

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 14, 2014
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“Local Watershed Approves Permits at Meeting”

At their meeting held in Barnesville on Monday, February 10, 2014, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) approved nine permits. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice Chairman, Peter Fjestad. Erik S. Jones, Engineer, Houston Engineering Inc. (H.E.) reviewed the applications using the new Permit Management Data Suite. He indicated that there are still some bugs that need to be worked out of the system. Landowners wanting to use the new electronic application system can find the needed information on the BRRWD’s website. Applicants experiencing problems with the system should contact the BRRWD office, as we want to address those concerns as quickly as possible.

The permit applications that were approved included:

- Mark Ekre for 90 acres of pattern tiling with a gravity flow outlet in the S½ NW¼, Section 31, Hawley Township, Clay County. Approved subject to road authority approval to drain water in the township road ditch. The water will eventually drain to Hay Creek.
- Chad Jetvig to install a 24” dia. culvert under a field approach in the SW corner of the W½, Section 11, Moland Township, Clay County. The BRRWD will work with the landowner to get another 24” dia. culvert installed under 70th AVE N, so the water can drain directly into Clay County Ditch (C.D.) No. 3, for which it is assessed.
- The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) for roadway surfacing and culvert replacements on Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 75 from T.H. No. 10 in Moorhead to the north Clay County line. A meeting was held on February 4, 2014, with MNDOT to discuss a proposed storm water pond associated with the project. It appears MNDOT could use the storm water pond already constructed by the BRRWD with the Georgetown Flood Control Project. A memorandum of understanding will be developed between MNDOT and the BRRWD in this regard.
- The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to construct a moist soil unit in the NE¼, Section 30, Manston Township, Wilkin County. The work will be done in conjunction with the development of Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration.
- Carl and Jay Nord for 330 acres of pattern tiling in Sections 16 and 21, Deerhorn Township, Wilkin County. The drainage will go to Wilkin C.D. No. 5-A, for which it is assessed.
- 702 Communications to directional bore under Clay C.D. No. 50 on the east side of 34th ST N. for the installation of a fiber optic cable.
- Troy Larson for random tiling into a natural waterway in the SW¼, Section 25, Akron Township, Wilkin County.
- Duane Janssen to install a tile line to control seepage from an old gravel pit area in the NW¼, Section 4, Humboldt Township, Clay County.
- Spring Prairie Colony to install pattern tiling in the SE¼, Section 35, Alliance Township, Clay County.

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes 15.99, a number of applications were tabled pending receipt of additional information from the applicants.

Other business included:

- Noting that the preliminary hearing for Project No. 76, Clay C.D. No. 3-Lateral No. 8, is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2014, at 7:00 PM in the courtroom, Wilkin County Courthouse, Breckenridge. Notices have been sent. The office has been contacted by several landowners questioning their cost for the proposed project. Unfortunately, in accordance with Minnesota Drainage Law, distribution of the project costs cannot be finalized until after the

preliminary hearing and Viewers are appointed by the Board. The petitioner has agreed to increase his bond by an additional \$5,000.

- The office has received the Viewers Report for Project No. 74, Clay C.D. No. 51-Lateral No. 3. It doesn't appear that the Viewers were able to find enough benefits to cover the project costs. The matter is being discussed with the BRRWD's legal counsel, Tammy L. Norgard, Attorney, Vogel Law Firm.
- Discussed MNDOT concerns relating to the permit the BRRWD needs to obtain for the construction of the Manston Slough Restoration Project. MNDOT would like a conference call with DNR Dam Safety to discuss installation of a possible high water pipe in the south embankment. The office continues to work on acquiring easements.
- BRRWD representatives met with Senator Eken and Representative Ben Lien last Tuesday to discuss possible bond funding needed to complete the Oakport Flood Mitigation Project. It is estimated that it will take \$5.26 million.
- Approved Pay Request No. 6 in the amount of \$90,917.88 for Reiner Contracting Inc. and their work associated with the Georgetown Flood Control Levee Improvements. The Board also approved Change Order No. 4, totaling \$24,047.65, for additional gravel, temporary drain tile installation, and temporary straw mulch. The office will revise the project budget to determine how much funding it will take to complete the project. It appears that the DNR will need to be contacted for additional bond money. The City residents have met their 2% median household income (MHI) match, therefore the remaining eligible project costs are the DNR's responsibility. Albright estimated that we're probably looking at about \$100,000.
- Noting that the next Mediation Project Team (PT) meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2014, at 1:30 PM in the Barnesville office. The main topic of discussion will be the problems identified at the February 3, 2014, Barnesville Township Drainage Area Study informational meeting. The Board authorized H.E. to submit a project acceleration grant to the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (RRBFDRWG) for doing a survey on the waterway. The RRBFDRWG will meet on Wednesday, February 19, 2014, in the Thief River Falls.
- Discussed a meeting held with representatives from the Bois De Sioux Watershed District pertaining to possible boundary changes between the two districts in Wilkin and Otter Tail Counties. It was agreed that no further work will be done until the area can be driven this spring to review the proposed changes.
- Noting that the office is working with the Viewers to discuss the changes questioned at the 10/09/13 hearing in Callaway for the redetermination of benefits on Becker C.D. Nos. 10 and 19. The Viewers are also working on finalizing the redetermination of benefits for Clay C.D. Nos. 9, 32, and 33.
- The 30-day comment period for review of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee Restoration Project ended on 12/11/13. The BRRWD, which is the project proposer and the specific unit of government determined to have responsibility for the EAW preparation, which is called the RGU, can extend the postponement beyond the 30 days stated in the rules if important information is found to be lacking from the EAW or there is a need to garner additional information in order to make a decision on the need for an Environmental Impact Statement. The Board granted themselves an additional two week extension until the February 24, 2014 meeting to file the record of decision.

02/14/14 BRRWD News Release (cont.)

- Discussed the upcoming Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts legislative Reception and Day at the Capitol scheduled for March 19-20, 2014, in St. Paul. A number of Managers plan to attend. Invitations will be sent to all of the BRRWD's local Senators and Representatives.
- Approved payment of bills totaling \$330,758.84.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, will be held on Monday, February 24, 2014, at 7:00 PM 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.