NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 1, 2010
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Bruce E. Albright, 218-354-7710

"Local Watershed Continues Work on Emergency Projects"

At their 9/27/10 meeting held in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), spent considerable time discussing emergencies throughout the District, caused by the continuing wet weather patterns. Earlier this year, an outlet was constructed for the LaBelle and Boyer Lakes east of Lake Park. That outlet is working well, and Boyer Lake is down approximately 3 feet. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) has removed sandbags along Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 10.

The Board opened bids for the Cromwell Township Highwater Outlet north of Hawley. The apparent low bidder was H&S Contracting, Inc., Moorhead, MN, with a bid of $151,226. A hearing for the project was held on 8/30/10 in Hawley. Once the required easements are obtained, the contractor will start the project.

The Board also discussed the establishment of an outlet for a series of lakes along T.H. No. 34 east of Barnesville. The lakes include Helgeson, Businger, Randkler, and Seim, located on the north side of T.H. No. 34. Water from that area would be directed south into Pete Lake, where an outlet would be created to take the water to Project No. 63, Grove Lake Outlet. The Board authorized Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.) to advertise for construction bids to be opened at the 10/12/10 meeting. They also authorized the Engineer to begin acquisition of the required easements. Permits for the project will be submitted. MNDOT is currently raising T.H. No. 34 in four locations east of Barnesville. In the area of the referenced lakes, the road will only be raised 1', assuming the construction of the BRRWD project, which will lower water levels by approximately 4'. The Board hopes that the project can be constructed yet this fall.

Other business included:

• Approved permit applications to: Richard Scheffler for 18 acres of tile drainage in the SE1/4, Section 14, Atherton Township, Wilkin County; Tang Farms to replace a 24" dia. deteriorated corrugated metal pipe (CMP) with a used 30" dia. reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) on the west side of 80th ST N in the S1/2NE1/4, Section 21, Morken Township, Clay County; Lisa Johnk to install a 12" dia. CMP in their driveway in Section 19, Eglon Township, Clay County; David Ackerson to install seepage control ditches in the E1/2NW1/4, Section 22, Skree Township, Clay County; and Dave Ackerson to lower a field approach culvert in the SE1/4, Section 2, Elkton Township, Clay County.

• Discussed the status of the Georgetown Flood Control Levee Improvement project. Plans were submitted to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) earlier this month. We're still waiting for their tentative approval. Project improvements would be completed in 2011. The BRRWD will seek additional DNR grant funding to assist with land acquisition and appraisals this winter.

• Discussed possible slide repairs for Clay County Ditch No. 11, at the Duane Walker farmstead, located west of Rustad in the NW1/4, Section 32, Kurtz Township. Soil borings at the site were taken. It appears that buildings adjacent to the ditch may need to be relocated to allow for any type of repairs. The landowner has been contacted.

• Noting that the recent wet weather has delayed construction progress on Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation. Work is now completed on Phases 1B and 3A. On County Road No. 93, paving for Phase 2 is expected to take place this week. The contractor will still need several weeks before completing Phase 1A. Landowners are concerned about the status of Phase 3B, which is the dike along the west side of the Brentwood Subdivision. The contractor has agreed to bring in more equipment to expedite the work. Phase 4 of the project will be constructed in 2011.

• H.E. has prepared a cost estimate for repair of the 60" dia. RCP culvert on the Hawley Diversion project. The total project costs are $37,434.00. An agreement will be prepared and circulated for signature among the five affected parties, including the BRRWD, the City of Hawley, Hancock
Concrete Products, Inc., Sellin Brothers, Inc., and H.E. Some right-of-way from the affected landowner will also need to be obtained.

- Noting that some logjam removal work has been completed on the Buffalo River. The estimated total project costs were $39,105.32. Of that amount, 75% will be paid by the Natural Resources Conservation Service through their Emergency Watershed Protection program.

- Authorized H.E. to conduct a repair survey for a portion of Becker County Ditch No. 21, located in Section 10, Riceville Township.

- Noting that the next Mediation Project Team meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2010, at 7:00 PM, MSUM Science Center, Glyndon.

- Signed a grant agreement with the Minnesota Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for the 2010 spring flood. Damages total $120,234.77.

- Authorized repairs for Clay County Ditch Nos. 20, 51, and 58.

- Approved payment of bills totaling $233,071.40

The next regular BRRWD meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 12, 2010, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. The traditional Monday meeting date was changed because of Columbus Day. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please visit our Website at www.brrwd.org.