"Local Watershed Meets With Landowners"

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), spent the first hour of their 10/09/07 meeting in Barnesville discussing drainage concerns with landowners. The first issue pertains to drainage in Section 32, Riverton Township, Clay County. A year ago, the Board denied a request to allow a landowner to block a drainage ditch on the quarterline. That same landowner came back with a permit application to install a culvert in the ditch. After considerable discussion, the Board agreed to allow the landowner to place an 18" dia. culvert on the line. The BRRWD office will stake grade for the pipe.

The second issue pertained to a request to lower a culvert between Sections 6 and 7, Humboldt Township, Clay County. Downstream concerns were expressed regarding erosion and the volume of water that currently drains through this area. The Board denied the request to lower the pipe, but also agreed to work with the applicant to hopefully address his drainage concerns.

Jon Evert, Clay County Commissioner, representing the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC), gave a report regarding the RRBC's Red River Basin Natural Resources Framework Plan. The RRBC would like all counties and Watershed Districts to adopt a resolution agreeing to the goals and objectives of that plan. Evert also noted that the 25th RRBC Annual Conference, titled "The Power of A Dream", will be held on January 22-24, 2008, at the Ramada Plaza Suites, Fargo, ND. He invited all Board members to attend. The BRRWD will place the RRBC’s request on their next meeting agenda, allowing time for review of the Framework Plan.

Other business included:

- Approved permits to: Xcel Energy to bore a gasline under Clay County Ditch No. 50 in Section 3, Moorhead Township; Jerger & Sons Farm to install 11 acres of drain tile in Section 29, Atherton Township, Wilkin County; Steve Cheney to develop Cheney’s First Addition, including a storm water retention pond, in the NE1/4, Section 10, Moorhead Township; Dan Rosenfeldt to replace an 18" dia. culvert with a 24" dia. culvert in an approach along 14th ST S in the NW1/4, Section 33, Moorhead Township; Cromwell Township to install driveway culverts in the Cromwell Estates Subdivision; and David Janssen to install 18 acres of tiling in Section 3, Humboldt Township, Clay County.

- Noting that a special meeting will be held on 10/18/07 at 7:30 PM in the Barnesville office to discuss Humboldt and Moland Township drainage issues.

- Noting that Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.) is working on securing the permits required to construct Project No. 58, Riverton Township Retention. The project will be built in 2008. The Board completed the Watershed legal process earlier this fall. The BRRWD office is working with The Nature Conservancy regarding the easement.

- Noting that repairs have been completed on Clay County Ditch No. 68 in the City of Glyndon. Given the current wet conditions, the contractor has probably done as much as he can.
• Scheduled an 11/12/07 bid opening for demolition on 13 properties acquired by the BRRWD for the Oakport Flood Mitigation project. The Board also discussed the dike alignment in the Broadway area next to the Red River of the North. A special meeting was held with these landowners on 10/03/07. Another meeting will be held on 11/15/07. The Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) was signed to start that process.

• Discussion regarding the status of the Kragnes Ringdike project. H.E. is currently working with Burlington Northern Sante Fe Railroad regarding an easement to place a small portion of the dike on their property.

• Accepted the Preliminary Engineer's Report for Project No. 62, Clay-Judicial Ditch No. 1, Branch 4-Improvement/Extension. The next step will be for the office to schedule the preliminary hearing.

• Discussed possible submission of a Clean Water Legacy (CWL) Grant application in conjunction with the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District for the Hay Creek Watershed in Becker County. Applications are due 11/15/07.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, will be held on Monday, October 22, 2007, at 8:00 PM in the Barnesville office. All meetings are open to the public. For more BRRWD information, please visit our Website at www.brrwd.org.