BUFFALO-RED RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

BARNESVILLE, MINNESOTA 56514

123 FRONT STREET SOUTH – PO BOX 341 PHONE 218-354-7710

MINUTES FOR MANAGERS' MEETING

July 28, 2008

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held a regular meeting on Monday, July 28, 2008, at 8:00 PM in the Barnesville office. BRRWD Managers present were Roger G. Ellefson, Curtis M. Nelson, and E. Robert Olson. Others attending included: BRRWD Administrator Bruce E. Albright, Erik S. Jones, and Julie Jerger, Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.); and landowners: Bill Davis, John Leseth, LeRoy Johnson, Chad Jetvig, Marc Nokken, and Tim Leiseth.

Chairman Ellefson called the meeting to order at 8:05 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 7/14/08 regular meeting. Motion by Nelson to approve the minutes. Seconded by Olson. Approved.

Treasurer's Report. The Board reviewed the BRRWD's financial status. Albright noted that he sent an e-mail message to Lori Johnson, Clay County Treasurer, regarding their 2008 ditch tax payments. The Board discussed buying some Certificate of Deposits (CD), so that we could receive a better interest rate on the money in our accounts. We currently have $1,184,510.46 on hand. Albright noted that we will need funds in August to close on at least two home buyouts for the Oakport Flood Mitigation project. Manager Nelson and Albright will check on the local CD interest rates, and the Board can make a decision regarding this issue at their next meeting.

Other business brought before the Board included:

Fargo Southside Flood Control (SSFC) Project. The Board met for over an hour with several landowners, who own property in south Moorhead. They are concerned about the designs for the SSFC project that would create channel extensions on the east side of the Red River to increase river capacity. The landowners discussed their objections and concerns about the proposal that would cut through several miles of their property and in essence, create a new river channel during flood conditions on the Red River. One concern is the impact the project will have on downstream stage increases along the Red River. They also questioned the BRRWD's role in the project's development. The landowners concerns stem from alleged statements made by City officials indicating that Fargo has the right and one alternative of eminent domain to acquire property on the Minnesota side of the Red River for this project. The Board reviewed copies of correspondence from former BRRWD Attorney Robert Swenson and Galen J. Vaa, who are private property owners in the affected area. Both Swenson and Vaa question the project's impact on their property and the City of Fargo's right to use eminent domain to acquire Minnesota property. They called for an independent evaluation of the proposed project. Robert Zimmerman, City of Moorhead Engineer, also submitted an extensive memo regarding the project.

The City of Fargo made a presentation regarding this project at the BRRWD's 3/10/08 meeting. Mayor Dennis Walaker assured the Board that Moore Engineering had revised the project design to reduce impacts on the Red River and lands lying east of the project. The City also stressed at the 3/10/08
meeting that upstream storage was an integral part of the new design to minimize downstream impacts. At that meeting, the Board encouraged the City of Fargo to be sure that they developed the storage component of the project prior to levee construction. Recently, the City has announced that they plan to start project construction next spring. This information has many people concerned about the project moving forward without sufficient review.

Jones commented that the City of Fargo is working with the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) to identify potential upstream storage areas. Ellefson said that when the City of Fargo met with the BRRWD in March, he understood that the project would have no downstream or neighboring impacts if the City were able to acquire sufficient upstream storage. Chad Jetvig pointed out that there was more to consider than just the issue of "zero impact" on river levels. He felt that the proposed channel on the east side of the Red River could severely impact trees/wildlife habitat, as well as prime Minnesota farmland and residential property. Ellefson pointed out that any work the City of Fargo plans for Minnesota property will require a BRRWD permit. John Leseth noted concerns about the project engineering and design. He said that the project's only true goal is to keep development property in south Fargo out of the new floodplain so property owners don't have to pay for flood insurance. Albright noted that Fargo has three engineering firms in the area working on this project, and it might be difficult to obtain a local review of the project. He added that securing/constructing the flood storage component prior to the actual construction could be critical to obtaining project support from the Minnesota side of the Red River.

