

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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“Projects/Permits Dominate Watershed Discussions”

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), had another busy meeting on 8/09/10. They opened bids for the demolition of two structures. Hough Incorporated was the low bidder on both projects. One site is south of Wolverton along the Red River of the North. The second site is in Georgetown and is associated with the flood control levee improvement. Discussion took place with a homeowner in Georgetown, who questioned the status of improving the City's levee. The Engineer's Report was filed with an estimated cost of \$3,389,087. The BRRWD worked with the City after the 1997 spring flood to install a levee. In 2009, the City had to add approximately 2' to the existing levee to protect the community. The City would like to see permanent levee improvements. They have also expressed concerns about the proposed Fargo-Moorhead Diversion project, which will increase downstream water levels for certain flooding events. The Board agreed to conduct an appraisal for the homeowner in attendance. The property cannot be protected by the proposed levee improvements, and the homeowner is anxious to sell.

Other business included:

- Approval of permits to: Alden Hough for tiling in Section 25, Humboldt Township, and Section 30, Tansem Township, Clay County, which will outlet to Whisky Creek; Kirk Watt for 254 acres of patterned tiling in Section 31, Georgetown Township, Clay County; Tim Thompson to replace/relocate a culvert in conjunction with the regrading project on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 52 in Section 1, Alliance Township, Clay County; Red River Valley Cooperative Power Association to bury a high voltage power line across Clay County Ditch No. 63 in Section 31, Spring Prairie Township; Clifford Froslic for tiling in the NE1/4NE1/4, Section 34, Prairie View Township, Wilkin County, which will outlet to County Ditch No. 40 for which it is assessed; John Thompson to install an approach/culvert off 120th ST S into the SE1/4, Section 12, Alliance Township, Clay County; Steve Thompson to install a culvert/approach along C.R. No. 21 on the west line of Section 5, Barnesville Township, Clay County; Gary Naasz to install a culvert/approach along CSAH No. 26 in the NW1/4, Section 3, Oakport Township, Clay County; and Rick Halverson to install a borrow pit to be used as a future stormwater detention pond in Section 1, Moorhead Township, Clay County.
- Authorized Houston Engineering, Inc. to conduct a hydraulic investigation for a larger culvert in 5th ST NW between Sections 28 and 29, Kragnes Township, on Clay County Ditch No. 22.
- Noted scheduling of an informational meeting to discuss a possible outlet for a series of lakes along Trunk Highway No. 34 in Otter Tail County. The outlet for the area would be Project No. 63, Grove Lake. The informational meeting will be held on Thursday, August 26, 2010, at 8:00 PM in Hildebrand Hall, Assumption Catholic Church, Barnesville.
- Noting that Project No. 64, LaBelle/Boyer Lakes Outlet is now fully operational. The office and the BRRWD's Attorney are working with one landowner on finalizing an easement needed for the project.
- Noting that landowners are contacting the office regarding easement options for the Manston Slough Restoration project. If everything goes well, the Board would like to hold the project hearing this winter and open construction bids next spring.
- Noting that a redetermination of benefits hearing for the Hawley Economic Development Administration Diversion project will be held on Monday, August 30, 2010, at 7:00 PM, in the Hawley Community Center. Notices will be sent to affected landowners.
- Noting that a hearing for Project No. 50, Cromwell Township Highwater Investigation will be held on Monday, August 30, 2010, at 8:00 PM, in the Hawley Community Center.

8/09/10 BRRWD News Release (cont.)

- Discussed the status of the Oakport Flood Mitigation. We're still waiting for an Army Corps of Engineers (COE) permit to work in wetland areas. The COE permit has now been held up pending receipt of a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 401 Certification. It appears at this time, we only have two more properties to acquire. The Board requested a list of available buildings, decks, garages, etc. that could be sold.
- Noting that work is ongoing regarding four Environmental Quality Incentives Program ringdikes, funding by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The wet weather has delayed progress.
- Noting that a bid opening will be held at 8:00 PM at the BRRWD's 8/23/10 meeting for installation of a structure off 15th AVE N, over Clay County Ditch No. 41-Lateral No. 1. The crossing has been requested by the Church of the Nazarene.
- Noting that the next Mediation Project Team will be held on 8/19/10 at 7:00 PM in the MSUM Science Center east of Glyndon.
- Noting that the City of Hawley has filed an appeal regarding the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources prescribing of the BRRWD's Revised Watershed Management Plan.
- Approved payment of bills totaling \$763,929.67.

The next regular BRRWD meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 23, 2010, at 8:00 PM in the Barnesville office. The annual budget hearing will be held on this same date at 9:00 PM. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please visit our Website at www.brrwd.org.