

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 4, 2011
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"Lengthy Meeting for Local Watershed"

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), took approximately 3.5 hours to go through their meeting agenda on 4/25/11. A landowner from Otter Tail County questioned the raising of County Road (C.R.) No. 127 (180th AVE S) in Tansem Township, Clay County. He said that the County has repeatedly raised the road, which washed out in 2010 and 2011. The office indicated that last fall the County obtained a BRRWD permit to install a culvert and gate. The office will check with the County to see when that work will take place. The landowner feels that as they keep raising the road, they flood more of his property.

There was considerable discussion regarding agricultural tiling. The BRRWD has several pending permit applications for this type of work. Concerns were expressed at the last meeting about tile operation during a flood. The office has received information from the Bois de Sioux Watershed District regarding their Rules and Regulations. They reserve the right to order that all tiles be closed during a flood. Bruce E. Albright, BRRWD Administrator, felt that this is something the Board could consider with a rewrite of their Rules, which might take place this coming winter when there is more time. Up to now, the BRRWD's primary concern with tiling is if the project has an adequate outlet. Landowners at the meeting felt that this could be a controversial subject. For the most part, they thought that normally the ground would be frozen and the tile lines would not be operating during a spring flood.

There was also discussion regarding the status of the centerline crossing replacements on Clay County Ditch No. 49. Erik S. Jones, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.), said they are working with the County Engineer to put together state aid plans for those crossings that qualify for funding assistance. The landowner said he had been waiting approximately 13 years to see the culverts replaced. The intentions are that one bid would be let for all structure replacements.

Other business included:

- The Board approved permits to: David Watt for pattern tiling in the S1/2SW1/4, Section 27, Moland Township, Clay County; Terry Eidem for 522 acres of pattern tiling in Section 20, Morken Township, Clay County; Larry Reski to fill in a low area behind his house along the Red River of the North in Section 21, Oakport Township, Clay County; Clay County Highway Department to do emergency pumping to get water off their roadways involving County State Aid Highway (CSAH) Nos. 33 and 37 and C.R. Nos. 127 and 114; Matt Halverson for 41 acres of pattern tiling in the E1/2SE1/4, Section 20, Elkton Township, Clay County; Clay County Highway Department to install an approach with a 24" dia. culvert off CSAH No. 31 into Section 26, Hawley Township; Bradley Nelson for 55 acres of pattern tiling in the NE1/4, Section 30, Deerhorn Township, Wilkin County; Kubela Farms for 150 acres of pattern tiling to drain to Wilkin County Ditch No. 6A in the NE1/4, Section 3, Meadows Township; Wilkin County Highway Department to replace a 30" dia. and 24" dia. culverts with one 36" dia. arch pipe between Sections 1 and 12, Roberts Township; and Wilkin County Highway Department to clean the ditch along CSAH No. 30 and replace the culvert at the intersection of 310th AVE.
- H.E. will conduct surveys regarding the Lake Jacobs and Lake Alfred highwater outlet investigations on 4/29/11. Jones reported that he would like to have preliminary design at the 5/09/11 meeting.
- The Managers discussed plans to restart all existing highwater outlets on 5/02/11. Previously, the Board talked about waiting until the Red River fell below flood stage (30') in Fargo-Moorhead before restarting any of the outlets.

4/25/11 BRRWD News Release (cont.)

- The Board discussed payment of the right-of-way (R/W) checks to landowners involved with bufferstrip establishment on Clay County Ditch Nos. 36, 40, 60. The Board made the Order to go ahead with the redetermination of benefits on 4/05/11. Wade S. Opsahl, Technician, H.E., has someone lined up to do the required seeding, as soon as conditions permit.
- The Board went into closed session to discuss possible condemnation proceedings to obtain an easement needed to construct Project No. 50, Cromwell Township Highwater Outlet. A meeting will be scheduled with the BRRWD's legal counsel, Vogel Law Firm.
- The Managers discussed the emergency project being constructed in Crystal Creek Subdivision South in Oakport Township. Homeowners have asked that the BRRWD supervise a project that would leave their temporary levees in place following the 2011 spring flood. Jones reported on the geotechnical concerns.
- The Board accepted a quote from H.E. to do the site planning for the new office in the Barnesville Commercial Park. YHR Architects are working on the building design.
- The Board approved payment of bills totaling \$170,836.86.

The next regular BRRWD meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 9, 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.