

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **"Watershed Opens Bids for Lake Outlet"**

At their 5/10/10 meeting held in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), opened bids for Project No. 64, LaBelle/Boyer Lakes Outlet. The BRRWD received seven bids. The Engineer's estimate was \$147,780. The apparent low bidder was American Enterprises, Inc., West Fargo, ND, with a bid of \$143,093. The BRRWD is administering the project in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Annotated 103D.615, Emergency Projects. Highwater on Boyer Lake is starting to affect Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 10. Specifications call for the project to be operational by 6/15/10. The bids were referred to the Engineer for tabulation and a recommendation regarding the award.

Representatives from the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) attended the meeting to discuss their Long Term Flood Study. Last year, the RRBC received \$1 million to conduct the study in the Red River Basin. An interim report was submitted to the Legislature during the 2010 session. The report is to be finalized by 1/1/11. Modeling of the Red River of the North has been completed, with target goals of 20% reduction at various locations. Each contributing subwatershed has been asked to look at projects to help achieve that goal. The RRBC cost shared with the Bois de Sioux Watershed District, where they've located 26 sites that could retain water to achieve the targeted goals at Breckenridge. Lance Yohe, Executive Director, RRBC, would like to continue the search for flood impoundment sites within the BRRWD. The work will be cost shared on a 50/50 basis. For financial discussions, the RRBC is estimating that it would cost about \$1,000/acre foot of storage. Completion of the modeling could bring Federal dollars for the construction of flood damage reduction projects. Bruce Albright, BRRWD Administrator, said that Chapter 7 of the proposed Revised Watershed Management Plan includes our new hydrologic model, which provides a better understanding of the hydrology of the Red River basin. It also has proposed peak flow and runoff volume reduction goals for each of the seven planning regions. The BRRWD will consider the RRBC's request and will discuss the issue further at an upcoming meeting.

A group from the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) attended the meeting to discuss projects they are working on. They distributed a financial budget. The BRRWD was a member of the RRWMB from 1981 to 2002. The RRWMB would like to see the BRRWD rejoin. Jerome Deal, the Bois de Sioux Watershed District's Appointee to the RRWMB, said that both the Federal government and representatives from the States of Minnesota and North Dakota are talking about forming a joint authority to work on Red River Basin issues. BRRWD Manager Gerald L. VanAmburg commented that he would have concerns if the new Joint Resources Board had full Federal authority.

A landowner questioned when a portion of Wilkin County Ditch No. 44 along the NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 12, Manston Township, will be cleaned. The landowner has a contractor coming to the area next week to fix some erosion on his property. Because the proposed 0.5 mile stretch of ditch to be cleaned is located along property owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the TNC property is designated as a Scientific and Natural Area by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, TNC would like to see the repair plans before the work is started. Houston Engineering, Inc. is putting together a summary of the repair findings. A permit application for the landowner was approved to install a larger culvert on his ditch outlet, which drains into the county ditch system from Section 1, Manston Township.

Scott A. Smith, Engineer, Natural Resources Conservation Service, discussed an Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) project for a landowner south of Wolverton along the Red River of the North. A grant application has been prepared for the BRRWD's review and signature. EWP would pick up 75% of the cost to move his house away from the river in an area with failing banks. The work would include a geotechnical investigation to determine if the house could be moved to another location on the property where it would be safe. An appraisal of the house will be conducted. The Board agreed to enter into the contract with the understanding that the landowner would be responsible for 12.5% of the costs.

Considerable discussion took place regarding some field diking that was completed in the fall of 2009 in Alliance Township. The landowners also questioned flooding along Whisky Creek. The BRRWD agreed to schedule a special meeting with all of the affected landowners. Prior to the meeting, all BRRWD Managers

## 5/19/10 BRRWD News Release (cont.)

are to field review the area. An area homeowner felt the BRRWD was not enforcing their Rules in terms of burdening downstream landowners with more water than they can handle when issuing permits for drainage improvements.

The Board then addressed a historic drainage problem north of T.H. No. 10 in Riverton Township, Clay County. Two homeowners have been squabbling over water for about five years. Both homeowners live in a wet area. One landowner is upset about their neighbor's sump pump drainage. The other is upset that his neighbor's driveway does not have a culvert. At the December 2009 BRRWD meeting, the Board felt they had reached an agreement with the landowners, but the party required to install the culvert has now indicated that they will not install it. At 11:45 PM, the Board said they would continue this discussion at their next meeting.

Other business included:

- Authorization for Ulteig Engineers, Inc. to advertise for construction bids on Phase Nos. 1A and 3B for the Oakport Flood Mitigation project. The bids will be opened at a special meeting on 6/03/10 at 10:00 AM in the BRRWD office.
- Approved payment of bills totaling \$195,013.16.

Because the Board never got to their 4-page regular meeting agenda, a special meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 19, 2010, at 8:00 PM in the Barnesville office.

The next regular BRRWD meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 24, 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).