

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 15, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bruce E. Albright, 218-354-7710

“Watershed Opens Bids for Logjam Removal”

At their meeting, held in Barnesville on 3/08/10, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), opens bids for removal of logjams on the Mainstem and South Branch of the Buffalo River. The work is being done in conjunction with the Natural Resources Conservation Service through their Emergency Watershed Protection program. The grant is in response to the 2009 spring flood. The BRRWD secured \$78,227.50, which will be matched with \$23,562.50 for a total of \$101,790. The apparent low bidder for "Reach A", which is north of Interstate-94 (I-94) was American Enterprises with a bid of \$63,500. The apparent low bidder for Reach B, south of I-94, was H&S Contracting, Inc., with a bid of \$72,249.90. With the projected early spring flooding, it is doubtful if the contractors will be able to start before river levels rise. If this is the case, the work sites will need to be reassessed after the flood.

Other business included:

- A report from Houston Engineering, Inc. regarding an engineering concept for the Barnesville Township Water Management Project. The area involves a tributary to Whisky Creek, located in Alliance and Barnesville Townships, Clay County, and Atherton Township, Wilkin County. The project drainage area is 21.4 square miles. Based on goals set in the Revised Watershed Management Plan (RWMP), the Engineers have estimated that the preliminary runoff reduction goal for the project area would be 2,250-2,500 acre-feet. The waterway is Minnesota Department of Natural Resources protected waters. Questions that would be answered by the study include an analysis of practical storage areas/capacities, potential to divert flows to the South Branch of the Buffalo River, acres of bufferstrips needed, need for side inlet control structures, and potential wetland restorations. The estimated cost of the study would be \$30,000-\$35,000. The Board will review the study with the Mediation Project Team (PT) before deciding to start.
- Accepted the Engineer's Report for the LaBelle/Boyer Lake Outlet Project, east of Lake Park. The office intends to begin work with the appraisers, who will also need to conduct an analysis of the benefitting area for Becker County Ditch No. 9 (project outlet).
- Signed the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant for Manston Slough Restoration project. The grant is in the amount of \$350,000. The funds need to be expended by 6/30/12.
- Accepted bids for the demolition of property located at 6216 Broadway on the Oakport Flood Mitigation project. Also agreed to sell a property, located at 5412 5th ST NW, for a bid of \$12,000.
- Agreed to proceed with the buyout of a Georgetown property needed for levee improvements. The appraised value was \$26,000.
- Noting hearings will be held on Monday, April 5, 2010, at 7:00 PM and 8:00 PM, in the Moorhead City Council Chambers to review petitions filed by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) to work on Clay County Ditch Nos. 50 (Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 10) and 9 (T.H. No. 75).
- Noted upcoming hearings regarding the RWMP scheduled for Thursday, March 18, 2010, at 7:00 PM, Hildebrand Hall, Assumption Catholic Church, Barnesville, and Tuesday, March 30, 2010, at 7:00 PM, Community Center, Hawley. The Board has a goal of completing the RWMP by 4/30/10.
- Noting that a hearing to finish the redetermination of benefits and acquisition of right-of-way needed for the one-rod grassed bufferstrips on Clay County Ditch No. 49 will be continued on Tuesday, March 16, 2010, at 7:00 PM, Basement Meeting Room, Moorhead City Hall. Notices have been sent to affected landowners.

3/15/10 BRRWD News Release (cont.)

- Noting that the next Mediation PT will be held on Thursday, March 25, 2010, at 1:30 PM, MSUM Science Center near Glyndon.
- Noting that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has cancelled the informational meetings, tentatively scheduled for April 6 and 8 to discuss the Total Maximum Daily Load study for the Buffalo River. MPCA feels they need more time to have information ready for the meetings. They will tentatively be rescheduled for sometime in June.

The next regular BRRWD meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 22, 2010, at 8:00 PM in the Barnesville office. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please visit our Website at www.brrwd.org.