Jetvig stressed that City of Fargo representatives have told him that if they are able to show a zero project impact on river levels, the Minnesota agencies will assist the City in taking the land they need on the Minnesota side of the Red River by eminent domain, regardless of the wishes of the local landowners. Albright noted that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has indicated that they might not have a problem with this proposal because the work will be higher than the Ordinary High Water (OHW) elevation, which is their jurisdictional boundary. The Board reviewed an aerial map showing the proposed overflow channel (approximately 3 miles long). Discussion continued regarding the availability of legal and engineering advisors for the landowners who are opposed to the proposed project. The landowners' reiterated their concerns regarding the project design and possible impacts to their property.

The City of Fargo plans to hold a meeting in September at the Moorhead Marriott Conference Center with the Minnesota agencies, local governmental units, etc., to discuss this project. Albright said that the Minnesota groups would like to "speak with one voice" regarding this proposed project. He added that it might be better to let the project developers choose a final design and then conduct the independent review. At this point, there are too many alternatives to investigate. Ellefson agreed that the Board should confer with the other County agencies to adopt a position regarding this issue. The Board encouraged the concerned citizens to attend the September meeting and to send letters to the Minnesota agencies to document their concerns. Albright suggested that the BRRWD could send notices of the upcoming meeting to interested parties so that everyone has a chance to hear the City of Fargo's information and to express their concerns.

**Riverton Township Culvert Concern.** Bill Davis, who represents property east of Glyndon, discussed concerns regarding the sizing of culverts west of Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 9. The area drains into Project No. 51, Clay County Ditch No. 68 in Glyndon. Davis would like the Board to consider installing larger culverts upstream of County Ditch No. 68 to address flooding/erosion problems. He discussed the results of the culvert inventory he conducted recently. The Board discussed routing options for the drainage, and they agreed to field review the area and make recommendations. The Board is also aware that there will
probably be downstream landowner concerns regarding this proposal. Albright suggested that the Board could schedule an area landowner meeting to discuss this issue.

**Other business brought before the Board included:**

**Permit No. 08-46, Clay County Highway Department.** Applicant proposes to replace a bridge over Clay County Ditch No. 32 on a township road between Sections 15 and 16, Kurtz Township. The drainage area to the site is approximately 6.09 square miles (sq. mi.). The existing bridge, which has 151 square feet (sq. ft.) of waterway area, will be replaced with two lines of 122” x 78” reinforced concrete arch pipe (RCP-A) with 103.4 sq. ft. of waterway area. The proposed structures match the adjacent culverts and will not change the existing drainage conditions significantly. The next upstream structure is a bridge that will be replaced with two lines of 117” x 79” corrugated metal arch pipe (CMP-A) with 108 sq. ft. of waterway. Jones reviewed the application and recommended approval. **Motion** by Olson to approve Permit No. 08-46. **Seconded** by Nelson. **Approved.**

**Acting Secretary.** Due to Secretary John Hanson's absence, Manager Olson volunteered to assume the Secretary's duties for tonight's meeting.

**Permit No. 08-47, Chris Noben.** Applicant proposes to install drain tile in the NE¼, Section 14, Cuba Township, Becker County, located in a low area on the west side of County Road (C.R.) No. 9 in order to improve field drainage. The Board felt that Manager Hanson should field review this application. The Board also thought that Noben should contact the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), as the proposed project could affect a wetland area, which might violate Swampbuster rules. **Tabled** pending Manager Field review.

