

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 17, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bruce E. Albright, 218-354-7710

"Watershed Addresses More Problems"

At their 6/14/10 meeting held in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), declared another "emergency", this time for highwater problems north of Hawley. Last week, BRRWD representatives met with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Cromwell Township. The two are working together to reopen "Cemetery Road", which has been covered with water the past two years. The BRRWD has a project that could lower water levels in this area. The outlet would be the Hawley EDA Diversion ditch on the east side of County Road No. 33. Work items that need to be completed include the appraisal process, engineering plans, and receipt of any necessary permits. The Board is hopeful that construction of an outlet could begin in late July 2010. The highwater problems are also threatening several area homes.

Other business included:

- Discussion regarding a Social Indicators Survey that will be conducted by the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Hopes are to mail out the survey before the end of the month. Approximately 900 people will be contacted.
- Scott Smith, Area Engineer, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) attended the meeting to discuss two Emergency Watershed Protection projects. The first project involves the buyout of a house south of Wolverton along the Red River of the North. The appraisal and soils investigation have been completed. The second project pertains to the removal of logjams from the Buffalo River. Aerial photography obtained by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be used to locate sites. Both projects need to be completed by 9/10/10.
- Approval of a permits to: Howard Pender for pattern tiling in the NW1/4, Section 28, Skree Township, Clay County; Red River Rural Telephone for the installation of fiber optic cable in Atherton and Manston Townships, Wilkin County; Clay County Highway Department to replace a bridge over the Buffalo River on Rodeo DR in Section 6, Eglon Township; Qwest Corporation to bore telephone cable under the Buffalo River in Section 17, Moland Township, Clay County; Kevan J. and Bradley A. Nelson to install pattern tiling in the NE1/4, Section 31, Spring Prairie Township, Clay County.
- Discussed the status of Project No. 65, Clay/Wilkin County Line Outlet, east of Barnesville. The Minnesota Department of Transportation has now sent a letter indicating that they do not want the outlet along Interstate 94. The engineers are working on an alternative alignment.
- Discussed the status of the LaBelle/Boyer Lakes Outlet, east of Lake Park. The LaBelle Lake outlet was functional on 6/04/10. The boring for the Boyer Lake Outlet will completed this week. Downstream concerns on Becker County Ditch No. 9 will be addressed through the ditch repair process.
- Awarded a contract to R. J. Zavoral and Sons, Inc. for work on Phase 1A, Oakport Flood Mitigation project. The total base bid was \$2,063,981.29. The Board also awarded a contract to Master Construction Company, Inc. for their bid of \$2,371,080.00 for work on Phase 3B for the Oakport project. The office recently learned that the DNR will appropriate \$4 million to the project in 2010.
- Noted that Houston Engineering, Inc. is working on the plans for improving the Georgetown Flood Control Levee. A preliminary report will be completed by 8/01/10.
- Discussed the status of the Farmstead Ringdike program. The BRRWD has clearance to complete six ringdikers using DNR funding. Another three will be completed with NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds.

6/17/10 BRRWD News Release (cont.)

- A presentation will be made to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on 6/16/10 in Wadena for the Revised Watershed Management Plan. The final remaining step is for the entire BWSR Board to approve the plan, which could occur in at their 6/23/10 meeting in St. Paul.
- Noting that an agreement has been reached with the Barnesville School District regarding the River Watch Program. The School Board will take action on the 2010/2011 proposal at their 6/21/10 meeting.
- Approved payment of bills totaling \$543,658.78.

The next regular BRRWD meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 28, 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.