

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **"Financial Request Made to Local Watershed"**

At the 3/22/10 meeting of the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), Kevin Campbell, Co-Chair, Fargo-Moorhead (F-M) Metro Area Task Force, and Robert A. Zimmerman, Engineer, City of Moorhead, talked about the next phase for the F-M Regional Flood Control Project. Recently, the Task Force recommended that the North Dakota 35,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) option be studied as the Locally Preferred Plan (LPP). The Army Corps of Engineers (COE) has estimated that it will cost \$2.6 million to study this option between now and the end of the year. The COE would fund 50% of the study costs. North Dakota has agreed to contribute \$900,000. Minnesota needs to raise \$400,000. Right now, the City of Moorhead has committed \$200,000, Clay County \$100,000, and a request was made for the BRRWD to contribute \$100,000. The Managers approved a motion for that request. A motion was also approved supporting the North Dakota 35,000 cfs diversion as the LPP.

A landowner on the county line east of Barnesville discussed the status of a potential project that would lower a wetland that is impacting a township road and his barn. The Board said the project is on a list of things to do in 2010. However, we still need to appropriate flood damage reduction funds through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Also, the office is quickly being inundated with requests for assistance to deal with highwater problems. Most likely, all problems will not be resolved in 2010.

Representatives from Bridgepointe Community Church discussed a crossing they need to access their new church on Project No. 37, Clay County Ditch No. 41-Lateral No. 1. Currently, the site is accessed off Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 75. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) is doing an appraisal to remove that access. Discussions took place regarding cost sharing of the ditch crossing, as well as a timeline for completing the work. Right now, the Church needs to complete a real estate transaction with Concordia College before the MNDOT appraisal can be completed.

Other business included:

- Approved permits to Bruce Yaggie for tiling in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ , Section 20, Deerhorn Township, Wilkin County, and Oakport Township to do temporary diking of culverts along Wall ST to protect the area from potential 2010 flooding.
- Discussion of several proposed lake outlet projects. The Appraisers have started their work on the LaBelle/Boyer Lakes Outlet, east of Lake Park. Besides the County Line Project, there are also several projects east of Barnesville on T.H. No. 34.
- Discussed the status of the Manston Slough Restoration project. The office plans to start mailing easement options before the next meeting. The office is also expecting payment from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) regarding the Reinvest In Minnesota easement for the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 30, Manston Township.
- Agreed to sell property along Broadway on the Oakport Flood Mitigation project to neighboring homeowners at the rate of \$10,000/acre. The Board also agreed to start condemnation proceedings regarding an easement needed on Phase 3B.
- Noting that a buyout was completed for the Georgetown Levee Improvement project. Watershed representatives will attend the 3/23/10 Council meeting to discuss plans for improving the City's levee system.
- Noting a hearing, scheduled for 4/05/10 regarding MNDOT petitions to work on T.H. No. 10 and Clay County Ditch No. 50, and T.H. No. 75 and Clay County Ditch No. 9. The hearings will be held in the Moorhead City Hall Council Chambers, beginning at 7:00 PM.

### 3/30/10 BRRWD News Release (cont.)

- Authorized a survey for Clay County Ditch No. 10 in Section 20, Flowing Township, regarding historic flooding problems. Elevations of the paralleling township road and ditch spoil bank will be obtained prior to meeting with the landowner.
- Noting that the next Mediation Project Team meeting is scheduled for 3/25/10 at 1:30 PM at the Minnesota State University Moorhead Science Center.
- Discussed the status of the Revised Watershed Management Plan. The BRRWD held a hearing on 3/18/10 in Barnesville. A second hearing will be held on 3/30/10 in Hawley. BWSR has also scheduled a hearing for 4/21/10 at 8:00 PM, Hildebrand Hall, Assumption Catholic Church, Barnesville. Right now, BWSR would like to present the plan to their Northern Region Planning Committee on 5/12/10, with a final presentation to the BWSR Board on 5/26/10, which should complete the process. The written comment period ends 3/29/10.
- Donated \$150 to the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District for area youth to attend an Envirothon.
- Noting that River Keepers will host a group from Moldavia, who will be visiting the United States on 5/02/10-5/09/10. The visit includes an afternoon in the BRRWD and a stop at the office.
- Approved payment of bills totaling \$212,754.75.

The next regular BRRWD meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 12, 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](http://www.brrwd.org).