**Permit No. 08-48, Ken Bicksler.** Applicant proposes to install an approach/culvert in the S½SE¼SE¼, Section 9, Sugar Bush Township, Becker County. To complete his project, Bicksler will have to fill a small amount of wetland. The Becker SWCD is working with Bicksler on the proposed wetland impacts. **Motion** by Nelson to approve Permit No. 08-48, subject to approval from Becker County Highway Department to work in their road right-of-way (r-o-w), and the Becker SWCD regarding Wetlands Conservation Act (WCA) wetland mitigation. **Seconded** by Olson. **Approved.**

**Permit No. 08-49, Margaret Kragnes.** Applicant proposes to install 160 acres of patterned tiling in the SE¼, Section 12, Kragnes Township, Clay County. The tiling will outlet to Clay County Ditch No. 10, to which the property is assessed. **Motion** by Nelson to approve Permit No. 08-49, subject to Township approval to work within their road r-o-w. **Seconded** by Olson. **Approved.**

**Minch/Johnson Lawsuits.** Based on attorney/client privilege, and in accordance with Open Meeting Law, the Board went into closed session at 9:24 PM to discuss the status of both issues. At 9:30 PM, the Board reopened the meeting.

**Polly Thorsness Drainage Complaint.** At the 6/23/08 meeting, the Board authorized Albright to contact Brian Holt to set up a meeting to discuss his drainage project completed in 2006 in the SE¼, Section 19, Tansem Township, Clay County. The work created erosion in Holt's field along the east side of Thorsness' driveway and has caused sediment buildup in a wetland on her property west of her driveway. Holt met with Albright today. He said that once the crop is off, he plans to repair the washout area and install rock to prevent future erosion.

**Grove Lake.** On 7/16/08, Albright, Jones, and Managers Ellefson and Nelson met with landowner Kern Kuhlmann to investigate a possible outlet for Grove Lake. The Managers assured Kuhlmann that they were interested in working with him to address his concerns. Larry Hanson, United States Fish and Wildlife
Service (USFWS), recently walked the Maple Lake outlet channel and Whisky Creek on USFWS property and noted that there was no beaver activity on USFWS land, but there are beavers/dams backing up water adjacent to Kuhlmann's property on the Maple Lake outlet. The Board discussed hiring Roger Lundberg to trap the beavers and remove their dams. Albright suggested that we should send letters to the downstream landowners regarding this proposed work. The BRRWD could pay for beaver control costs as part of the initial project development for the Grove Lake outlet project. The Board discussed the need for an area survey investigation and possible culvert replacements. **Motion** by Olson to hire Lundberg to do the beaver control for Maple Lake as a BRRWD expense, and authorize the office to send letters to the downstream landowners to notify them about the beaver dam removal. **Seconded** by Nelson. **Approved.**

Albright toured the area last week with Pat Lynch and Ed Fick, FDR Hydrologists, DNR Waters. The DNR representatives felt that the BRRWD should find a way to provide an outlet for Grove Lake. The Board agreed that removing the beaver dams to lower Maple Lake is the first phase in the Grove Lake Outlet Project.

**Diking Complaint.** At the 6/13/08 special meeting, Tom Friederichs made a formal complaint about a dike that a neighbor installed several years ago in the NE¼, Section 18, Elkton Township, Clay County. He wanted the Board to follow through with an investigation. The survey that the Board authorized at their 6/23/08 meeting apparently shows that the dike could be holding back a small amount of water. The Board will review the survey results at their next meeting.

**Peterson WRP Project Drainage Concerns.** Albright sent a letter to Scott Smith, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), regarding neighboring landowners' concerns about drainage coming from the Peterson Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) site in the E½, Section 28, Wolverton Township, Wilkin County, asking the NRCS to work with the landowners regarding this issue. When Smith responded to Albright's letter, he noted that there are muskrat burrows in the dike that may be allowing seepage to drain from the WRP, and they plan to fix the dike as soon as possible.

**Gjerdingen Site Investigations.** Sharon Lean, District Conservationist, NRCS, is working with landowner Robert O. Gjerdingen regarding plans for the installation of two potential erosion control drop structures in Section 34, Georgetown Township, and Section 3, Kragnes Township, Clay County. Albright noted that Gjerdingen might request BRRWD funding assistance.

**Project No. 62, Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch No. 1 (J.D. 1)-Branch 4-Improvement/Extension.** The Final Hearing was held 6/30/08, and the bid opening has been scheduled for 8/25/08. Notices have been sent to *The Construction Bulletin* and *The Forum*. Jones will also mail a copy of the notice to a few local contractors.

