NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 12, 2013
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Bruce E. Albright, 218-354-7710

“Local Watershed Plans for Upcoming Hearings”

At their regular meeting held on Monday, April 8, 2013, in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), spend some time planning for two upcoming hearings. The first hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2013, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville BRRWD office. It is actually a continuation of a hearing that was started on May 22, 2012, pertaining to Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration. Following the first hearing, there were several questions raised regarding the assessment of project benefits. Since then, the Appraisers have looked at those areas and have made some adjustments to their Report. The Board is anxious to continue the development of this project with hopes that construction could begin this spring as soon as conditions permit. The second hearing will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2013, at 7:00 PM, First Floor Council Chambers, Moorhead City Hall. This hearing pertains to the incremental implementation of vegetative ditch bufferstrips and side inlet controls on Clay County Ditch Nos. 9, 32, and 33. Earlier this year, the Board received a grant from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) in the amount of $333,590 to assist with the work. The first step, which will be discussed at the upcoming hearing, includes the acquisition of right-of-way (r-o-w) for the one-rod (16.5’) grassed bufferstrips. Intentions are to complete all of the work as soon as conditions permit this spring. Bufferstrip seeding will take place this summer, and landowners will be able to reuse the temporary r-o-w again in 2014. For both hearings, affected landowners have been notified by mail and publication in area newspapers.

Other business included:

- The Board received an extension request from a landowner in Oakport Township to move a house that he purchased in the fall of 2011. The work was supposed to be completed by 11/01/11. The Board granted a new extension of 6/01/13. The homeowner said he has had difficulty getting a permit from the County for the new house location.

- The Board approved permits to: David Stock to install dual-wall tile in a natural drainageway, which meanders across property he farms in Sections 35 and 36, Carlisle Township, Otter Tail County; Clay County Highway Department to replace an existing bridge on County Ditch No. 65 in the NW1/4, Section 6, Spring Prairie Township, located in County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 19, north of Averill; the City of Moorhead for the development of Horizon Shores 6th Addition, in the SE1/4, Section 15, Moorhead Township, including streets, sidewalks, watermain, and sanitary/storm sewer, which will direct runoff into existing detention ponds (previously approved by the BRRWD); the Clay County Highway Department to salvage/reinstall culverts in seven driveways and regrade 0.5 miles of ditch along the west side of CSAH No. 17 in the NE1/4, Section 22, Glyndon Township; the Clay Count Highway Department to replace an existing bridge with one line of 12’ x 9’ reinforced concrete box pipe with a waterway area of 106 square feet (sq. ft.) on County Ditch No. 58 between Sections 10 and 11, Elmwood Township, to provide a crossing for CSAH No. 17; Sam's Real Estate Business Trust to construct a 141,235 sq. ft. wholesale membership club building, including associated parking, landscaping, and fuel station at the southeast corner of 24th AVE and 26th ST in Moorhead, on 18.56 acres with onsite detention ponds; Tony Radig for 136 acres of pattern tiling in the NW1/4, Section 31, Andrea Township, Wilkin County; KTM Farms for the installation of 550 acres of pattern tiling in Section 31, Andrea Township Wilkin County; and KTM Farms for the installation of 155 acres of pattern tiling in the SW1/4, Section 9, Andrea Township, Wilkin County.

- The Board discussed the status of their BWSR Targeted Water Management Drainage Grant, which was obtained earlier this year for $70,000 to assist landowners with tiling projects with outlet controls. The first step starts with the development of a Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Activity Plan 130 Drainage Water Management Plan. The grant will pay
up to 75% of the cost or a maximum of $2,000 for the plan. If a landowner is interested, and based on the plan recommendations, the next step would be to look at eligible conservation practices, which include stop log structures and in-line water gates. If the eligible conservation practices are installed, the landowner could then sign up for Drainage Water Management Operation, which would provide incentive payments at the rate of $7.58/acre for up to three years with a maximum of 300 acres per cooperator. The Board wants all operators within the BRRWD to be aware of the program. BRRWD Chair Gerald L. Van Amburg said that if the BRRWD spends this money, he thought there might be additional funds available through BWSR to continue the program.

- A bid opening for Project No. 71, City of Moorhead 50th AVE S Flood Control, has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 8, 2013, at 10:30 AM, Houston Engineering, Inc., Fargo, ND. Following the opening, the bids will be reviewed and tabulated and an award recommendation will be brought to the 5/13/13 BRRWD meeting.

- The next Mediation Project Team meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2013, at 7:00 PM, in the Barnesville office.

- The Board discussed the status of the Watershed District Enlargement Boundary Hearing. The eastern boundary in Otter Tail County is under review. The hearing process was started on 1/31/13 in Rothsay. The noted boundary will be field reviewed by Bruce E. Albright, BRRWD Administrator, and Manager Peter Fjestad, Otter Tail County, when conditions permit.

- The Board discussed concerns relating to a 2013 assessment placed on Becker County Ditch No. 19. Back in 2008, the Board ordered a redetermination of benefits. Albright expected that the redetermination hearing could be held in early June 2013. Drainage Law requires that any costs incurred before the date of the redetermination must be paid by the existing benefit area.

- The Board ordered twelve window treatments for the BRRWD's new office.

- The Board approved payment of bills totaling $215,310.59.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, will be held on Monday, April 22, 2013, at 7:00PM in the Barnesville office located at 1303 4th AVE NE, Barnesville. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please visit our website at www.brrwd.org.