

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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"Local Watershed Discusses Lake Problems"

Outlets for lakes with highwater problems dominated discussions at the 7/12/10 meeting of the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held in Barnesville. The Minnesota Department of Transportation has indicated their intentions to raise portions of Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 34 east of Barnesville. They're still interested in working with the BRRWD to find permanent solutions for the rising water levels. Work on raising portions of the road could start in September 2010. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been asked for an Ordinary High Water survey involving a wetland on the County Line Outlet Project. Erik S. Jones, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.), noted that the Boyer Lake Outlet started running along T.H. No. 10 last week. They're still waiting for a trash guard before allowing the pipe to flow at full capacity. Water in LaBelle Lake has gone down with the installation of that outlet, and the downstream receiving waterbody, Becker County Ditch No. 9, is functioning after portions of the system were repaired. The BRRWD received notice from the DNR that they will consider funding 50% of the costs on the Cromwell Township highwater project north of Hawley. The Board agreed to sign the grant application. The Board also accepted the Engineer's Report and authorized H.E. to apply for any necessary permits. Bruce E. Albright, BRRWD Administrator, noted that the Appraisers were still working on their determination of benefits. It is hoped that their report can be filed at the upcoming 7/26/10 meeting, which would then lead to the scheduling of a hearing that could be held sometime in mid-August. The Grove Lake Outlet project that was finished in the spring of 2009 is functioning as intended, and water levels have gone down. There are still some highwater problems noted on Turtle Lake, where the BRRWD installed a siphon outlet 11 years ago. Part of the problem is the heavy rains that continue to inundate the Turtle Lake area. A report will be furnished for the 7/17/10 Turtle Lake annual meeting.

Other business included:

- Considerable discussion regarding drainage work in Section 27, Skree Township, Clay County. It appears the work involves a variety of programs, including the Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Act and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and their Swampbuster provision. The Board approved a permit to relocate a culvert through 110th AVE S, subject to approval from the noted agencies and approval from Skree Township to work within their road right-of-way. The Board also approved permits to Jim Baker for regrading a ditch along CSAH No. 52 in Section 21, Elmwood Township; and Keene Township to install an equalizer culvert through 100th AVE N between Sections 26 and 35.
- Noting that the office plans to close on 7/14/10 to allow for work to occur on the easement options for the Manston Slough Restoration project. Due to the heavy workload, time has not been available to finish mailing the options to affected landowners.
- Signed construction contracts for work on the Oakport Flood Mitigation project for Phases 1A and 3B. The Army Corps of Engineers (COE) permit for wetlands is being held up due to a request for an archeological survey. That survey should be done by the end of the week.
- Noting that construction bids have been received for five ringdikes. Four of the ringdikes involve farmsteads, which qualify for NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds. The fifth project will be done with a grant from the State of Minnesota and their Flood Damage Reduction program.
- Noting that once work is completed on the LaBelle/Boyer Lakes Outlets, the same contractor will start work on the removal of logjams on the main stem and South Branch of the Buffalo River. The logjam removal will be done through the Emergency Watershed Protection with funding obtained through the NRCS. The work must be completed by 9/10/10.

7/14/10 BRRWD News Release (cont.)

- Discussed the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), associated with the Fargo-Moorhead COE Diversion. The Board agreed to sign the JPA with the understanding that it only pertains to the North Dakota alignment, and that the BRRWD has a voting membership.
- Noting that letters will go out this week to approximately 1,100 landowners within the BRRWD regarding the Social Indicators Survey. The project is being conducted in association with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Water Resource Center, University of Minnesota.
- Approved payment of bills totaling \$271,130.91.

The next regular BRRWD meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 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.