

NOTICE OF HEARING

BUFFALO-RED RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Annotated (M.S.A.) 103D.405, and any other applicable statutes, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), has scheduled public hearings regarding the Revised Watershed Management Plan (RWMP). The hearings will be held on **Thursday, March 18, 2010, at 7:00 PM, Hildebrand Hall**, Assumption Catholic Church, **Barnesville, MN**, and **Tuesday, March 30, 2010, at 7:00 PM, Community Center, Hawley, MN**. Both hearings will cover the same materials, and interested parties should feel free to attend the most convenient location.

In order to assist with the plan development, which started in 2005, technical and citizen advisory committees were formed, and public informational meetings were held throughout the District. For planning purposes, the District was divided into seven planning regions.

On January 26, 2010, a copy of the proposed RWMP was filed with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Director of the Division of Waters, DNR, the affected auditors of the Counties, the governing body of each municipality, and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The 60-day agency review period will end on March 27, 2010.

The mission of the BRRWD is to alleviate flooding and to manage the water resources of the District in a manner that best protects this valuable resource.

The BRRWD includes 1,379 square miles in parts of Clay, Becker, Otter Tail, and Wilkin Counties, whose boundaries were prescribed by order, dated September 12, 1976, by the State of Minnesota. Previous plans, approved by the State, were dated January 9, 1978, and April 22, 1998.

The proposed plan has sections on executive summary, introduction, watershed description, assessment of existing and emerging resource management issues, guidance of future activities, planning regions and regional assessment locations, watershed district administration, and a summary and analysis of previous district data collection and modeling analysis.

Goals and policies have been developed for floodplain management, flood damage reduction including rate and runoff volumes, legal drainage systems, water quality, wetlands, natural resources and recreation, groundwater, erosion and sediment control, education, long range work planning and financing, and data collection and management.

The proposed plan includes provisions to establish Water Management Districts for the purpose of collecting revenues and paying costs of projects. Methods to establish the charges could include runoff volume, average annual sediment and solids loads, or by drainage area contribution.

All persons affected or interested in the Watershed District are invited to attend and give statements at the RWMP hearings. A copy of the RWMP is available for public inspection at the BRRWD office, 123 Front ST S, Barnesville, MN, or can be obtained from our Website at www.brrwd.org.

Dated: February 17, 2010

/s/Roger G. Ellefson
Roger G. Ellefson, Chairman