

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 10, 2009
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"Local Watershed Welcomes New Manager"

At their 11/23/09 meeting held in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), welcomed Breanna L. Paradeis Kobiela as the newly appointed Manager from Clay County. Ms. Kobiela replaces E. Robert Olson, who resigned because of family and health issues. An Oath of Office was given to Ms. Kobiela. Her term expires 8/31/12.

Other business included:

- Discussions with a landowner in Oakport Township regarding the release of his escrow funds for cleanup of his property, which the BRRWD purchased. The BRRWD ended up spending in excess of \$100,000 to clean up the site after the deadline date. The landowner felt he was still entitled to his \$2,000 retainage. Representatives from Ulteig Engineers, Inc. will be consulted regarding the request.
- Continued discussion regarding sump pump drainage in Section 2, Riverton Township, Clay County, along County Road (C.R.) No. 86. The downstream landowner filed a complaint regarding a culvert that was installed this summer by the upstream landowner to handle his water. Based on the permit conditions, the applicant was to remove the culvert once the water could be rerouted to the new C.R. No. 86 ditch. A motion was approved directing the applicant to remove the culvert by 12/01/09.
- Discussed emergency repairs for the Buffalo River in Hawley. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is suggesting a toe wood-sod mat with woody debris as a temporary measure to control the bank erosion. The City is concerned that if the bank is not repaired before next spring's runoff, they could end up losing their sanitary sewer system in this area and flooding of adjacent homes. An application was submitted to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for funding assistance; however, we will not know if that application is approved until later next spring. The BRRWD agreed to be the project sponsor. The City, landowner, and BRRWD will each contribute \$2,000 to the estimated \$20,000 project costs. Sellin Brothers, Inc., was hired to start the work the week of November 30. Dave Friedl, DNR, will supervise the project.
- Representatives from the City of Hawley also discussed their concerns about the 60" dia. reinforced concrete pipe associated with their diversion project. The pipe was installed in 1998, and since installation, a segment of the pipe has been deteriorating. The pipe manufacturer, contractor, and engineer, all claim to have no liability. The City would like to see the issue resolved. The City also felt that there is a need to redetermine benefits for their project, as neighboring landowners have benefited from the project, but were not initially assessed for the costs.
- Discussed requested repairs for Wilkin County Ditch No. 41. Mark Braton, Supervisor, Prairie View Township, attended the meeting. Recommendations were made for changing culverts along Branch 3 in 290th AVE, and through 120th ST. The culverts and installation costs will be split equally between the Township and drainage system. Braton also questioned the status of an outlet survey for Branch No. 5, which goes through his property in Section 7. Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.) was asked to investigate.
- Approved permits to: John Kava to install diking and field inlets in the N1/2, Section 11, Atherton Township, Wilkin County; Robert Schultz to install three field drainage ditches in the N1/2NW1/4, Section 35, Riverton Township, Clay County; Bob Thompson, to replace a 30" dia. approach culvert in the NW1/4, Section 3, Alliance Township, Clay County; Schmidt Brothers

12/10/09 BRRWD News Release (cont.)

Construction, Inc., to install a driveway and culvert along 80th ST S; for Dan and Kelley Lenertz in the northwest corner, Section 33, Glyndon Township, Clay County; and Cory Hanson to clean out an existing drainage ditch near Rollag in Section 27, Parke Township, Clay County, to its original grade, including the installation of several rock drop structures to control erosion.

- Discussed the construction status of Project No. 58, Riverton Township Retention. The contractor has had two wet seasons to work on the project. There is still some minor cleanup work left. The BRRWD may ask for a DNR grant extension until 9/30/10 to complete the work.
- Approved Pay Request No. 4 for the demolition of houses associated with Oakport Flood Mitigation project. Payment to Master Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$178,466.25 was approved. It was also noted that a Construction Committee meeting will be held on 12/16/09 at 9:00 AM in Meeting Room B, Clay County Courthouse. The BRRWD also signed Amendment No. 1 to DNR Grant No. B29923 in the amount of \$6,899,370.00.
- Noting that the next meeting of the Mediation Project Team will be held on 12/17/09 at 1:30 PM in the MSUM Science Center, Glyndon.
- Agreed to ask BWSR for a four month extension until 4/30/10 to complete the Revised Watershed Management Plan. The draft plan will go out for public review and comment after the first of the year.
- Authorized Attorney Tami Norgard, Vogel Law Firm, to represent the BRRWD regarding ongoing negotiations for the Fargo-Moorhead Army Corps of Engineers (COE) flood control study.
- Agreed to contribute \$40,000 to the Clean Water Legacy application for Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee.
- Approved payment of bills totaling \$354,099.52.

The next regular BRRWD meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 14, 2009, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please visit our Website at www.brrwd.org.