

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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“Watershed Sets 2012 Levies”

At their 8/22/11 meeting, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), set their levies for 2012. The administrative levy, which is capped by Statute, was set at \$250,000. In 2012, the BRRWD will levy \$15,000 for insurance expenses. Three separate levies were set for Minnesota Statutes Annotated 103D.905, Subd. 3, which is used for projects by petition. A general levy of \$388,867 will be used to fund a variety of programs, including River Keepers, conservation marketing with the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), and as matching funds for several Clean Water Fund programs. The levy will also be used to help fund farmstead ringdikes, the County Line Outlet project, and the Manston Slough Restoration. A second levy of \$300,000 will be used to help fund a wetland restoration site to bank wetland credits for BRRWD projects. The third levy of \$100,000 will be used for a building fund. The total 2012 general levy of \$1,053,867 is 1.45% higher than the 2011 levy of \$1,038,846.

The Board also set the following ditch system/project levies for 2012:

Clay County:

Ditch No. 2-\$20,000

Ditch No. 3-\$10,000

Ditch No. 9-\$10,000

Ditch No. 10-\$25,000

Ditch No. 11-\$25,000

Ditch No. 12-\$20,000

Ditch No. 16-\$2,000

Ditch No. 17-\$5,000

Ditch No. 20-\$5,000

Ditch No. 21-\$25,000

Ditch No. 22-\$12,000

Ditch No. 28-\$20,000

Ditch No. 31-\$5,000

Ditch No. 32-\$20,000

Ditch No. 33-\$8,000

Ditch No. 35-\$15,000

Ditch No. 36-\$40,000

Ditch No. 40-\$40,000

Ditch No. 41-Outlet-\$25,000

Ditch No. 41-Lat. 1-\$25,000

Ditch No. 41-Lat. 2-\$10,000

Ditch No. 49-\$50,000

Ditch No. 50-\$10,000

Ditch No. 53-\$5,000

Ditch No. 54-\$20,000

Ditch No. 55-\$20,000

Ditch No. 58-\$15,000

Ditch No. 59-\$20,000

Ditch No. 60-\$25,000

Ditch No. 63-\$15,000

Ditch No. 68-\$5,000

Becker County:

Ditch No. 5-\$10,000

Ditch No. 9-\$10,000

Ditch No. 15-\$10,000

Ditch No. 21-\$5,000

Wilkin County:

Ditch No. 5A-20,000

Ditch No. 13-\$25,000

Ditch No. 22-\$20,000

Ditch No. 26-\$2,000

Ditch No. 41-\$20,000

Ditch No. 44-\$25,000

Projects

Clay-Wilkin J.D. 1-\$30,000

Turtle Lake Outlet-\$50,000

Oakport Flood Mitigation-\$75,000

Riverton Township Retention-\$15,000

Whisky Creek-\$20,000

J.D. 1, Branch 4-\$10,000

LaBelle/Boyer Lake Outlets-\$80,000

Other business included:

- The Board spent considerable time discussing options for more space for the BRRWD office. The current dilemma is that the lease at 123 Front ST S expires on 8/31/11. The Board agreed to rent a temporary space at 114 Front ST S. They will also rent a storage unit in Commercial Park

with the intention that they will stay at the temporary office until sometime early next summer. Options for acquiring more space currently include a new building in Commercial Park or the possible purchase of an existing building in Commercial Park that could be renovated. The Board authorized YHR Partners, Moorhead, to make an analysis of the existing building including the electrical, mechanical, and remodeling costs. The Board intends to discuss their relocation options with the Advisory Committee later in September.

- The Board awarded the construction contract for Clay County Ditch No. 49 structure replacements to Steven Johnson Excavation, Otter Tail, MN, with their bid of \$102,480. Their work should begin in September 2011.
- A request was filed to discuss a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) protected waterway on the east side of Glyndon that drains through Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 10. The Board agreed to hold a meeting sometime this winter. Historic drainage problems exist along the waterway, which is full of cattails, trees, beaver dams, etc. The upstream landowners would like to see something done to maintain their drainage.
- Representatives from the BRRWD will attend the 9/07/11 Lower Otter Tail Watershed hearing to be held in Rothsay by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources between 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM. Rather than creating a new district, another option might be to annex the area into the BRRWD.
- The Board received notice from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety that they have closed out the BRRWD's 2006 Federal Emergency Management Agency account. Once the final funding is received, allocations to the various accounts will be made.
- The Board approved permits to: Kevin and Brad Nelson to pattern tile the SE1/4, Section 3, Glyndon Township, Clay County, with an outlet to Clay County Ditch No. 68; Hawley Township to install a new culvert in 120th ST S on the west line of Section 24 to prevent road overtopping; David Kragnes to pattern tile approximately 100 acres in the S1/2, Section 30, Morken Township, Clay County, with an outlet to County Ditch No. 39; David Kragnes for 225 acres of pattern tiling in the S1/2, Section 28, Morken Township, Clay County, with an outlet to County Ditch No. 39; nine permits to the Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District (WMD)/United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for wetland restorations on the Whisky Lake Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) in Sections 35 and 36, Tansem Township, Clay County, the Bay Lake WPA, in Section 23, Hamden Township, Becker County, the Bjornson WPA in Section 9, Skree Township, Clay County, the Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Sections 14 and 34, Hamden Township, Becker County, the Erickson WPA in Section 34, Cormorant Township, Becker County, the Setter/Davis WPA in Sections 23, 26, and 27, Cuba Township, Becker County, the Lake Park WPA in Section 10, Lake Park Township, Becker County, the Kruger WPA in Sections 15, 16, 21, and 22, Callaway Township, Becker County, and the Hillestad WPA in Section 15, Cromwell Township, Clay County; the Detroit Lakes WMD/USFWS to install a tile line to lower a wetland on the Hamden Slough NWR near County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 12 in Section 23, Hamden Township, Becker County; Tom Jacobs to install a driveway and culvert in Section 17, Wolverton Township, Wilkin County, off 115th AVE; Paul Anderson to lower a culvert in a field approach along County Road No. 53 in the E1/2SE1/4, Section 17, Alliance Township, Clay County; Ronald Tang for pattern tiling in the SW1/4, Section 23, Flowing Township, Clay County; and Howard Pender, Jr. to install an 18" dia. culvert in an approach off 120th ST S in the SW1/4, Section 18, Elkton Township, Clay County.
- The Board approved repairs to Clay County Ditch No. 9 west of T.H. No. 75 along CSAH No. 12. The slumping will be repaired by using Styrofoam blocks. The estimated project cost is \$10,000-\$15,000.

8/22/11 BRRWD News Release (cont.)

- The Turtle Lake Siphon was stopped on 8/19/11 because the project had reached the DNR amended permit elevation. It is anticipated that the Long Lake siphon will be stopped later this week.
- Reviewed lake levels for other outlet projects. With the recent stretch of dry weather, all lake levels are at or near their target elevations.
- The BRRWD Fall Tour will be held on 9/29/11. Invitees include local Legislators, County Commissioners, SWCD Supervisors, the BRRWD's Mediation Project Team members, and the Advisory Committee.
- The Board awarded a construction contract to Steven Johnson Excavation, Otter Tail, MN, for the construction of a farmstead ringdike, which be funded through the Natural Resources Conservation Service and their Environmental Quality Incentives Program.
- The Board approved payment of bills totaling \$95,208.15

The next regular BRRWD meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 12, 2011, at 8:00 PM in the Barnesville office. At that time, the new meeting location will be 114 Front ST S. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please visit our Website at www.brrwd.org.