NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 31, 2012
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“Local Watershed Board Adds New Managers”

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), welcomed two new Managers at their regular meeting held on Monday, October 22, 2012, in their new Barnesville office. Troy Larson, Wilkin County, and Peter Fjestad, Otter Tail County, were appointed by their respective Counties to three-year terms, increasing the number of Managers from five to seven. The appointments were made as a result of the 4/25/12 Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Order (BWSR) in response to a petition from the Counties to add approximately 430 square miles of land to the BRRWD, including the lower Otter Tail River downstream of Orwell Dam to Breckenridge. The BRRWD plans to hold a hearing this winter to inform landowners about the location of the eastern boundary, discuss the BRRWD Rules, and answer general questions about BRRWD operations/procedures.

The Board approved permit applications for a random tiling project involving four landowners with adjacent tracts in Section 3, Akron Township, Wilkin County. The tile will be installed along a natural waterway that flows across property owned by Dennis Aksamit, Marvin Peterson, and Stephen Wiese, outletting to an existing gravel pit on Avis Wiese's property. Wiese had some concerns about the effect of the increased drainage on water levels in the gravel pit and would like to have the option to install a control gate if necessary. The Board agreed to monitor the pit elevation, and work with Wiese if structure control proves necessary.

Mark Yaggie discussed an alternative proposal for a project he planned this summer (Permit No. 12-64) in the N1/2, Section 24, Manston Township, Wilkin County, to address seepage issues from an upstream Wetlands Reserve Program. His earlier permit application asked to install one 24” diameter culvert through County Road (C.R.) No. 15 and one in a field approach. He also wanted to clean the road ditch. The new proposal is to add 140 feet to the existing culvert through C.R. No. 176, and to add 130 feet of culvert on the south end of their field with tiling on each side of the ditch to control seepage. Yaggie also plans to seed grass in the ditch to control erosion. The Board approved the new permit and agreed to withdraw the earlier application.

The Board also discussed an ongoing wetland violation and culvert issue along 110th ST on the south line of Section 27, Skree Township, Clay County. On 11/14/11, the Board directed Clayton Runck to install a temporary 24” diameter culvert in this location to protect a downstream farmstead from possible spring flooding. In April 2012, the Board agreed to allow Runck to remove the culvert/block. Runck decided not to remove the structure last spring, and asked the Board if they wanted him to leave the block in place this fall to provide the same flood protection for the downstream property for next spring. After considerable discussion, the Board agreed that Runck should leave the structure in place.

Business included:

- The Board approved permits to the following: Mark Yaggie to pattern tile approximately 40 acres in the NE1/4NE1/4, Section 4, Manston Township, Wilkin County, to outlet via a lift station to the township road ditch, subject to Manager field review and township approval to work in their road right-of-way (r-o-w); Mark Yaggie to install approximately 100 acres of random tiling in the NW1/4 and S1/2NE1/4, Section 22, Tanberg Township, Wilkin County, with a main line through the field, which will also drain the upstream property in the NE1/4, Section 22, via a gravity flow outlet to a natural waterway; Troy Larson to pattern tile about 30 acres in the S1/2N1/2NE1/4, Section 22, Tanberg Township, Wilkin County, to outlet to a main line located downstream on Mark Yaggie’s property; Troy Larson to install pattern tiling in the NE1/4NE1/4, Section 3, Andrea Township, Wilkin County, outletting to a natural waterway along the south side of the tract, eventually to Wilkin County Ditch No. 15; Michael and Ryan Hough to pattern tile 18 acres in the NW1/4 Section 13, Barnesville Township, Clay County, outletting to a
minimum maintenance road ditch, eventually to the Interstate-94 (I-94) ditch; Clay County Highway Department for a Mayfield Lake outlet in Section 22, Parke Township, to protect C.R. No. 125; Chad Johnson for 147 acres of pattern tiling in the SW1/4, Section 16, Riverton Township, Clay County, to outlet via gravity flow to 17th AVE South ditch, and 92 acres of pattern tiling in the NE1/4, Section 6, Riverton Township, to outlet via a lift station to the C.R. No. 85 ditch, both subject to downstream landowner approval and township approval to work within road r-o-w; Daniel Johnson for 157 acres of pattern tiling in the SE1/4, Section 36, Glyndon Township, Clay County, to outlet south via C.R. No. 72 road ditch to Clay County Ditch No. 21; James Baker for 160 acres of pattern tiling in the SW1/4 Section 2, Elmwood Township, Clay County, to outlet from the northwest corner via a lift station to the C.R. No. 17 ditch, eventually to Clay County Ditch No. 21; Dana Nelson to install sediment control basins in the W1/2NW1/4, Section 24, Tanberg Township, Wilkin County; Chuck Anderson to pattern tile 157 acres in the SW1/4, Section 33, Elkton Township, Clay County, outletting to County Ditch No. 17 via a natural waterway, and to pattern tile the S1/2, Section 4 and the N1/2, Section 9, Barnesville Township, Clay County, outletting via a lift station to 140th ST South, subject to Manager field review. All tiling projects are subject to our standard tiling disclaimer, which states that the BRRWD is not responsible for any damages to tiling within the ditch system r-o-w, and if the project outlets into a legal drainage system, the outlet needs to properly marked to protect it from normal ditch system maintenance and where necessary, proper erosion control needs to be installed at the tile outlet.