Landowner James Briks filed an appeal based on easement values. He feels the permanent r-o-w payment ($2,000/acre) is not enough in light of current market land values, and he doesn't feel $150/acre is enough for the temporary r-o-w. The Board discussed Briks' concerns. Albright pointed out that Briks' appeal is on individual issues that shouldn't stop project development. The Board will set up a meeting with Briks to discuss his concerns after the appeal period ends on 8/13/08.

Jones reported that Lake Region Electric Cooperative plans to charge approximately $2,250 to move their electric poles. The Board was pleased to learn that the charges were not as high as expected.

**Project No. 61, Clay County Ditch No. 11N.** Albright met with John Leseth today to discuss sharing the costs for his crossing associated with Clay County's project to reroute CSAH No. 8. The County had agreed to a three-way split of the costs, expected to be approximately $60,000. Leseth offered to contribute $7,000 to the crossing cost. He based his offer on the average amount that Townships pay for crossings in
county roads. The BRRWD and Clay County would both contribute $26,500 to the project. Jones noted that Dave Overbo, Clay County Highway Department, had thought Leseth's offer was acceptable. Overbo plans to check with the Clay County Highway Committee. The County plans to start project construction in 2009.

**Project No. 58, Riverton Township Retention.** Brian Winter, Program Director, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), gave Albright the signed easement agreement at the 7/24/08 Mediation Project Team (PT) meeting. The Board reviewed photographs showing the wetland concerns on the Alm tract in Riverton Township. Bob Honeman, NRCS, has assured Albright the wetland paperwork will be approved, as soon as it has been processed. There was an additional wetland credit banking fee, which the office mailed last Thursday. Pete Waller, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), took the forms with him to St. Paul and hand-delivered them on Friday.

Nanick Construction, Inc., sent the signed construction contracts last week, and H.E. has scheduled the preconstruction meeting for tomorrow morning (7/29/08) at the H.E. Fargo office. Ellefson and Acting Secretary Olson signed the contract on behalf of the Board. Albright noted that Riverton Township returned the revised Township Agreement with the Supervisors' signatures.

**Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration.** The PT discussed this project at their 7/24/08 meeting. Don Schultz, DNR, indicated that we could expect a response soon regarding USFWS/DNR concerns about the project design. Once these concerns are addressed, we can complete the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW), the wetland permitting, sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the Operation and Maintenance (O&M), and move forward with project development.

The DNR has agreed to give the BRRWD a time extension on our FDR grant. Our current grant agreement expires on 6/30/09. The PT asked for a revised project cost estimate. Rick St. Germain, H.E., will prepare the revised cost estimate, and the Board will resubmit the new cost estimate to Ron Harnack. We plan to ask for 75% Mediation funding in light of the significant natural resource enhancement (nre) benefits the project incorporates. The NRCS has completed the archeological survey. There doesn't appear to be any significant sites that would affect project construction.

Steve Holubok has requested an extension of his 8/01/08 deadline to remove the buildings from the Holubok farmsite. If the Board will extend the deadline to 10/01/08, Holubok agreed to fill in the basement after they remove the house. The Board discussed his request. The WRP and RIM payments are not available until the buildings are removed from the site. The Board felt Holubok should compensate the BRRWD for the interest we will lose because of the delayed program payments. **Motion** by Nelson to approve the requested time extension until 10/01/08, subject to Holubok providing the BRRWD with a $600 deposit, which will be refunded $10/day for every day the buildings are off the site prior to 10/01/08. If Holubok is not agreeable to this arrangement, the Board felt that they were not willing to grant the time extension and would take other steps to remove the buildings. **Seconded** by Olson. **Approved.**

**Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation.** The Technical Committee will meet again on 8/14/08. Closings on the Lerdahl and Klein properties are scheduled for August.

