"BRRWD Reviews Oakport Construction Bids"

At their 10/13/15 meeting held in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), reviewed construction bids for Project No. 49, Oakport Township Flood Mitigation-Phase 4. The low bidder was R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc., East Grand Forks, MN. The project engineer, Kris Carlson, Ulteig Engineers, Inc. (UEI), recommended the Board award the contract for Sections A & B of the bid package ($4,394,081.71), which includes Clay County's mill and overlay project on Wall ST NW, contingent on the County's approval of the bid for their portion of the project (Section B). The Board awarded the contract to R. J. Zavoral and Sons, Inc. with that stipulation.

Other business included:

- Discussed drainage concerns from a landowner on the west side of Trunk Highway No. 75 along the Clay/Wilkin County line. Landowners have concerns regarding a recently approved pattern tiling project in the NW1/4, Section 5, Wolverton Township, Wilkin County. After noting a history of drainage problems in this area, the Board ordered a survey to be completed, so possible recommendations could be presented to the Board. Bruce E. Albright, Administrator, noted that there would be a number of properties that would benefit from a project in this area.

- Approval of permits to: CenturyLink to replace outdated copper cable to provide new service options in the NW1/4, Section 8, Moland Township, Clay County; Marc Hasbargen to install pattern tiling in the SE1/4, Section 11, Sunnyside Township, Wilkin County; Norman Brothers to install 35 acres of pattern tiling in the NW1/4, Section 15, Manston Township, Wilkin County; Robert Bjerke to install 9,000' of random tile in the NW1/4, Section 3, Cromwell Township, Clay County; Clay County Highway Department to remove the existing 36" diameter corrugated metal pipe (CMP) and replace it with a new 71" x 47" CMP-Arch in the SW1/4, Section 28, Skree Township; and Brad Tollerud to install random tiling in the SW1/4, Section 15, Norwegian Grove Township, Otter Tail County.

- Noting that an appeal/lawsuit has been filed for Project No. 77, Clay County Ditch (C.D.) No. 51-Lateral No. 3.

- Noting that all easements have been acquired and the Wilkin County Highway Department has started construction on the Whiskey Creek Restoration west of Trunk Highway No. 9 in Section 14, Connelly Township.

- Noting that Riley Brothers Construction, Inc. plans to begin work on Project No. 61, Clay C.D. No. 11, around 10/26/15, depending on weather conditions.

- Approval of Pay Request No. 1 in the amount of $17,658 to Olson Construction for their outlet work on Project No. 42, Clay C.D. No. 67.

- Noting that the 2015 Legislature allocated $400,000 for ringdikes in the Red River Valley. The BRRWD has a list of six potential ringdike candidates who are interested in the program.
• Noting that the Board has scheduled a tour/meeting with Cathee Pullman, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, on 10/20/15. The purpose of the meeting is to acquaint her with the BRRWD and to discuss possible retention funding.

• Noting that a public informational meeting to review the DNR's Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, from 5:00 PM-10:00 PM at the Courtyard by Marriott, Moorhead, MN.

• Approved a grant amendment application for the FY13 Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Clean Water Fund Upper South Branch-Part 2 Project. BWSR approved the amendment and extended the grant until 12/31/16.

• Noting that the next Mediation Project Team meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 10, 2015, at 1:30 PM, in the Barnesville Watershed office.

• Noting that a Fall Tour will be held on Thursday, October 15, 2015, beginning at the Watershed office at 1:30 PM.

• Noting that the BRRWD did not receive funding through the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) for the Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee Restoration Project.

• Noting that the office has been in contact with the US Army Corp of Engineers regarding a potential Section 1135 Habitat Restoration Program funding for the Lower Otter Tail River.

• Noting that the MAWD Annual Meeting and Trade Show is scheduled for December 3-5, 2015, at the Arrowwood Conference Center, Alexandria, MN.

• Approved Pay Request No. 2 for Johnson Excavation in the amount of $35,107 for grade stabilization and outlet repairs on Project No. 34, Clay C.D. No. 41.

• Approved a proposal to clean portions of Clay C.D. No. 53, starting at 40th St S, between Sections 22 and 23, Holy Cross Township, proceeding upstream for three miles.

• Discussed possible funding for Phase 2 of the Hawley Buffalo River Restoration Project through the DNR and LSOHC. A meeting has been scheduled with the City of Hawley for October 16, 2015, at 9:00 AM.

• Approved the payment of bills, totaling $385,252.53.

The next meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Monday, October 26, 2015, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office, located at 1303 4th AVE NE. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please visit our website at www.brrwd.org.