NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 23, 2014
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“Watershed Busy with Permits”

At their regular meeting on May 12, 2014, held in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), spent considerable time dealing with new permit applications. The new electronic permit data management suite seems to be working quite well. Applicants can now submit their permit requests online. The Board approved permits to: Kelly Nelson for 100 acres of pattern tiling, outletting to Deerhorn Creek, in the SE¼, Section 23, Atherton Township, Wilkin County; Mark Braton for 130 acres of pattern tiling in the NE¼, Section 12, Atherton Township, Wilkin County, with outlets to Wilkin County Ditch (C.D.) No. 41, for which the property is assessed; BMW Investments, LLC to expand the existing Oakview Pond to a 100-year pond that includes development of a six acre lot in Dilworth; Red River Cooperative Power Association for a boring of a high voltage underground electric line under Clay C.D. No. 11N, between Sections 28 and 33, Kurtz Township, Clay County; Jim Klein for 200 acres of pattern tiling with a lift station for drainage in the E½, Section 21, Nilsen Township, Wilkin County; and Todd Klein for 71 acres of pattern tiling with a gravity flow outlet to Wilkin C.D. No. 3 in the SW¼, Section 1, Nilsen Township, Wilkin County.

Other business included:

- Discussed a request from Kragnes Township regarding access to a piece of property along the Buffalo River in Section 25. The owner of the field and a homeowner whose property the farmer needs to access his field from are currently disagreeing about the access. The Township wants to look at what it would cost to install a texas type crossing or possibly a bridge. Erik S. Jones, Engineer, Houston Engineering Inc. (H.E.) felt both proposals were cost prohibitive. The Township is going to meet on 05/13/14, and more information will be furnished to them for their meeting.

- Approved submitting the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permit application for restoration of Whiskey Creek in Section 14, Connelly Township, Wilkin County. The project is currently going through the Environmental Assessment Worksheet process.

- Noting concerns from homeowners along 2nd ST N in Oakport Township regarding the Country Heritage Outlet Project. Last fall, they contacted the office with concerns about seeding, clean up, etc. To date, it has been too wet for the project contractor to come back in and make the necessary repairs.

- Discussed the status of the Manston Slough Restoration Project. Bruce Albright, Office Administrator, said that the office is working on obtaining the remaining easements. Vogel Law Firm has started the condemnation proceeding for the Kent Gun and Rod Club property.

- Georgetown Mayor, Brian Witthoef, contacted the office regarding settlement of the softball field area which was filled last fall by the project contractor. The City borrowed material from this area during the 2010-2011 spring floods. The cost for restoring the area will be covered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Albright noted that additional work will be done this spring to bring the area back up to grade. The Mayor also indicated that there are logs on the texas crossing over the Buffalo River. Wade S. Opsahl, Technician, H.E., is going to obtain some quotes from local contractors to clean up the site.

- H.E. is currently soliciting bids from local contractors for the repair of Clay C.D. No. 10. It is anticipated that the work will split up into three segments. The Board would like to get the repair work started as soon as conditions permit.
• Noting that the BRRWD will submit a "project acceleration grant" to the Red River Basin Flood Damage Repair Work Group. They meet on 05/21/14 in Detroit Lakes. Funding would be used to conduct a survey of the DNR protected watercourse involved with the Barnesville Township comprehensive project.

• Noting that meetings continue with landowners in Homesville Township regarding the elevation of Rock Lake on the Becker C.D. No. 19 system. It is now felt that culverts in the Rock-Rice Road may be restricting the amount of outflow from Rock Lake.

• Noting that the first draft of the Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) study associated with the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program has been drafted. The office is working with Alec Albright and Dr. Karlyn Eckman, University of Minnesota.

• Granted a time extension to Ziegler Construction Inc. for their work associated with the Elkton Township Wetland Mitigation Project.

• Awarded Steven Johnson Excavation the contract for the Glyndon Township waterway repair with his bid of $24,840. The work is being done in conjunction with the Clay Soil and Water Conservation District and some funding they have through the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources.

• Agreed to a contract amendment with H.E. for the hiring of a Home-Based Administrative Assistant and a new hired part time Resident Administrative Assistant. The hiring is part of the BRRWD's strategic planning. The present Senior Administrative Assistant, Julie Jerger, job description will change slightly. It will deal with more of the accounting and website updates. Opsahl will work with District Administration out of the Barnesville Office two to three days a week to help complete more project related tasks for the Watershed. The proposed contract changes were approved by the Board.

• Approved payment of bills totaling $138,234.41

Due to Memorial Day, the next regular meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, will be held on Tuesday, May 27, 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.