“Local Watershed Makes Order for County Line Outlet Project”

At their meeting held on 4/23/12 in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) made the final order for Project No. 65 County Line Outlet. For the past several years, the BRRWD has been working with Humboldt Township, Clay County and Prairie View Township Wilkin County regarding high water that closed one of their roads. Area homeowners had also expressed concerns about the rising water levels. The project, which was constructed in the fall of 2011, lowered water levels in a series of wetlands east of Barnesville. A final hearing was held on March 15, 2012. At that time, landowners expressed concerns regarding the Appraisers’ Report and how the local costs were to be assessed. The Board recessed that hearing and sent the Appraisers back to look at those concerns. The project will be funded 50% through a grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and their Flood Damage Reduction program. The BRRWD has also agreed to contribute 25% through their Minnesota Statute Annotated 103D.905, Subd. 3, funding. The remaining costs will be assessed to benefited parties. The hearing was continued on 4/18/12 at the Barnesville VFW. Landowners continued to express concerns regarding the assessment of local costs. That hearing was adjourned. Landowners attended the 4/23/12 meeting to present further testimony. By law the BRRWD had closed the hearing. After considerable discussion, an order was made to adopt the project and the work of the Appraisers, beginning a 30-day appeal period.

Landowners involved with the Georgetown levee improvement project also attended the meeting to express concerns regarding their easement offer. The easement is needed for construction of the new levee. They indicated that the area involves evergreen trees, lawn ornaments, etc. and felt they could not sign the easement, as worded. Bruce Albright, BRRWD Administrator, commented that this is the same easement form used to obtain all of the easements needed to construct the Oakport Flood Mitigation Project. The Board agreed to meet with the landowners and the project engineer at 5:00 PM on 4/26/12 to further review their concerns.

Fred Dahnke, Mayor, City of Barnesville, attended the meeting to discuss a Lake Management Plan for Blue Eagle Lake. A proposal was submitted by Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.). A reconnaissance survey of the lake will set up grid lines and quadrants and measure lake sediment depths. The cost of the survey is $4,049.70. The Mayor asked the BRRWD to fund 50% of the cost, which was approved. The data will be useful for future management of the lake, which is an important resource for the City of Barnesville.

A landowner also attended to discuss Clay County Ditch No. 39. At the last meeting, he requested permission to install 2 temporary ditch plugs in order to trap water which he would use for irrigation through his drain tile. H.E. has completed a survey of the request. The Board had talked about scheduling a hearing in accordance of Minnesota Drainage Law 103E.227, which would allow for the impoundment of drainage system water. The office will work with the landowner to draft a petition. There was also some discussion regarding the ditch right-of-way (r-o-w) and the legal government boundary lines.

Harold Rotunda, Certified Public Account, West Fargo, presented the 2011 audit. The audit has been posted to the BRRWD website and is available for public inspection at the BRRWD office. Rotunda said that the books are in order. There was some discussion regarding the future funding and financing of BRRWD’s projects.
Other business included:

- Approval of permits to Spring Prairie Colony for 577 acres of pattern tiling in Sections 2 and 12, Deerhorn Township and Section 7, Atherton Township, Wilkin County; Maier Farms for pattern tiling in the NE¼, Section 1, Deerhorn Township, Wilkin County; Dubbels Farms for pattern tiling in the S½, Section 6, Humboldt Township, Clay County; The City of Moorhead for re-grading of 28th AVE S between 28th ST and 26th ST; Daniel Froslie for random tiling of about 20 acres in the SE¼ of Section 3, Tanberg Township, Wilkin County; Josh Gornowicz to install an approach and culvert off 43rd AVE N along the south side of Section 22, Oakport Township, Clay County, approved subject to township approval to work within their r-o-w; and Maier Farms to lower and extend a 24 inch diameter culvert in a field approach along 100th ST in the NW¼, Section 6, Atherton Township, Wilkin County.

- The status of the new building project was discussed and information technology needs were reviewed. The Board authorized H.E. to provide the wiring and computer systems. They will also work with Network Center Communications regarding the audio-visual systems.

- The Board discussed reservations for the upcoming Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) summer tour to be held on 6/21/12-6/23/12 in the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District.

- The Board approved payment of bills totaling $69,899.43.

A special meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, will be held on Monday, 4/30/12 at 7:30 PM in the Barnesville Office. The meeting was scheduled to address remaining agenda items from the 4/23/12 meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD is scheduled for Monday, 5/14/12 at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. The Board decided to meet at 7:00 PM rather than 8:00 PM in order to get through their agenda and large workload. Our meetings will continue to be held at 7:00 PM until noted. All meetings are open to the public. If you should have questions or comments concerning the BRRWD, please visit our website at [www.brrwd.org](http://www.brrwd.org)