWD will display their booth in the Capitol on March 28/29. Albright will take care of transporting the booth.

Watersheds, Wetlands, and Buffer Protection Subcommittee. Lobbyist Joel Carlson sent the Board information about this group's next meeting on 3/06/07 at 12:30 PM in the State Office Building.

Red River of the North Greenway Study. Albright sent the BRRWD's comments regarding the creation of a greenway along the Red River of the North within the metropolitan area to the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments (FM MetroCOG). Albright noted that the BRRWD has several ditch systems within the study area and provided a map showing the location of these systems and the Oakport Flood Mitigation Project in relationship to the proposed greenway. He noted that occasionally, the BRRWD works on these ditches and will need to have spoil deposit sites. In general, he said that the BRRWD saw no potential problems regarding their proposed greenway.

International Water Institute (IWI) Conference. The IWI's Third Annual Conference starts tomorrow in Grand Forks and runs through 3/15/07. The Barnesville River Watch Team will be presenting their 2006 water quality monitoring study at the Conference. The BRRWD contributed \$200 to the Team for their meals and lodging. Manager VanAmburg plans to attend.

Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee. The Clay/Wilkin SWCDs are working on bufferstrips, etc. for their Clean Water Legacy (CWL) grant. They will present information regarding the grant, planned projects, and bufferstrip installation at the Western Sub-Region meeting in Comstock on 4/3/07.

Equipment Rental. Holte Contracting, Oslo, MN, sent the Board a list of their equipment and rental rates for review. We will keep their correspondence on file.

NAWCA Grant. Scott Kahan, USFWS, Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District (WMD), sent the BRRWD a thank you note for our partnership in their successful application for this North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant proposal. The office prepared a partner contribution form for Project No. 54, Whisky Creek Tributaries, for a possible 2:1 funding match from NAWCA. Kahan felt that the Manston Slough Restoration project could be a very good candidate for a future NAWCA grant, after it's developed further.

Red River Valley Cooperative. The Board received notice of the Red River Valley Coop Annual meeting because of our Oakport home buyouts. The Board has an opportunity to vote for two Directors.

DNR Stream Health and Restoration Workshop. The DNR has scheduled their 2007 Fluvial Geomorphology and Stream Classification for July 23-27, 2007, in Duluth, MN and the Stream Restoration workshop in Fergus Falls on August 20-24, 2007. Jones plans to attend.

Office Computer Software. The office is considering the purchase of Adobe Acrobat 8 Professional software. This program will make it possible to post to our new Website and to create interactive forms for use on the Website. VanAmburg suggested we go ahead with the purchase and agreed to look into the costs, etc.

RRBFDRWG Project Form. The RRBFDRWG has authorized a study to develop a project evaluation process that the WorkGroup can use to identify project priorities for capital bonding recommendations to the DNR. Don Buckhout, DNR, asked Albright to attend a "test run" meeting of the evaluation form, using our Manston Slough Restoration project for the evaluation. The Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC) meeting will be held on 3/21/07 at 9:00 AM in Bemidji.

The following bills were presented for approval:

| Accounts Payable | Description | Account | Amount |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Petty Cash | Postage, supplies, etc. | Admin | \$ 100.00 |
| Laney's, Inc. | #297684 | Pj. 49, Oakport | \$ 173.00 |
| WREC | 1/19/07-2/15/07 | Pj. 46, Turtle Lake | \$ 36.74 |
| Quill | #4901612, office supplies | Admin | \$ 58.53 |
| Deluxe Business | #24040300, envelopes | Admin | \$ 92.84 |
| E. Robert Olson | Voucher #0704, 1/01/07-2/28/07 | Varies | \$ 1,102.96 |
| Premium Waters, Inc. | #366590-2-07 | Admin | \$ 20.02 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Sellin Brothers, Inc. | #7091, Long Lake valve | Pj. 46, Turtle Lake | \$ 2,175.00 |
| Comstock Community Center | Rental fees | Pj. 61/RWMP | \$ 100.00 |
| H.E. | February billing summary | Varies-see attached | \$ 68,053.67 |
| Roger G. Ellefson | Voucher #0701, 1/01/07-2/28/07 | Varies | \$ 964.43 |
| Curtis M. Nelson | Voucher #0703, 1/01/07-2/28/07 | Varies | \$ 1,164.53 |
| John E. Hanson | Voucher #0702, 1/01/07-2/28/07 | Varies | \$ 1,101.00 |
| Gerald L. VanAmburg | Voucher #0705, 1/01/07-2/28/07 | Varies | \$ 583.20 |
| | | | \$ 75,725.92 |

Motion by Nelson 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, March 26, 2007, in the Barnesville office at 8:00 PM.

Adjournment. Chairman Ellefson adjourned the meeting at 11:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hanson, Secretary