H.E. has prepared Pay Request No. 1 for Master Construction, Inc., ($11,745.00) for demolition work on the buyout sites. **Motion** by Nelson to approve the pay request. **Seconded** by Olson. **Approved.** Master Construction submitted a bid of $10,000 to do the site demolition for the Burris property. **Motion** by Olson to accept Master Construction's bid for the proposed demolition work. **Seconded** by Nelson. **Approved.**
Wade Opsahl, Technician, H.E., is working on the Appraisers' Report, and Kris Carlson, Ulteig Engineers, Inc. (UEI) is working on the Engineer's Report. When this work is completed, the Board will be able to schedule the Final Hearing.

Manager Nelson questioned if any decision had been made regarding how UEI would calculate their billings (hourly, etc.). Albright noted that UEI bills the BRRWD for their Oakport work on an hourly basis.

**Project No. 47, Clay County Ditch No. 53.** H.E. has prepared ditch repair recommendations for the portion of County Ditch No. 53 on the north line of Section 22, Holy Cross Township, paralleling C.R. 58. Following the 2006 flood, the ditch side-slopes along the south side of the ditch in Section 22 failed in a number of areas. The opinion of probable cost for the repairs, including the purchase of 1.5 acres of additional permanent r-o-w, is $25,000-$35,000. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has allotted $45,649.73 for the 2006 Disaster Repair work. The office sent letters to the adjacent landowners with Permission to Level Ditch Spoil Banks for their signature. In addition, the office prepared a sample permanent easement agreement for the purchase of additional permanent r-o-w for landowner Ed Askegaard's review.

**Project No. 42, Clay County Ditch No. 67.** Opsahl modified the riser inlet structure by removing every other vertical bar, which increased the openings to 8"-9" so field debris can pass through the trash rack. The other approved ditch repairs are still pending.

**Project No. 38, Farmstead Ringdikes.** Opsahl is working with Gary Olson and Curtis Oberg on their ringdike requests. Jones noted that the hydraulic analysis for the Karppinen ringdike south of Sabin along T. H. 52 confirmed that a dike in this area would not affect the 100-year flood event elevation. The next step will be to get a scope of services from Midwest Testing Laboratory, Inc., for the geotechnical investigation. Jones noted that Tim Magnusson, Clay County Planning and Zoning, has indicated that the mobile home on the site would have to be removed before they could approve a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a ringdike in that area. Karppinen has already indicated that the mobile home will be moved.

We are still waiting for Burlington Northern/Sante Fe (BNSF) Railroad to return phone calls/e-mail messages regarding their liability insurance requirements. Until this issue is resolved, the project will be delayed. Jeremy McLaughlin, H.E., who works closely with BNSF, has also been in contact with BNSF regarding this issue. The BRRWD has considered buying a $4 million umbrella policy to satisfy the BNSF requirements, but until they contact us, the Board can't make any decisions about additional insurance coverage. Albright noted that BRRWD insurance agent John Hoffman, ICS Agency, Inc., informed him that the $4 million umbrella policy would cover all the BRRWD projects. The Board discussed the umbrella coverage, which would cost approximately $3,000/year, and agreed to wait until BNSF determines if our current coverage is sufficient ($1 million per incident/$2 million aggregate). Nelson suggested that it might be necessary to contact Congressman Colin Peterson's office to expedite this issue.

**Project No. 32, Hawley EDA Diversion.** Albright, Jones, the City of Hawley, and Managers Nelson, Olson, and Hanson, met with Joe Kelly, Hancock Concrete Products, on 7/02/08 to discuss the deteriorating 60" dia. concrete pipe. Jones has prepared a plan to investigate this issue. He proposes to start with an investigation by Midwest Testing Laboratory, Inc. to verify the quality of the concrete and determine if the concrete meets the required specifications. Midwest submitted a scope of services with a total fee of $3,883 for this investigation, part of which would be $2,400 to complete a petrographic examination. They could begin the work within two weeks of notice to proceed. He also contacted Gary Molstre, Mudpumpers Mudjacking, about grouting around the pipe. Midwest will take core samples around the pipe during their investigation that should help determine if there are voids along the outside of the pipe as Kelly has suggested. Jones recommended that the Board proceed with the concrete testing and wait until that is
completed before making a decision about further work. Jones also included a table of culvert measurements H.E. has compiled with data taken on 10/23/07 and 7/02/08. H.E. only took measurements on the deformed portions of the pipe. He noted that there has not been a significant change in the pipe dimensions since last year. He advised the Board to continue to monitor the pipe. **Motion** by Nelson to authorize Midwest Testing Laboratory, Inc. to test the pipe quality. **Seconded** by Olson. **Approved.**

