“Watershed Reviews Several Permits”

Due to the Memorial Day Holiday, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) held their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 27, 2014, at their office in Barnesville. They reviewed nine permit applications, approving the following: Kevin & Brad Nelson for pattern tiling the east 480 acres of Section 26, Oakport Township, Clay County; Trevor Sorby for pattern tiling the SE¼, Section 4, and the NW¼, Section 3, Oakport Township, Clay County; Clay County Highway Department to regrade the County State Aid Highway No. 52 south road ditch in the SE¼, Section 15, Barnesville Township, Clay County, to outlet at East Tributary of Whisky Creek; City of Moorhead for a taxiway and storm water retention pond improvements at the Moorhead Airport; Wilkin County Highway Department to install a residential driveway in the SW¼, Section 17, Atherton Township, Wilkin County. They tabled action on one permit application pending additional information from the applicant and administratively withdrew one permit application as it was not within the District boundaries. Additional information about the BRRWD permit system and permit applications can be found online at: www.brrwd.org/permits/.

Other Board Action included:

- Adoption of the 2013 Financial Audit that was recently prepared by Harold J. Rotunda, CPA.
- Work has been completed by Gladden Construction, Inc. on field drainage improvements for a landowner on Project No. 71, City of Moorhead, 50th AVE S Flood Control Levees.
- Gladden Construction, Inc. has restarted work on the Manston Slough Restoration Project, although conditions are still quite wet. Work is expected to continue throughout the summer. The details on several agreements and easements are also being worked out to allow project construction to continue.
- It appears that the Final Phase of the Oakport Township Flood Mitigation Project did not receive funding for construction in 2014. The Board will continue to pursue funding for this project.
- The remaining work on the Georgetown Flood Control Levees is on hold until Schmidt & Sons Building Movers completes the relocation of a house along the levees. Once that work is complete, the remaining demolition, storm sewer and finish work can be wrapped up.
- Houston Engineering, Inc, (H.E.) will solicit bids from local contractors for the repair of Clay County Ditch (C.D.) No. 10. Work will include almost 14 miles of channel cleaning and some associated culvert repairs. A bid opening is scheduled for 6/09/14.
- The Mediation Project Team is scheduled to meet on Thursday, June 26, 2014, at 7:00 PM in Barnesville. Among other projects, a comprehensive approach to address several issues with Stony Creek, primarily from Trunk Highway No. 9 downstream to Hay Creek will be discussed. Work could include channel restoration and a water retention site.
- The Board authorized H.E. to prepare a hydraulic analysis of the Rock-Rice Road crossing and the County Road No. 27 crossing at the outlet of Momb Lake. Landowners in Holmesville Township have expressed concern regarding the elevation of Rock Lake. They feel that these culverts may be restricting the flow of water in Becker C.D. No. 19.
• A site meeting was held last week with Manager John Hanson, Wade Opsahl, Technician, H.E., and the City of Detroit Lakes staff regarding a potential future outlet for the city’s wastewater treatment facility. Becker C.D. No. 5 is one of the possible outlets that are being considered.

• Approval to sign a letter prepared by John Shockley, the City of Moorhead’s attorney, to be sent to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources outlining important facts to be considered in regard to the Fargo-Moorhead Diversion Project. The City of Moorhead and the Clay County Board of Commissioners have already agreed to sign the letter.

• After discussion of the Proposed Rule to Define “Waters of the United States” by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Board decided not to prepare a response at this time.

• Authorized signing the contract that was previously awarded to Steven Johnson Excavation 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 received from the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources.

• Approved payment of bills totaling $48,035.30.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, will be held on Monday, June 9, 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.