NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 22, 2016
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Bruce E. Albright, 218-354-7710

"BRRWD Approves Permits"

At their November 14, 2016, regular meeting, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), approved a number of last minute permits to landowners hoping to get their projects completed before weather conditions bring an end to the 2016 construction season. Permits were approved to: Richard Scheffler to install 158 acres of pattern tiling in the SW1/4, Section 14, Atherton Township, Wilkin County, outletting to Deerhorn Creek; Gerald Nordick to install approximately 235 acres of pattern tiling in the S1/2, Section 23, Meadows Township, Wilkin County, outletting to a natural waterway; Todd Meyer to install random tiling in the SE1/4, Section 2, Humboldt Township, Clay County, outletting to Stony Creek; Dan Bradow for ditch maintenance in the SW1/4, Section 32, Carlisle Township, Otter Tail County; Dallas Miller for ditch maintenance in Section 1, Foxhome Township, Wilkin County, Rodney Schmidt to install random tiling on the south side of County Road (C.R.) No. 11 in the NE1/4, Section 29, Carlisle Township, Otter Tail County; and an amended permit to Dale Schmidt to add three laterals to his approved random tiling project (Permit No. 15-117) in the SE1/4, Section 20, Carlisle Township, Otter Tail County. Permit approval is subject to the applicable standard tile and utility disclaimers, state/federal agency permitting requirements, road authorities' permission to work within their right-of-way (r-o-w), and Manager field review.

Other business included:

- Approved the monthly financial reports: Cash on hand totals $1,238,320.33. Total income the year is $8,399,711.59. Income since the 10/11/16 meeting is $1,729,732.74, including 2nd half property/ditch/projects tax settlement payments from Otter Tail ($19,232.73) and Wilkin Counties ($113,533.83), a reimbursement from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation ($1,572,972.34), and the State of Minnesota Market Value Credits ($9,800.02).

- Noted that landowners in Prairie View Township contacted the office with concerns about a ditching project their neighbors were conducting in the NW1/4, Section 11, along C.R. No. 19. Wade Opsahl, Civil Technician, Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI), conducted a field review and reported that the work was within the limits of normal ditch maintenance, and the landowners had a permit from Wilkin County to clean the road ditch.

- Approved repairs for 8.3 miles of Wilkin County Ditch (C.D.) No. 13-Lateral. The channel bottom has filled in and no longer provides the as-built channel widths, significantly reducing the lateral's capacity. The estimated repair cost is $60,000 to $70,000. The Board wanted the work to start yet this fall, depending on conditions.

- Reviewed a claim from R. J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc. regarding liquidated damages ($152,500) associated with Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation resulting from alleged delays of their original work time schedule due to a number of factors outside of their control. Project Engineer, Kris Carlson, Ulteig Engineers, Inc., and the BRRWD met with the contractor on 11/10/16 to discuss these issues. Opsahl reported that there are trespassers on the dike r-o-w who are cutting trees along the river again this fall. Opsahl will work with the DNR Area Conservation Officer to identify the persons, and then the Board can decide how to prosecute the matter. The Board approved Pay Request No. 8 for $430,355.35, Change Order Nos. 5 ($21,875) and 6 ($8,831.88) for R. J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc.
• Approved the Final Pay Request for Tim Crompton Excavating, Inc., in the amount of $10,989.64 for Project No. 48, Clay C.D. No. 59 repairs and Change Order No. 1, which decreased the contract by $27,586.74.

• Noted that the Wilkin County Highway Department has completed the slope work and the rock drop structures on both sides of the first mile of Wilkin C.D. No. 6A in Section 31, Tanberg Township. The BRRWD will meet with Meadows and Tanberg Townships, and the adjacent landowner regarding work on the south slope of the ditch in Section 32. The materials for the rock drop structures will be installed after freeze-up.

• Noted that HEI held the preconstruction meeting for the Wilkin C.D. No. 7 repairs on 11/10/16 with the contractor, States Border Construction, who plans to start work the last week in November.

• Noted that the next Mediation Project Team meeting will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2016, in the Barnesville office at 1:30 PM.

• The Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts will hold their 2016 Annual Meeting and Trade Show on December 1-3, 2016, at the Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria. Managers Fjestad, Van Amburg, Anderson, and Hanson plan to attend.

• Noted that the Etten erosion site repair associated with the Otter Tail River Restoration has been completed. The Board discussed the mussel survey report prepared by Professor Andre Delorme, Valley City State University, which the DNR required as part of their project permitting process.

• Approved repair recommendations for Clay C.D. No. 22 in the NE1/4, Section 29, Kragnes Township, where an elevated field approach pipe has caused silting in the ditch channel. The repair will consist of placing the culvert on grade and cleaning the silt blocks for an estimated cost of $1,500 to $2,000.

• Approved a landowner’s request to replace a damaged culvert in Section 24, Cuba Township, Becker County, where his driveway crosses C.D. No. 9. The BRRWD has a salvaged culvert from Wilkin C.D. No. 44. If we use the salvaged culvert, the estimated repair cost will be $4,000 to $5,000.

• Approved a channel survey for the upstream parts of Becker C.D. No. 5 in response to a repair request from a ditch system landowner.

• Noting that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has prepared plans for a ring dike for Doug Butenhoff in Section 15, Alliance Township, Clay County. Robert Nord also plans to construct a ring dike with NRCS assistance next year. The NRCS will cost share the projects with the landowners and the BRRWD through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

• Approved the payment of bills totaling $782,571.60.

The next meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Monday, November 28, 2016, at 7:00 PM in the BRRWD Office, located at 1303 4th AVE NE, Barnesville, MN. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please visit our website at www.brrwd.org.