**Project No. 31, Deerhorn Creek Flood Control Levees.** Albright will meet with landowner Merle Nelson to field review Wes Anderson's drainage concerns about the levee inlet culverts/flapgates east of Edward Hirsch's farmstead.

**Project No. 30, Clay/Wilkin J.D. 1.** The Board discussed appointing Paul Anderson to the J.D. 1 Ditch Committee. **Motion** by Olson to appoint Paul Anderson to the Committee, subject to his acceptance of the appointment. **Seconded** by Nelson.

The office mailed letters regarding the acquisition of new permanent r-o-w/Permission to Deposit Spoil forms to three ditch system landowners regarding the proposed 2006 FEMA repairs. The work will require the acquisition of additional r-o-w on property owned by Bruce Anderson, Harold Brandt, and Hugh Trowbridge.

**Project No. 23, Becker County Ditch No. 15.** The Board discussed the possible 2008 repair plans for this system. At the last meeting, the Board authorized H.E. to prepare repair recommendations. Manager Hanson will discuss the proposed repairs with the area landowners.

**Mediation PT.** The PT met on 7/24/08. The Fall Tour has been rescheduled for 1:30 PM on 9/19/08 at the Galaxie Supper Club.

**RWMP.** The Board discussed the next steps needed to complete the Revised Watershed Management Plan (RWMP) by the 12/30/08 completion deadline. Once the Fargo H.E. office completes their work on the draft Comprehensive Plan, Albright and Mark Deutschman, H.E., will take a final look at the draft, and then the Board can schedule a special meeting to review the document. The BRRWD will hold at least two public meetings and two or three agency review meetings before BWSR has a chance to do a final review. Once the BWSR review is completed, they will schedule a formal hearing before a BWSR Review Board to finalize the plan revision.

**Clay County Ditch No. 49.** The Viewers' Report is finished. The next step will be to schedule a hearing for the redetermination of benefits. The Board will discuss this issue further at their next meeting.

**Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee CWL Project.** The agencies met on 7/07/08 in the BRRWD office to discuss the Clean Water Legacy (CWL) project status. The group agreed to conduct a survey of the Wolverton Creek channel to provide a base from which to develop future projects. The Clay and Wilkin SWCDs plan to hold a landowner informational meeting in September.

**319 Grant-Sediment Modeling.** The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) forwarded an amendment for this 319 Grant, which the BRRWD initially submitted in December 2006, to establish sediment goals, guide focused implementation actions on the landscape, and to quantify benefits by expanding on previous modeling projects. This modeling information will be implemented in the RWMP. MPCA delayed the grant award for nearly a year, and erroneously placed a 6/08/08 end date on the contract. The new term of the grant will be from February 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009. **Motion** by Nelson to authorize Ellefson to sign the grant agreement. **Seconded** by Olson. **Approved.**
**Annual Budget Hearing.** The annual budget hearing is scheduled for 8/25/08. Ellefson signed the hearing notice, and the office will forward the notice to area newspapers for publication. The notice includes the option for the BRRWD to assess a separate administrative levy for insurance costs according to Minnesota Statutes 466.06.

**Hay Creek/Stinking Lake CWL Grant.** The Becker SWCD forwarded a summary of their progress for the Board's review. They have signed up 88 acres for $114,360 in buffer strip and sediment control basins contracts. The total grant is for $185,000.

