

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 13, 2011
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"Local Watershed Organizes for 2011"

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held their annual meeting on 1/10/11 at 7:00 PM in their Barnesville office. The annual meeting included election of officers. The following will serve as officers for 2011:

Gerald L. VanAmburg, Clay County-Chairman
Breanna Paradeis Kobiela, Clay County-Vice Chairperson
Curtis M. Nelson, Clay County-Treasurer
John E. Hanson, Becker County-Secretary
Roger G. Ellefson, Wilkin County-Manager

For 2011, the Board renewed contracts with Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.), Fargo, ND, as their engineering consultant; Vogel Law Firm as their legal counsel; Joel D. Carlson as their Legislative Lobbyist (2 years), and Harold J. Rotunda, Certified Public Accountant, West Fargo, ND, to complete the 2010 financial audit.

Other business included:

- The Board discussed "Distributive Water Storage" with Steve Dalen, Pinnacle Water Management. They expressed concerns about becoming the "lead agency" because of pending workload. They felt they might be in a better position to take a more active role with this concept next year. The Managers agreed to schedule a meeting with Pinnacle Water Management and the Energy & Environmental Research Center to discuss their project workplan. A meeting date was not set.
- An informational meeting will be held with landowners along the South Branch of the Buffalo River in Wilkin and Otter Tail Counties at 2:00 PM on January 27, 2011, at Hildebrand Hall, Assumption Catholic Church, Barnesville. Notices will be sent.
- The Board approved two permits to Moorhead Public Service for electrical conduit crossings under Clay County Ditch No. 47.
- The BRRWD submitted resolutions for flood damage reduction funding from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for future highwater projects being investigated on Lake Alfred and Lake Jacobs. The Board also agreed to work with landowners on a preliminary basis regarding an outlet for Lake Annie. Currently, Lake Annie is not located within the BRRWD boundaries. The preliminary information will be used to determine if the affected landowners should petition to enlarge the District.
- The office is working with landowners on the Manston Slough Restoration project regarding signing of their easement options. To date, 12 of the needed 22 options have been signed. The office has also contacted the DNR for 75% funding because of the property's natural resource enhancement features. The DNR has requested more information. The BRRWD would like to hold the project hearing by mid March 2011. This would clear the way for opening construction bids in mid April.
- The Board agreed to purchase flood insurance for eight homes they owned on the Oakport Flood Mitigation project. A final funding request will be submitted to the DNR. Assuming funding is available, the BRRWD would like to complete this project in 2011. Three of the four project phases are either under construction or completed.

1/13/11 BRRWD News Release (cont.)

- The Board discussed trouble with the valve on the Long Lake siphon involving the Turtle Lake Outlet project. The valve was removed, and the system will be re-primed.
- The office will prepare a Request for Proposals regarding appraisal services needed for the Georgetown Flood Control Levee Improvement Project. The work will involve approximately 10 to 15 homes that cannot be protected by the improvement.
- The Board agreed to schedule a special meeting to discuss a study recently completed by H.E. titled "Effect of the 1997 Flood as A Result of Storage Reservoirs in the BRRWD". The study was completed for the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC). The report is the culmination of the BRRWD's share of the RRBC's study to determine if the 20% peak flow reduction goals can be met by using actual storage sites. The Buffalo River study was done by constructing two detailed hydrology models of the Buffalo River. Bruce E. Albright, BRRWD Administrator, said, "Some of the study results match goals identified in the BRRWD's new Revised Watershed Management Plan." A date for the meeting was not set.
- The Board agreed to send out Request for Proposals to several local architectural firms regarding the design of the BRRWD's new office building, which will be located in Commercial Park, Barnesville. Hopes are to begin construction this spring when conditions permit with occupancy of the building before winter 2011.
- The Board approved payment of bills totaling \$405,055.78.

The next regular BRRWD meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 24, 2011, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please visit our Website at www.brrwd.org.