"Construction to Begin on Watershed Project"

At their 11/24/08 meeting held in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), discussed the "emergency" project that will be started yet this month for Grove Lake, located in northwestern Otter Tail County. A preconstruction meeting was held with Steven Johnson Excavation on 11/25/08 in the Barnesville office. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permit for the project will be issued on 11/26/08. A signed agreement has been received from Scambler Township for use of their road to install the outlet piping, which will lower Grove Lake approximately 3'. The outlet alignment will drain the water into Maple Lake, which then flows westerly into Whisky Creek. The BRRWD is required to obtain 0.06 acres of wetland mitigation credits for the Wetlands Conservation Act. The completion deadline is scheduled for 12/31/08. Cleanup and seeding may need to be completed next spring.

Other business included:

- Asking Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.) to review a permit application, submitted by the City of Barnesville, to install a drainage ditch on the east side of Heartland Addition.

- Discussed a complaint regarding raising of a driveway in Section 10, Alliance Township, Clay County. The landowner is concerned that changing the height of the driveway holds water back on the upstream side of the crossing. The Board authorized H.E. to obtain elevations of the driveway, which will be compared with an earlier survey.

- Noting that several meetings have been held at the Clay County Highway Department to discuss an improvement project for Clay County Ditch No. 11-North. The County also plans to regrade County State Aid Highway No. 8, which parallels the ditch system west of Trunk Highway No. 75. The County is currently seeking a place to waste approximately 58,000 cubic yards of extra material.

- Noting that the Memorandum of Understanding and Operation and Maintenance agreements for the Manston Slough Restoration are now ready for signature. The BRRWD intends to work on landowner easements this winter.

- Noting that an Open House for the Oakport Flood Mitigation project was held on 11/25/08. The Final Hearing is scheduled for 12/01/08 at 7:00 PM in the Dilworth Community Center. The Board also discussed the status of the buyout process for homes that cannot be protected by the proposed levee. Right now, we only have about three more properties that the BRRWD is working on.

- Noting that Turtle Lake is up approximately 9" above the amended DNR permit elevation. Both siphons are operating.

- Granted a time extension request to Ziegler Construction, Inc., to their work on the Kragnes Ringdike project. The new completion deadline will be 6/01/09.

- The BRRWD submitted a request for $45,000 to be used on Ringdike construction in 2009.

- Noting that the next Mediation Project Team meeting will be held on 12/11/08 at 1:30 PM in the Eagle Café, Barnesville. The meeting will focus on the South Branch of the Buffalo River in Wilkin County.
• Noting that a time extension request has been filed with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for work on the Revised Watershed Management Plan. The Board requested a 6/30/09 completion deadline.

• Noting that Sellins Brothers, Inc. is completing repair work on Clay County Ditch No. 35.

• Noting that the BRRWD will meet with the Clay County Board of Commissioners on 12/02/08 to discuss the Fargo Southside Flood Control Project.

• Noting that all Managers plan to attend the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Annual Meeting to be held on December 4-6, Arrowwood Conference Center, Alexandria.

• Approved payment of bills totaling $380,368.54.

The next meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Monday, December 8, 2008, 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.