- On 10/16/12, the Board held a special meeting/field review with Donald Hoppe and the Wolverton Township Supervisors to address appeals filed by both parties regarding the Board's Order for the Township to lower 130th AVE between Sections 9 and 10 to the original spillway elevation. The Managers approved a motion to direct the Township to lower a 100 foot stretch of their road to elevation 923.0 by 10/26/12.

- Bids were opened for Project No. 73, Country Heritage Ditch on 10/19/12 with the low bid of $42,057.00 coming from Johnson Excavation, Otter Tail, MN. The Board authorized Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.) to contact the adjacent landowners with the new cost estimate before making a determination on going forward with the project.

- The Board approved Pay Request No. 1 to William Nichol Excavating in the amount of $18,151.09 for their work on Project No. 72, Wilkin County Ditch No. 22-Lateral No. 3 Improvement. The project is expected to be completed this fall.

- The office is working with the BWSR to obtain the funding needed to reach the 75% state funding level on the Manston Slough Restoration Project. BWSR has verbally committed approximately $682,365 to the project. The BRRWD intends to complete the remaining easements and hearing process before the New Year.

- The Georgetown 2012 Levee Improvements project is under construction. The work area is cleared for Phase 1 construction on the east side of Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 75. The office continues to work on obtaining the remaining easements west of T.H. No. 75.

- Hearings were held for Project No. 32, Hawley EDA Diversion Redetermination of Benefits and Project No. 50, Cromwell Township Highwater Outlets, on 10/10/12. The Board approved the Redetermination of Benefits for Project No. 32 and adopted the amended Appraisers' Report, dated 9/24/12. The Managers also approved the Final Order for Project No. 50, Cromwell Township Highwater Emergency Outlet, and adopted the amended Appraisers' Report, dated 9/24/12.

- The next Mediation Project Team meeting will be held on Thursday, November 15, 2012, at 1:30 PM in the BRRWD office.
On 10/22/12, construction bids were opened for the Elkton Township Wetland Mitigation Project. Ziegler Construction, Georgetown, MN, was the low bidder at $47,075.70. The Part B wetland banking application has been submitted in accordance with the Wetland Conservation Act rules. The Board awarded the construction contract to Ziegler Construction, subject to approval of the application.

The Board approved a $10,000 contribution to the City of Barnesville for their proposed retrofit of the Works Projects Administration dam on Blue Eagle Lake to allow for better management of the lake and pond levels, including improved fish passage features.

The Managers discussed the upcoming Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts annual meeting to be held on November 29-December 1, 2012 in Alexandria. Reservations will be made for all Board members. The Board also decided to send the office staff to the New Managers' Workshop on 11/29/12.

The Board approved payment of bills $161,965.42.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Monday, November 12, 2012, at 7:00 PM in the new office at 1303 4th AVE NE, Barnesville. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please visit our website at www.brrwd.org.