

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 18, 2010  
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### **"Local Watershed Holds Annual Meeting"**

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held their annual meeting on 1/11/10 at 7:00 PM in their Barnesville office. The following were elected as officers for 2010:

Roger G. Ellefson, Wilkin County-Chairman  
Gerald L. VanAmburg, Clay County-Vice Chairman  
Curtis M. Nelson, Clay County-Treasurer  
John E. Hanson, Becker County-Secretary  
Breanna Paradeis Kobiela, Clay County-Manager

For 2010, the Board renewed contracts with Houston Engineering, Inc., Fargo, ND, as their engineering consultant; Vogel Law Firm as their legal counsel; Joel D. Carlson as their Legislative Lobbyist, and Harold J. Rotunda, Certified Public Accountant, West Fargo, ND, to complete the 2009 financial audit.

Other business included:

- Concerns from a landowner along County State Aid Highway No. 10 west of Downer regarding icing in County Ditch No. 55. With the flooding problems his house experienced last spring, he is concerned that the icing could block culverts causing flooding again this spring. The BRRWD will investigate. The Board also noted that when the spring runoff starts, we may need to bring in a backhoe to remove the snow/ice in front of his house.
- Reviewed the status of several lake outlet investigations. Requests have been filed for 2010 State bonding. Work will start with Appraisers regarding the assessment of benefits and damages for the LaBelle/Boyer Lake Outlet near Lake Park.
- Clay County Commissioner Jon Evert visited the Board. He urged them to reconsider their membership with the Red River Watershed Management Board.
- Noting receipt of a \$350,000 grant from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for the Manston Slough Restoration project.
- Authorized condemnation proceedings to purchase a tract of property, including easements, regarding the Oakport Flood Mitigation project. The office will prepare a budget regarding how much money is left in the grant for project activities. The Board would like to finish house buyouts and easements in the next several months.
- Discussed improvements for the Georgetown Flood Control Levee. A Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Grant will be used for soils investigation, engineering, and buyouts.
- Noting that there are 34 applicants on the current Farmstead Ringdike list. No projects were completed last fall due to the wet weather conditions. Landowners interested in a ringdike should contact the BRRWD office. Currently, projects are funded 50% state, 25% landowner, and 25% BRRWD. Some projects may qualify for the Federal Environmental Quality Incentive Program.
- Noting that the next Mediation Project Team meeting will be held on January 28, 2010, at 1:30 PM in the Detroit Lakes Minnesota Pollution Control Agency office.

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- Discussed the status of the Revised Watershed Management Plan. The Plan will go out this month for the 60-day review period.
- Received dam inspections for Stinking Lake, Henry, and Bjornson Detentions.
- Authorized minor repairs for the Wilkin County Ditch No. 41, Branch 5 outlet in Section 7, Prairie View Township.
- Noting that Manager Hanson and Administrator Albright will attend the Red River Basin Commission Conference in Grand Forks on January 19-21, 2010.
- Approved payment of bills totaling \$710,884.92.

The next regular BRRWD meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 25, 2010, 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](http://www.brrwd.org).