

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 9, 2011
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"International Water Institute Meets with Local Watershed"

Chuck Fritz, Executive Director, International Water Institute (IWI), attended the 2/28/11 meeting of the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), in Barnesville, to give an update on several projects they are working on. He said basically, all work on the Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) project that was started in 2008 is done. The IWI initiated the Red River Basin Mapping Initiative, which was a \$5 million project to acquire and make publically available highly accurate elevation data for the United States portion of the Red River Basin. Fritz said the information can be accessed through the Red River Basin Decision Information Network at www.rrbdin.org. LiDAR data has many applications, including precision agriculture, floodplain delineation, flood damage reduction, natural resources enhancement, and soil mapping. They are also developing a website that will help local watershed districts in terms of project prioritization and permitting evaluation. The Red River Retention Authority (3RA) will conduct a study regarding the effects of drainage on flooding.

Other business included:

- The Board approved permits to: the Becker County Highway Department to replace bridges over the Buffalo River on CSAH No. 12 between Sections 18/19, Cuba Township, and on 260th ST between Sections 9/16, Cuba Township; Paul Ehlert to construct a wildlife habitat pond in Section 7, Tanberg Township, Wilkin County, with water from Wilkin County Ditch No. 44 for water supply; and Richard Powell for construction of a community ringdike protecting five homes along Broadway in the SE1/4, Section 6, Oakport Township, Clay County. The homeowners would like to build the dike before the 2011 spring flood.
- A homeowner in Georgetown questioned the status of the buyout process. Bids from local appraisers will be accepted at the 3/14/11 BRRWD meeting. The office expected that the appraisal process will start shortly thereafter with a targeted completion date of 5/15/11. The homeowner was concerned that he would need to fight yet one more flood before something is done to permanently resolve his situation.
- A special meeting will be held on 3/08/11 at 1:30 PM in the Barnesville office to meet with landowners in and around Section 27, Skree Township, Clay County. Over the past year, there have been ongoing concerns regarding drainage activities in this area. The Board hopes to finally resolve this issue.
- The Board agreed to stop the outlet on the south side of Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 34 for Randkler Lake on 3/04/11. The work is being done in preparation for the 2011 spring flood.
- A special meeting will be held on 3/07/11 at 1:00 PM in the Barnesville office with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss a possible outlet for a wetland area on the Clay/Wilkin County line east of Barnesville.
- The Board discussed the status of the Manston Slough Restoration project. Two more landowners have now signed easement options. The remaining landowners will be contacted to setup meetings. The Board intends to have this project ready for construction bids later this spring.
- The Board authorized Oakport Township to sign any state and federal contracts needed in preparation for the 2011 spring flood regarding Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation. The BRRWD has now acquired the last property needed for the project. There are still several

2/28/11 BRRWD News Release (cont.)

remaining easement issues. The BRRWD is also working with local Legislators regarding project funding.

- The Annual Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for 3/18/11 at 2:00 PM in the Galaxie Supper Club, Barnesville.
- A meeting is scheduled for 3/31/11 at 8:00 PM, in the Comstock Community Center with the Project Team designated to work on Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee. The BRRWD was the recipient of another Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources grant to continue work in this area.
- Hearings for the Redetermination of Benefits on Clay County Ditch Nos. 36, 40, and 60 will be held on 3/22/11 at 8:00 PM in the Comstock Community Center. Affected landowners will be mailed notices.
- The Board authorized Houston Engineering, Inc., to conduct a hydraulic analysis for a proposed crossing on Clay County Ditch No. 33 in Section 22, Kurtz Township.
- The Board approved payment of bills totaling \$29,447.58.

The next regular BRRWD meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2011, at 8:00 PM in the Barnesville office. Please note the meeting time change due to Daylight Savings Time. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please visit our Website at www.brrwd.org.