

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 7, 2014
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Bruce E. Albright, 218-354-7710

"Local Watershed Dismisses Petition"

At their 03/24/14 meeting held in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), discussed dismissal of a petition filed for a new lateral to Wilkin County Ditch (C.D.) No. 3. The proposed lateral would have been located in Sections 31 and 32, Akron Township. In accordance with Minnesota Drainage Law, the preliminary hearing was held on February 20, 2014, in Breckenridge. Landowners expressed concerns regarding the proposed project costs as estimated by Houston Engineering Inc. (H.E.) at \$163,490. A follow-up meeting was held the petitioners on March 3, where they felt the best thing that could happen would be if the BRRWD stopped the project. The petitioners are interested in building the proposed lateral in accordance with the plan designed by H.E., and after the project is completed, they may repetition to make the ditch a lateral. However, for the Board to dismiss the petition, the petitioners will be required to pay the bond cost in the amount of \$15,000, for BRRWD expenses incurred to date regarding the project development. A letter will be sent to the petitioners in that regard.

Other business included:

- Noting that a hearing to add land to Clay C.D. No 20 in the NW¼, Section 21, Kragnes Township, is scheduled for Thursday, April 3, 2014, at 7:00 PM in the Moorhead City Hall Council Chambers. Notices have been sent to affected landowners.
- Noting that the office will draft a petition for a landowner to add lands into Wilkin C.D. No. 41 in the SW¼, Section 5, Prairie View Township. The landowner is proposing to tile the field this fall, and only the south half of the property is currently assessed.
- Approval of permits to Skolness Inc. for pattern tiling of 152 acres in the NW¼, Section 15, Moland Township, Clay County; Robert Braton for random tiling in the NW¼, Section 8, Prairie View Township, Wilkin County; Oberg Farms for pattern tiling of 156 acres in the SE¼, Section 1, Kurtz Township, Clay County; Jay Nord for pattern tiling of 331 acres in the E½, Section 19, Deerhorn Township, Wilkin County; and Brent and Bryant Haugrud/Kurt Hovland to relocate a ditch near the north/south quarter line in the S½, Section 5, Prairie View Township, Wilkin County.
- Approved a motion to increase the petitioners' bond by \$10,000 for Project No. 74, Clay C.D. No. 51-Lateral No. 3.
- Agreed to purchase a one-rod 2014 temporary easement for the repair of Clay C.D. No. 10. Landowners will be \$250 per acre. This drainage system is 14 miles long and the intent would be to complete the repair work this summer when conditions permit. The extra right-of-way (r-o-w) is needed for a work area.
- Noting that the next Mediation Project Team meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 24, 2014, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville Office.
- Discussed the status of several Wetlands Reserve Program sites that the BRRWD and the Natural Resources Conservation Service are working on. A meeting was held regarding Pierce Lake in Detroit Lakes on March 11, 2014.

04/07/14 BRRWD News Release (cont.)

- Noting that the hearing continuation for the redetermination of benefits on Becker C.D. Nos. 10 and 19 will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2014, at 7:00 PM at the Community Center, Callaway, MN. Notices have been sent to affected landowners.
- Noting that a Steering Committee meeting with landowners to discuss the restoration of Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee will be held on March 27, 2014, at 2:00 PM in the Barnesville Office. Plans are to discuss the status of the potential project and a way to raise local funding.
- Noting that a workshop will be held with Donna Rae Scheffert, Leadership Tools, on Tuesday, April 15, 2014, at 4:00 PM in the Barnesville Office, to complete the BRRWD strategic planning. Scheffert was hired through a Board of Soil and Water Resources grant the Board obtained last fall.
- A motion was approved to have H.E. analyze potential repairs for Wilkin C.D. No. 41 in Section 12, Atherton Township.
- Authorized H.E. to advertise for an Administrative Assistant position to be located in the Barnesville Office.
- Approved payment of bills totaling \$84,480.81.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, will be held on Monday, April 14, 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.