

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 8, 2011  
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### **"BRRWD Testifies at State House and Senate Bond Hearings"**

At their 3/28/11 meeting, held in Barnesville, the Board discussed the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Legislative Breakfast held last week in St. Paul. Bruce E. Albright, BRRWD Administrator, testified at Senate and House Committee hearings for the funding needed for Georgetown, Oakport, and Manston Slough. The local projects will have to compete statewide for approximately \$55 million in flood damage reduction funds.

Other business included:

- Jon Evert would like a leaking flapgate on his farmstead ringdike in the NW1/4, Section 31, Alliance Township, Clay County, replaced and asked if the BRRWD would cost share the work. Erik Jones, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.), suggested that the existing flap gate could be replaced with a screw type gate that should keep water from seeping inside the dike. The Board agreed to have H.E. investigate the repair and provide recommendations. They also agreed to consider cost sharing the repairs.
- Larry Jacobson, Highland Grove Township Supervisor, discussed a highwater problem along 75<sup>th</sup> AVE N in Section 9, where water from a nearby wetland has repeatedly overtopped the road. The Board authorized H.E. to conduct an elevation study for the area using LiDAR to develop a strategy to protect the road.
- The Board discussed a complaint regarding a culvert that appears to have been installed without a BRRWD permit in 28<sup>th</sup> AVE S between Sections 17/20, Hawley Township, Clay County. The pipe has added water to the north side of the road, causing ponding on the neighboring landowner's property. The Board will conduct an investigation and discuss the complaint with the Township Supervisors.
- The BRRWD approved permits to: Kevin Nelson to install 90 acres of pattern tiling in the SE1/4, Section 34, Moland Township, Clay County, to outlet directly to the Buffalo River, and Cary Danielson to install random tiling in the S1/2 NW1/4, Section 7, Trondhjem Township, Otter Tail County, to outlet to a tributary of the South Branch of the Buffalo River.
- The Board agreed to have no comment regarding the Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the Jona Baer, Inc., Egg Laying Retrofit in the SW1/4 SE1/4, Eglon Township, Clay County.
- The Board discussed proposed routes for the Lake Jacobs Outlet project. The preferred route would follow the natural outlet of the lake, conveying water by culverts and tile through three different wetland basins under United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) easement. The USFWS prefers a route that bypasses their easements and avoids all wetland impacts. Their route is anticipated to add significant construction cost, and the Board was concerned that it might make the outlet cost prohibitive.
- The HRB Lakes Outlet project was stopped on 3/04/11, and the Pete Lake Outlet was stopped on 3/18/11. Road repairs were completed on 165<sup>th</sup> Avenue. H.E. is compiling a final cleanup list for the contractor to finish this spring.
- H.E. provided the USFWS with basin elevations associated with the County Line Outlet project. The BRRWD would like to lower the lake to the Ordinary High Water (OHW) elevation (1105.3), and the USFWS would like to lower the lake to elevation 1101. There will be

### 3/28/11 BRRWD News Release (cont.)

additional costs associated with lowering the lake beyond the BRRWD's target elevation. H.E. will prepare a cost comparison of the proposals.

- The Board discussed the status of the Manston Slough Restoration project. At the 3/23/11 bond hearings in St. Paul, the Legislature was asked to provide \$637,000 for the Manston project to meet the 75% state funding requirement for natural resource enhancement projects as specified in the Mediation Agreement. Rick St. Germain, Engineer, H.E., has finished a breakdown of the natural resource enhancement and flood damage reduction costs for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' review. A hearing will be scheduled this spring with project construction anticipated in the summer of 2011.
- The Board discussed obtaining the final easement needed for Project No. 50, Cromwell Township Highwater Outlet. The landowner has agreed to furnish a response to the BRRWD on 4/01/11. A meeting has been scheduled with the USFWS on Monday, April 4, 2011, at 1:30 PM in Barnesville to discuss project permitting and operation.
- Bruce Albright, BRRWD Administrator, gave testimony to the Senate and House bonding committees regarding Oakport Flood Mitigation. The Legislators were asked to allocate \$8.7 million to complete the project. The BRRWD needs approximately \$1.7 million to complete work on the existing contracts. An additional \$1.5 million is needed to complete the Wall Street road raises in 2011. Phase 4 could be delayed until 2012, depending on funding. The Army Corps of Engineers has begun working on advance measures regarding 2011 flood preparedness.
- A funding request was also submitted for the Georgetown Levee Improvement project at the 3/23/11 bond hearings. The Board approved a bill from William Nichol Excavating, Inc., for \$2,300 for the removal of the log jam at the Georgetown Texas crossing.
- The BRRWD will continue the redetermination of benefits hearings for Clay County Ditch Nos. 36, 40, and 60 on April 5, 2011, at 8:00 PM in the Comstock Community Center.
- The Metro Flood Management Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM in City of Fargo's Centennial Hall, and the Metro Flood Study Work Group will meet on Friday, April 1, 2011, at 10:00 AM in the City Commission Room.
- The Board decided to cancel the 3/31/11 Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee Sub-Project Team meeting due to a conflict with the Comstock/Wolverton Elevator Annual Meeting. The meeting will be rescheduled.
- The BRRWD approved a request from the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for a contribution of \$6,000 to cover a shortfall for the Hay Creek/Stinking Lake Clean Water Legacy grant. The money will be used to complete engineering for approximately 58 basins funded by Agricultural Water Enhancement Program.
- The Board discussed the scope and fee estimate from Braun Intertec Corporation provided for the Hawley Buffalo River Restoration soil borings. The scope of work included borings on both sides of the river. The City of Hawley thinks that the work may only be needed on the west side of the river. H.E. will request a revised geotechnical scope.
- The Board approved a \$150 contribution to the Becker SWCD Area I Envirothon.
- The Board approved payment of bills totaling \$53,800.19.

3/28/11 BRRWD News Release (cont.)

The next regular BRRWD meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 11, 2011, at 8:00 PM in the Barnesville office. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please visit our Website at [www.brrwd.org](http://www.brrwd.org).