NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 22, 2012
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Bruce E. Albright, 218-354-7710

“Local Watershed Reviews Projects”

At their meeting held on 5/14/12 in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) discussed a variety of projects they plan to work on in 2012. The final hearing for the Manston Slough Restoration Project has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, 2012 at 7:30 PM in Hildebrand Hall, Assumption Catholic Church, Barnesville. Notice of the hearing is being published and has been sent to all affected landowners. The office is still working on obtaining easement options on several parcels of land affected by the project. The project is estimated to cost approximately $4 million and has been funded at the rate of 75% by the State of Minnesota. Discussion also took place regarding status of the Georgetown Levee improvements. The final hearing will be continued on Thursday, May 31, 2012 at 8:00 PM in the Georgetown Community Center. Prior to the hearing continuation, the Board and representatives from Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.) will try to address the remaining land acquisitions/easements. It has been difficult to get affected landowners to cooperate.

A meeting will be scheduled with the petitioner for a new lateral to Clay County Ditch No. 51 near Kragnes. Erik S. Jones, Engineer, H.E., said he is running into some design questions regarding the petitioner’s proposed alignment. Suggestions for improving drainage in the area will be discussed.

Other business included:

- A third letter will be sent to Wolverton Township regarding a road crossing they have over Wolverton Creek. After the past several years of flooding, the Township has repeatedly raised the road which has changed the crossing hydraulics. An affected neighboring landowner would like to see the road lowered to its design elevation. If the matter cannot be resolved by 7/01/12, it will be turned over to the BRRWD’s attorney.

- The Board approved permits to the Becker County Highway Department for the replacement of culverts on the Buffalo River in County Road No. 159 between Sections 14 and 15, Riceville Township; the City of Moorhead for a flood mitigation project in Sections 19 and 20 along the Red River of the North. The project consists of constructing a levee to approximately flood stage 44 feet; and Tri-T Farms for tiling in Section 24, Barnesville Township, Clay County, with outlets to “east tributary” to Whisky Creek. Other tiling proposed on the same application will be field reviewed before taking action.

- The Appraisers are working on finishing their report for the Country Heritage Ditch Improvement Project and the Crystal Creek Levee Project. It is anticipated that hearings can be held sometime in July, 2012.

- The Board authorized some limited channel cleanout across Section 24, Prairie View Township, Wilkin County which serves as an outlet for Project No. 68, Lake Jacobs Outlet. The cleanout should help contain flows within the channel.

- The office is working with the Minnesota Department of Transportation regarding certification of levies regarding their share of project costs on HRBP Outlet, County Line Outlet, and LaBelle/Boyer Lake Outlets.

- The next Mediation Project Team meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 24, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the MSUM Science Center. Invited speakers include Lance Yohe, Red River Basin Commission, Rick St. Germain, H.E., and Chuck Fritz, International Water Institute.
• The Board Discussed BRRWD easements for landowners involved with the Natural Resource Conservation Service Wetland Reserve Program/Reinvest in Minnesota sites. The office is currently working with the landowner west of Audubon on a potential site for South Reep Lake. The Board would like to adopt a policy that can be used on all cooperative projects.

• The BRRWD ordered the Redetermination of Benefits for Clay County Ditch Nos. 9, 32, and 33, appointing Viewers Arvid Thompson, Lauren Peterson, and Eddie Bernhardson. As required by Minnesota Drainage Law, the redetermination will include acquisition of lands needed for the one rod grassed buffer strip. H.E. was asked to look at preparing an application for clean water funds available through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources to assist with the buffer strip planting and necessary field inlets.

• The Managers discussed the status of the new office building project. The contractor expects to pour the floor slab later this week. The Board received a quote for building the boardroom table and podium.

• Approved payment of bills totaling $461,000.36.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD is scheduled for Tuesday, May 29, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. The meeting date was changed from the traditional fourth Monday because of Memorial Day. 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.