"Local Watershed Orders Project"

The their 10/27/08 meeting held in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), approved an Order regarding the construction of the Grove Lake "Emergency" Outlet. Grove Lake is located in northwestern Otter Tail County. For the past several years, the BRRWD has met with concerned landowners around the lake regarding the rising water levels. Construction bids for the project were opened at the meeting. The apparent low bidder is Johnson Excavation, Otter Tail, MN, with a bid of $47,335.00. There are still a number of details that need to be finalized before construction can begin. The office is working on wetland mitigation. An agreement to place the outlet pipe within their road right-of-way needs to be developed with Scambler Township. A landowner easement needs to be obtained, and a permit from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is also required. Weather permitting, the Board would like to see the project built yet this fall, to alleviate a road flooding problem that provides access to a landowner. The outlet will drain to Whisky Creek, and an operation plan will govern when the outlet can function.

Other business included:

- A highwater complaint from north of Lake Park regarding Duck and LaBelle Lakes. An investigation will be conducted. The homeowner, whose driveway is flooding, felt that the outlet may be plugged.

- Scheduled an 11/03/08 informational meeting for 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office to discuss the County State Aid Highway No. 10 and Clay County Ditch No. 55 drainage concerns in Section 20, Elkton Township.

- Continued discussion with a landowner regarding concerns about a ditch along the north line of Riverton Township, and the repair of Clay County Ditch No. 63.

- Authorized Houston Engineering, Inc. to investigate Wilkin County Ditch No. 22, Lateral No. 3. The study is needed because of a pending permit application to increase culvert sizing on the upstream end of the Lateral. Recent investigations show that the lateral is not working properly; culverts are too small and may not be deep enough to drain adjacent fields.

- Authorized Manager field investigations for a number of permit applications.

- Noting that construction on many of the projects and ditch repairs has halted due to the recent wet weather. In some cases, standing crops are in the way of project completion.

- Noting that a Technical Committee for the Oakport Flood Mitigation project will be held on 11/06/08 at 1:30 PM in the Oakport Town Hall. The Open House is scheduled for 11/25/08 at 3:00 PM in the Hjemkomst Heritage Center. The Final Hearing is tentatively scheduled for 12/01/08 at 7:00 PM in the Dilworth Community Center. The Board accepted the Appraisers' Report. Notices regarding the Open House and Final Hearing will be mailed to affected landowners.

- Noting that the Kragnes pre-construction meeting with Ziegler Construction, Inc. was held on 10/14/08. The contractor hopes to begin his work, as soon as conditions permit. Meetings have been held with a landowner regarding an easement needed on their property to construct a portion of the dike. H.E. will revise the dike alignment in accordance with the landowners' wishes.
Noting that the next meeting of the BRRWD Mediation Project Team is scheduled for 12/11/08. The meeting will focus on looking at ways to address flooding/water quality/erosion concerns on the South Branch of the Buffalo River in Wilkin County. Due to the size of the group, the meeting will be moved to the back room of the Eagle Café in Barnesville.

Agreed to ask the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for a 6-month extension to complete work on the Revised Watershed Management Plan (RWMP). Assuming approval, the Board would have until 6/30/09 to complete the work.

Agreed to submit a grant application to BWSR regarding ditch records modernization. The grant requires a funding match. The application deadline is 10/31/08. The maximum amount available is $50,000.

Signed a contract with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for the development of a water quality chapter for the RWMP regarding the Buffalo River Total Maximum Daily Load Study. The amount of the contract is for $4,988. The work needs to be completed by 12/31/08.

Made Manager reservations for the upcoming 38th Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Annual Meeting and Tradeshow, which will be held on December 4, 2008, at the Arrowwood Conference Center in Alexandria, MN. Managers Olson and VanAmburg were appointed as Delegates.

Noting that the Barnesville River Watch Program was awarded the 2008 Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA) Profiles of Excellence Exemplary Program Award. The Award was made at the MREA's annual conference on 10/23/08 in Alexandria, MN. The Barnesville River Watch Program has proven to be a valuable asset for the BRRWD. Contracts were entered into earlier this year to continue the program through 6/30/09. The program is lead by retired Barnesville Biology Teacher, Sheila Carlson.

Approved payment of bills totaling $43,381.66.

The next meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Monday, November 10, 2008, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. Please note the meeting time change. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please visit our Website at www.brrwd.org.