

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 14, 2011
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Bruce E. Albright, 218-354-7710

"Local Watershed Addresses Flood Issues"

At their 4/11/11 meeting, held in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), received reports regarding two flooding issues. A landowner from the Glyndon area expressed concerns about agricultural tile sump pumps that were currently running, while the City of Georgetown was still in the middle of a huge flood fight. He questioned if the BRRWD had policies regarding the operation of drain tile during a flood. The Managers indicated that this is an issue that they would like to address. It may require a rewrite of the BRRWD Rules. The office will contact the neighboring watershed districts to see what they do in this regard.

David Majkrzak attended the meeting to discuss his idea that might help resolve some of the area flooding problems. He felt that if landowners adjacent to the Red River of the North could start removal of snow in their ditches early in the spring to get the water into the river sooner, it would help get water in ahead of the crest. As the spring progressed, landowners could work further upstream to continue with the drainage. He envisioned some type of rotary ditcher that would be guided by GPS and laser to assist the landowners with water removal. Majkrzak felt that if landowners did this up and down the valley, they could get the "early" water drained before river water levels reach their peak. Jon Evert, Clay County Commissioner, suggested that it could be tried on a trial basis. He also felt that some organization would need to take the lead to make this happen. While the BRRWD felt that this may not be the only thing needed regarding spring flooding, it might be one of the tools that could be used to address overall flooding.

Other business included:

- The BRRWD approved permits to: Curt Stubstad for the installation of 6" dia. tile along the east line of the SW1/4, Section 1, Elmwood Township, Clay County, draining into County Ditch No. 58, to which it is assessed; and Humboldt Township to replace two culverts in 190th ST S between Sections 7 and 8, with a single line of 31" x 50" corrugated metal pipe-arch.
- The Board reviewed a report prepared by Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.) regarding a complaint about high water affecting 73rd and 75th AVE in Section 9, Highland Grove Township, Clay County. A potential outlet is located to the south, but it would affect a number of other wetland basins that would also need to be lowered. It appears that significant wetland permitting and mitigation might be necessary to follow that route. The information will be furnished to the Township. Another alternative would be for the Township to relocate/buildup the affected roads.
- The Managers discussed downstream water levels in relationship to restarting the various lake outlet projects that the BRRWD operates. A 30' elevation in Fargo was set as the criteria for restarting all lake outlet projects. Downstream conditions will also be assessed. Because of problems on Turtle/Long Lakes, the Long Lake siphon will be restarted when the Red River reaches 34'.
- The Appraisers' Report is done for the Manston Slough Restoration project. Bruce E. Albright, BRRWD Administrator, said the office is working on contacting landowners regarding their easement options.
- The Board approved a resolution to start condemnation proceedings for a landowner north of Hawley, pertaining to Project No. 50, Cromwell Township Highwater Outlets. The BRRWD has been unable to secure the required easement through negotiations.

4/11/11 BRRWD News Release (cont.)

- The Board authorized Ulteig Engineers, Inc. to prepare the plans and specifications for the Phase 3B road raises associated with the Oakport Flood Mitigation project. Estimated project costs are \$1.5 million. The BRRWD is working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to secure the required funding.
- The Managers discussed the flood fight currently ongoing in the City of Georgetown. The BRRWD has developed plans for levee improvements, estimated to cost \$3.5 million. Appraisals are underway for fourteen homeowners who have indicated an interest regarding a buyout.
- The next Mediation Project Team (PT) meeting is scheduled for 4/28/11 at 7:30 PM in the MSUM Science Center.
- The PT meeting for Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee has been rescheduled for 4/26/11 at 8:00 PM in the Comstock Community Center.
- The Board adopted the floor plan for the BRRWD's new office. YHR Architects, Moorhead, will now begin the detailed design. The Watershed would like to start construction in June 2011.
- The Board approved payment of bills totaling \$233,225.91.

The next regular BRRWD meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 25, 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.