**Clay County Ditch No. 35.** Mike Astrup has indicated that he is still interested in a project to repair the remaining four miles of County Ditch No. 35 that were not cleaned during the 2005 repair. Albright noted that even though he has not contacted the office recently, we should keep this item on the agenda.

**Clay County Ditch No. 63 Repair.** At their 6/23/08 meeting, the Board approved a motion to mail the H.E.'s repair recommendations to the affected landowners for their review. The work includes the removal of about 1' of sediment from the channel bottom for about 2.5-3.0 miles north of Glyndon, plus the removal of trees from the ditch r-o-w. The estimated cost for the work is $25,000-$30,000. Albright noted that about half the landowners responded to our correspondence, stating that the Board should go ahead with the proposed repairs. The office is waiting to receive information on the total ditch system benefits from the Clay County Auditor. **Tabled.**

**Barnesville River Watch.** The Barnesville School Board recently approved a $2,000 contribution to fund Sheila Carlson's program coordinator position for the River Watch Team. Carlson submitted a proposal/budget to the Barnesville School District to hire her as an independent contractor for the position of River Watch Program Coordinator for September 2008-May 2009 at a cost of $4,100. Her proposal includes her regular tasks from previous years, with the addition of the development of mini-teaching units where the River Watch Team would participate in water quality activities with the Elementary students.

At their 6/23/08 meeting, the Board approved a motion to give financial support the River Watch program to the extent necessary for the program to continue. The River Watch budget included $4,872.30 for water quality monitoring, which the BRRWD has traditionally funded. According to their 6/23/08 action, the Board will also pay the balance of the costs for the program coordinator position ($2,100), for a total of $6,972.30. Scott Loeslie, Barnesville School District Superintendent, sent the Board a Thank You note for our support of the River Watch Program.

When the River Watch Team was conducting their sampling work on Wilkin County Ditch No. 43, they found a site where someone had dumped patio blocks into the waterway. Carlson informed Albright that the next time the Team is out, they would remove the blocks.

**Clay County Ditch No. 5 Repair.** Landowner Robert Gjerdingen has requested that the BRRWD authorize an investigation and repair of erosion slides along the lower 4,000' of County Ditch No. 5. Slumps have narrowed the ditch bottom, which causes further erosion. **Motion** by Nelson to authorize H.E. to conduct an investigation and prepare repair recommendations. **Seconded** by Olson. **Approved.**

**Clay County Ditch No. 2 Repair.** Landowner Terry Stulz has requested the installation of a field inlet culvert in the E½NE¼, Section 25, Moland Township, to drain a low area in the field that does not drain well to any of the existing culverts. Jones proposed the installation of an 18" dia. x 84' culvert/flapgate, estimated to cost approximately $2,000 to $2,200. **Motion** by Nelson to approve the referenced repairs. **Seconded** by Olson. **Approved.**
**BRRWD Ditch Spraying/Mowing.** Opsahl has completed the annual ditch inspections and made recommendations for ditch mowing and cattail/tree spraying. The Board reviewed the maps he prepared. Opsahl will contact Midwest Helicopters to do the work. **Motion** by Olson to authorize Opsahl to proceed with the 2008 ditch spraying. **Seconded** by Nelson. **Approved.**

The following bills were presented for approval:

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<td>RMB Laboratories</td>
<td>#81872, water quality testing</td>
<td>M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3</td>
<td>$68.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNC</td>
<td>Easement</td>
<td>Pj. 58, Riverton</td>
<td>$94,210.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UEI</td>
<td>6/01/08-6/30/08 billings</td>
<td>Pj. 49, Oakport</td>
<td>$24,452.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wm Nichol Excavating</td>
<td>#00006, Georgetown site</td>
<td>Pj. 29, Log Jams</td>
<td>$4,930.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$140,031.75</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Next Meeting.** The Board of Managers, BRRWD, will hold their next meeting on Monday, August 11, 2008, in the Barnesville office at 8:00 PM.

**Adjournment.** Chairman Ellefson adjourned the meeting at 11:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hanson, Secretary