"BRRWD Authorizes CWF Grant Applications"

At their July 24, 2017, meeting, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), authorized their Engineer, Erik S. Jones, Houston Engineering, Inc., to submit Clean Water Fund (CWF) applications for erosion sites on Clay County Ditch (C.D.) No. 23 ($102,500) and outlet repairs for Clay C.D. No. 39 ($220,000). The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) announced that their Fiscal Year 2018 CWF competitive grant process is now open. They have $6 million available for BWSR projects and practices and $675,000 for multi-purpose drainage management. The application deadline is August 9, 2017. If selected, funding will be available in March 2018 on a 75% (BWSR)/25% (local) basis. BRRWD staff will also be working with the Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) on applications for several potential projects, including the Ross Aigner treatment wetland proposal and side inlet grade control work along the Otter Tail River.

Other business included:

- Discussed revising the BRRWD's meeting agenda to streamline the use of the Board's time and adhere closer to Parliamentary procedures.

- Reviewed the BRRWD's financial status. Cash on hand is $1,996,594.42, and income to date is $1,686,760.73. The BRRWD has scheduled their 2018 budget hearing for Monday, August 28, 2017, at 9:00 PM.

- Approved permits to: Robert Yaggie for 154 acres of pattern tile in the NW1/4, Section 25, Mitchell Township, Wilkin County, outletting along 200th ST east to the Manston Slough project; Curt Brendemuhl to install 100 acres of pattern tile in the SW1/4, Section 22, Kragnes Township, Clay County, outletting west to C.D. No. 51; Gaylen Affield for a new approach/culvert in the SW1/4, Section 14, Nordick Township, Wilkin County, off 200th AVE, subject to culvert sizing verification; Mike Yaggie for 150 acres of pattern tile in the SW1/4, Section 35, Nilsen Township, Wilkin County, outletting on the north side of Trunk Highway No. 210 directly into C.D. No. 37. All permits are subject to the BRRWD's standard disclaimers.

- Approved modifications for two power take-off (PTO) driven lift station pumps on the levee associated with Project No. 71, City of Moorhead 50th AVE. The project is currently going through the Letter of Map Revision process, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires permanent electrical installations instead of PTOs for the levee certification process. The City of Moorhead, who makes up the largest portion of the project's benefits, has asked that the BRRWD make the requested FEMA modifications so the project can be certified. Most of the additional cost for the updated electric driven pumps would be assessed back to the City as a project expense.

- Approved the Final Pay Request No. 11 to R. J. Zavoral and Sons, Inc. in the amount of $151,646.88 for Project No. 49, Oakport Township, Phase 4, construction.

- Noting that the contractor, William Nichol Excavating, Inc., has completed the additional 1.5 miles of the Wilkin C.D. No. 13/13-Lateral repairs to the inlet in Section 19, Manston Township, with spoil leveling and cleanup yet to be done. Albright plans to re-contact the landowners in Section 36, Deerhorn Township, to discuss needed repairs to that one-mile stretch of the ditch on their land.

- Noting that the BRRWD's Fall Tour is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2017, beginning at 1:30 PM.
• Noting that the BRRWD and the Bois de Sioux Watershed District have both been selected by BWSR to complete the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) process. BWSR has scheduled a joint 1W1P orientation workshop on August 21, 2017, from 1:00-4:00 PM at the Environmental Planning Office, Breckenridge.

• Noting that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has distributed the Upper Red River Total Maximum Daily Load and Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies to various agencies for a 30-day review until 8/24/17.

• Approved Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of $47,111.60 and Change Order No. 2 for $11,202.65 to State Border Construction for the Wilkin C.D. No. 7 repairs. Construction is basically completed with a few cleanup items left to do this fall after beet harvest.

• Noting that the BRRWD has scheduled a hearing regarding the proposed Wolverton Creek Restoration project for August 15, 2017, at 7:30 PM in the BRRWD office in Barnesville. Hearing notices have been sent to approximately 450 property owners and three local newspapers.

• Noting that the BRRWD has signed and returned the Section 1135 Grant Agreement to the Army Corps of Engineers for the proposed Otter Tail River Restoration project.

• Authorized signature of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the Wilkin SWCD, and Jared and Gerald Nordick to confirm the BRRWD's financial contribution to the Nordicks' Drainage Water Management Demonstration Project.

• Approved payment of bills totaling $254,131.67.

The Board of Managers, BRRWD, will hold their next regular meeting on Monday, August 14, 2017, 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 about the BRRWD, please visit our website at www.brrwd.org.