"Routine Agenda for Local Watershed"

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held their regular meeting on Monday, June 13, 2016. There were two audience members.

The Board heard from Troy Goltz, the operator of property in Section 31, Prairie View Township, Wilkin County, and Section 6, Tanberg Township, Wilkin County. He is proposing to tile this property and drain it north into Wilkin County Ditch (C.D.) No. 43 on the north side of County Road (C.R.) No. 30. At the present time, the property is currently assessed to drain south into Wilkin C.D. No. 40. The Board will work with Goltz to schedule the necessary hearings to modify the benefit areas for the noted drainage systems so that the surface drainage can still go south and the tile drainage can go to the north.

Other business included:

- Approval of permits to: City of Dilworth to remove culverts/gates in the northwest corner of the Orchard Estates Development which are no longer needed for flood control; Four Hill Farms, Inc. to install three Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) designed sediment control basins and tiling in the N1/2, Section 28, Parke Township, Clay County; Mattson Bros, Inc. to install NRCS erosion control projects in the NW1/4, Section 20, Cuba Township, Becker County; Minnesota Department of Transportation to mill and overlay Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 10 through the City of Glyndon; J & S Nord, LLC to install random tiling in the SW1/4, Section 25, Wolverton Township, Wilkin County, the tile will drain into Wilkin C.D. No. 22, for which the property is assessed; J & S Nord, LLC to install random tile along the west and south lines of the SE1/4 to drain wet areas in Section 24, Wolverton Township, Wilkin County, the tile will drain into Wilkin C.D. No. 5A, to which the property is assessed; and Clay County Pheasants Forever to install a dry approach and parking area in the SE1/4, Section 22, Skree Township, Clay County.

- Noting that a petition has been drafted by the BBRWD office and sent to area landowners regarding the possibility of installing a new legal drainage system along the north line of Section 6, Wolverton Township, Wilkin County, west of T.H. No. 75. The affected landowners will need to get the petition signed by the owners of the proposed ditch.

- Approved a Change Order and Pay Request for work on Phase 4 of the Oakport Flood Mitigation Project. Change Order No. 2 increases the contract amount by $21,200 and deals with the demolition of the foundation and removal of utilities on the former Howard Fee's property. The house and garage were moved by the new owner, Andy Noah. Pay Request No. 3 to R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc. is in the amount of $545,949.88.

- Reviewed the BRRWD's financial status. In the past month, the BRRWD has received $1,206,289.82. Current cash-on-hand totals $540,542.14. BRRWD administrative expenses for the year total $152,807.57 and the 2016 accounts receivable summary shows the BRRWD could get $8,149,835 yet this year.

- The Board signed contracts for the ditch repairs on Clay C.D. No. 59. The bid was awarded to Tim Crompton Excavating, Inc., and totals $62,210.52.
• Discussed bids opened for repair of two slump sites along 130th AVE N, on Clay C.D. No. 10. Bids were opened on 06/10/16 at 10:00 AM at the Fargo office of Houston Engineering, Inc. Nine contractors submitted bids. The low bid was submitted by R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc., East Grand Forks, ND, in the amount of $79,218.00. The Board awarded the contract. The office will let the two affected Townships (Kragnes/Morken) know about the proposed work.

• Approved the Barnesville River Watch budget for the 2016-17 school year. The total estimated budget is $5,336.64. Of that amount, the Barnesville High School pays $2,000. The Board discussed the merits of the program and working with the students. The budget was approved and a thank you was given to Mr. Nate Strand, Program Advisor.

• Noting that the next Mediation Project Team Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 16, 2016, at 7:00 PM in the Watershed Office.

• Adopted a resolution withdrawing from the Diversion Authority (DA) and consenting to termination of the limited Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). This basically follows up the BRRWD’s action at the 05/23/16 meeting, where based on a 6-1 vote, the Board decided not to sign the new JPA. Current members of the DA requested the resolution to formalize the action.

• Noting that a Field Day is scheduled for Thursday, June 23, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Nordick Farm, located at 2675 250th ST, Rothsay, MN. The field tour agenda includes comparing different drainage designs, learning about control drainage and saturated buffers, and hearing about a unique collaboration between landowners, government agencies, agribusiness, and the University of Minnesota. People interested in attending the tour can contact the Watershed District for more information.

• Noting that Congressman Collin Peterson plans to attend the 06/27/16 BRRWD meeting to discuss how drain tile might possibly help alleviate flooding in the Red River Valley. The Congressman is thinking that a pilot area or test project might be worthwhile to investigate. The NRCS should have money for drainage water management structures.

• Noting that the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council grant application for fiscal year 2018 funding has been submitted for the Wolverton Creek Habitat Restoration Project. The amount of funds requested was $3,015,000.

• Noting that survey work continues on the Whiskey Creek near Kent and the Otter Tail River between Orwell Dam and Breckenridge. Landowners with questions or comments concerning the surveys can contact the Watershed Office for more information.

• Approved the payment of bills, totaling $807,924.54.

The next meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Monday, June 27, 2016, 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.