NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 09, 2012
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“Local Watershed Moves Office”

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) held their last meeting on Monday, September 24, 2012 at their old office location, which was 114 Front South. On Tuesday morning, September 25, the office moved to the new building located in the Barnesville Commercial Park at 1303 4th AVE NE. The new building project has been ongoing all summer. While there is still some work remaining on the building and grounds, staff will be able to move in and conduct business.

Fall remains a busy time of year for the BRRWD. With the extremely dry weather, landowners are still anxious to get projects done before freeze up. The BRRWD also has a number of projects that will be started this fall. The Board has awarded a construction contract to William Nichol Excavating for Project No. 72, Wilkin County Ditch No. 22-Lateral No. 3 Improvement. A contract was also awarded to Reiner Construction Inc. for their work on the 2012 Georgetown Levee Improvement Project.

Other business included:

- The Board approved permits to: David Osten to clean a ditch off of Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 108 in the NE¼, Section 33, Norwegian Grove Township, Otter Tail County, which includes installation of culverts at the inlet and outlet ends of the ditch on the applicant's property; Silverland Properties, c/o Chad Lee, for installation of an approach and possible culvert off T.H. No. 10 in the SW corner, Section 4, Hawley Township, Clay County; Kirk Watt for 47 acres of pattern tiling in the SE¼, Section 4, Glyndon Township, Clay County; Mark Yaggie for installation of field approach and culvert to gain entrance to the NW¼, Section 22, Tanberg Township, Wilkin County; Joseph Wulfekuhle for 128 acres of pattern tiling in the NW¼ and the W½ of the SW¼, Section 13, Mitchell Township, Wilkin County subject to Wilkin County Highway Department approval to outlet the water into their road ditch and downstream landowner approval; and Clay County Highway to replace a deteriorating culvert in 100th AVE S/County Road No. 65 between Sections 22 and 27, Kurtz Township.

- An appeal was filed regarding the Board's preliminary order for the development of Project No. 74, Clay County Ditch No. 51-Lateral No. 3. The Board/Court will need to address the appeal before project development can continue.

- The hearing for Project No. 73, Country Heritage Drainage Improvements in Oakport Township will be held on 10/03/12 at 7:30 PM in the Moorhead City Hall Council Chambers. Per a request in the petition, the Board also agreed to contribute $7,500 to the overall project costs from their Minnesota Statutes Annotated (M.S.A.) M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3, account.

- Hearings will be held on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 for several projects in the Hawley area. The hearings will be held in the Community Center. The hearing for Project No. 32, Hawley EDA Diversion-Redetermination of Benefits will begin at 7:00 PM, and the hearing for Project No. 50, Cromwell Township Highwater Outlets will be held at 8:00 PM. The Appraisers have finished their work on both projects. Notices were sent to affected landowners.

- The repair work has been completed on the deteriorating 60” diameter reinforced concrete pipe associated with Project No. 32, Hawley EDA Diversion. The pipe supplier, Houston Engineering, Inc., the BRRWD, and the City of Hawley agreed to split the repair costs.

- The next Mediation Project Team meeting will be held on Thursday, November 15, 2012 at 1:30 PM in the BRRWD's new office.
- The office is working on a hearing notice regarding the boundary for the new watershed district area that was added by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on 4/25/12. The hearing will be held in Rothsay, but a date has not been set at this time.

- A BWSR grant extension was signed for work on the Wolverton Creek project. The grant will extend funding until 12/31/13.

- The Board discussed a small tract landowner's concern regarding his assessment associated with Clay County Ditch No. 49. The recent redetermination of benefits also placed benefits on houses within the drainage area. The homeowner feels he is not being treated fairly in relationship to the agricultural landowners who have requested additional drainage work. The matter will be discussed with the Clay County Auditor.

- Repairs were authorized, based on bids received, to Key Contracting, Inc. for work on the concrete liners associated with Clay County Ditch Nos. 33, 34 and 47 within the cities of Moorhead and Dilworth.

- The Board approved payment of bills (subject to the receipt of funding) totaling $318,260.33.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Tuesday, October 9, 2012, at 7:00 PM in the new office at 1303 4th AVE NE, Barnesville. The meeting date is changed from the traditional second Monday because of Columbus Day. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please visit our website at www.brrwd.org.