

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **"Watershed Discusses River Watch Program"**

At the 4/12/10 meeting of the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), Barnesville River Watch Advisor Sheila Carlson discussed the direction the BRRWD would like to see the program take. She felt the program offered students real world science, a chance to analyze data, and extend that science into the local community. At their last meeting, the Board spent some time going over a questionnaire Carlson prepared to help focus direction of the program. Bruce Albright, Administrator, BRRWD, stated that the proposed Revised Watershed Management Plan (RWMP) has a heavy emphasis on education. Manager VanAmburg commented that the students' work has also provided valuable data. The BRRWD congratulated Carlson on developing an award-winning program. Erik Jones, Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.), felt that it was important for students to understand the concept of watersheds. Albright said the students gave a presentation regarding the 2009 sampling season on 3/23/10. Attendees included representatives from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The Board discussed that they should probably develop a mission statement for the River Watch Program, which hopefully could be expanded to other area schools. Carlson will develop a summary of the discussions for the Board's review.

A landowner along Whisky Creek west of Barnesville discussed the possibility of installing a ringdike to protect his building site. Since the 1997 flood, the BRRWD has cooperated with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to fund farmstead ringdikes. Traditionally, ringdikes have been funded 50% DNR, 25% BRRWD, and 25% landowner. To date, the Board has built approximately 30 projects. Currently, we have over 50 applicants on the list. The Board discussed the possibility of funding for projects in 2010.

Other business included:

- Approved permits to Gerald Zimmerman for pattern tiling in the NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 31, Morken Township, Clay County; Gordon Kassenborg Farm, Inc. for patterned tiling in the S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 1, Oakport Township, and the SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, south of the Buffalo River in Section 6, Moland Township, Clay County; an after-the-fact permit to Fred J. Williams, III, for pattern tiling in the SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 28, Spring Prairie Township, Clay County; an after-the-fact permit to James Elliot to construct a ringdike in Section 7, Kurtz Township, Clay County; disapproved a permit for culverts in County Road No. 72 along the west line of Section 31, Riverton Township, Clay County, as there is no ditch on the west side of the road and the applicant will be asked to clean the ditch on his side of the road draining north; Inez L. Johnson to do tiling in the E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, Section 12, Elkton Township, Clay County; Kenneth L. Johnson to do tiling in the NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 14, Elkton Township, Clay County; and Qwest Corporation to place buried cable under the South Branch of the Buffalo River in Section 9, Alliance Township, Clay County.
- Discussed scheduling an informational meeting to review lowering a series of lakes along Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 34 east of Barnesville, including Pete, Randkler, Helgeson, Businger, and Seim. At the present time, the Board is overloaded with various projects. We expect that the informational meeting could be held in late May/early June.
- Discussed a possible wetland outlet project on the Clay/Wilkin County line east of Barnesville. Right now, water has overtopped a township road and is draining west. The BRRWD is still waiting for an answer from the Minnesota Department of Transportation as to whether or not their ditch along Interstate-94 (I-94) can be used as an outlet. Repair work on Branch No. 5, Wilkin County Ditch No. 41, will be done in the next several weeks.
- Considerable discussion took place regarding an "emergency" involving T.H. No. 10 east of Lake Park on Boyer Lake. In the fall of 2008, landowners approached the BRRWD regarding problems they were having on LaBelle/Duck Lakes north of Lake Park. An outlet for Boyer Lake would involve running the water into this area. An Engineer's Report has been prepared that would install outlets on both lake systems. A preliminary summary of the Appraisers' Report was presented to the Board and a motion was made to accept the Report. The hearing was scheduled for Monday, May 3,

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2010, at 7:30 PM in the Lake Park High School Theatre. Notices will be sent to affected landowners. The approximate project cost is \$300,000. The BRRWD agreed to fund 25% of the costs. The Board also authorized H.E. to advertise for construction bids, which will be opened at their 5/10/10 meeting.

- Approved the recording of easements for Project No. 42, Clay County Ditch No. 67, Project No. 57, City of Moorhead I-94 Flood Control, and Project No. 51, Clay County Ditch No. 68 in the City of Glyndon.
- Submitted the Local/State/Federal Project Notification and Application form for the Manston Slough Restoration project.
- Agreed to purchase eight acres of wetland credits needed for the Oakport Flood Mitigation project. The office will work with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) through the Wetlands Conservation Act to locate the credits. They also agreed to acquire a third appraisal conducted for a landowner involved with the project.
- Noting that another meeting will be held with the City of Georgetown regarding possible levee improvements. The DNR has asked that the project be scaled back into the \$1 million price range.
- Received a letter from H.E. analyzing potential problems with the 60" dia. reinforced concrete pipe that was installed in 1988 on the Hawley EDA Flood Control Diversion. A meeting will be arranged with all affected parties.
- Noting that a meeting will be held with the DNR on 4/14/10 in the Barnesville office to discuss the Lawndale Trout Stream Restoration Project. The DNR is anxious to receive the Board's Order so they can begin the advertisement for bids. They hope the project can be under construction this fall.
- Noting that BWSR has scheduled a hearing for the RWMP on 5/05/10. The hearing will be held between 5:00-7:00 PM in Hildebrand Hall, Assumption Catholic Church, Barnesville. Landowners are encouraged to attend if they want to submit comments regarding the plan.
- Noting that the BRRWD will be hosting a group from Moldova on 5/06/10. A tour of BRRWD will be conducted and a supper hosted by the BRRWD will be at the Galaxie Supper Club.
- Approved payment of bills totaling \$200,412.86.

The next regular BRRWD meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 26, 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).