NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 24, 2017
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"BRRWD Accepts Petition for Clay/Wilkin J.D. 1 Outlet Diversion"

At their 8/14/17 meeting, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), accepted a petition for an outlet diversion project on Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch No. 1 (J.D. 1). BRRWD Attorney Tami Norgard, Vogel Law Firm, determined that the landowners' petition and bond was adequate for the proceedings to start. The Board appointed Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI), as the project engineer, and directed them to prepare the Preliminary Survey Report. The project will provide an outlet channel to take high water from J.D. 1 west along the south side of the Clay/Wilkin County line to Wolverton Creek. The BRRWD plans to hold the Preliminary Hearing before the end of the year.

Other business included:

• Approved the monthly Treasurer's Report. Cash on hand is $1,776,864.05. Administrative disbursements for the month are $38,924.74 and for the year total $310,260.62. Current 2017 accounts receivable totals $4,583,778.26. The past month's income is $34,501.30, primarily from Wilkin County for their first half 2015 Buffer Initiative Aid payment ($33,283). The balance of the other income came from bank interest, office rentals, and document copying fees. Total income to date is $1,721,162.03. The BRRWD has scheduled their 2018 budget hearing for Monday, August 28, 2017, at 9:00 PM.

• Approved permits to: Kelly Etten for pattern tiling in the NE1/4, Section 21, Foxhome Township, Wilkin County, outletting via a lift station to the County Road (C.R.) No. 162 ditch, subject to the BRRWD's standard tiling disclaimer and downstream landowner notification; Jay Nord to clean 0.5 miles of the south ditch of 130th ST in the NW1/4, Section 21, Wolverton Township, Wilkin County, replacing an existing culvert with a longer pipe set on the new ditch grade, subject to Township approval to work within their road right-of-way (R/W); Daniel and Kevin Solum for a Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) designed Reinvest In Minnesota wetland restoration project in the SE1/4, Section 4, Prairie View Township, Wilkin County; Steve Opatril for a wetland mitigation project, consisting of a berm in the NW1/4, Section 7, Cromwell Township, Clay County; Swenson Grain & Cattle Co. to construct a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) designed water and sediment control basin in the SW1/4, Section 5, Tansem Township, Clay County, with a tile outlet to a United States Fish and Wildlife Service wetland easement area in Section 6, Tansem Township; Duane Stuehrenberg for a NRCS designed wetland restoration project in the NW1/4, Section 5, Meadows Township, Wilkin County, consisting of shallow scrapes and ditch plugs; Rick Maier for 159 acres of pattern tiling in the SE1/4, Section 10, Deerhorn Township, Wilkin County, outletting via gravity flow to Wilkin County Ditch (C.D.) No. 13, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer, installation of a gate on the tile outlet, and Township approval to work within their road R/W; Jeff Lee to add a driveway with a 15'-18' dia. culvert for a new house construction off 262nd ST S in Section 9, Eglon Township, Clay County, subject to Township approval to work within their road R/W; Tom Deal to improve the east and north road ditches around the NE1/4, Section 16, Mitchell Township, Wilkin County, to divert water from a natural waterway crossing his property, subject to Township approval to work within their road R/W; Jeff Yaggie to install 320 acres of pattern tiling in the E1/2, Section 21, Meadows Township, Wilkin County, outletting via a lift station in the northwest corner of the section to the 250th ST ditch, eventually draining to Wilkin C.D. No. 23, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer and downstream landowner approval; Mike Yaggie to install pattern tiling in the N1/2, Section 35, Akron Township, Wilkin County, outletting to a natural waterway, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer and Manager field review; Bruce Nelson to install 7.2 acres of pattern tiling in the NW1/4, Section 16, Atherton Township, Wilkin County, outletting via a lift station in the northwest corner of the quarter to an existing tile system outlet, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer; Brice Bellmore to replace an existing approach/culverts with a wider approach and a new 24" dia. x 40' pipe off 140th AVE in the
NW¼, Section 26, Roberts Township, Wilkin County, subject to Township approval to work within their road R/W; Brice Bellmore to construct a new field ditch on the east side of the NW¼, Section 26, Roberts Township, Wilkin County, outletting north through an existing township road culvert to Wilkin C.D. No. 29; the City of Fargo for the replacement of the Fargo Oak Grove Park and Moorhead Memorial Park pedestrian and bicycle bridge over the Red River; and Jim Miller to install pattern tiling in the E1/2, Section 28, Meadows Township, Wilkin County, outletting via gravity flow west to Wilkin C.D. No. 1A, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer.

- Discussed a ditching violation in the W1/2SE1/4, Section 1, Barnesville Township, Clay County, which has caused downstream soil erosion. Albright plans to meet with the person responsible for the work to discuss a restoration plan for the Board’s consideration at their 8/28/17 meeting.

- Approved a contribution of up to $2 million to the Wolverton Creek Restoration project from the BRRWD’s Minnesota Statutes Annotated 103D.905, Subd. 3, taxing authority. The project hearing was on 8/15/17 with approximately 40 attendees. The Board will consider an Order to establish Project No. 79, Wolverton Creek Restoration, at their 8/28/17 meeting. If the Order is approved, it would be subject to a 30-day appeal period.

- Approved Pay Request No. 1 for $39,986.10 to Sellin Brothers, Inc. for the Clay C.D. No. 53 and Clay/Wilkin J.D. 1 outlet repairs.

- Authorized signature of the $1.877 million Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) grant agreement for the Wolverton Creek project, subject to clarification of the grant language regarding matching funds.

- Noting that Albright and Managers Anderson and Van Amburg attended the 8/01/17 Clay County Commission meeting to present the BRRWD’s 2016 Audit and Annual Report. At the meeting, Clay County reappointed Anderson and Van Amburg to 3-year terms as BRRWD Managers.

- Approved the United States Geological Survey (USGS) standard joint funding agreement contract for the Hawley and Sabin gauging stations for the term 10/01/16 through 9/30/20. The funding costs are split between the BRRWD ($20,682) and the USGS ($18,790). These gauging stations provide flood benchmark data on a continuous basis, which is used extensively for BRRWD project development and monitoring.

- Authorized the submittal of applications to the 2017 Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Awards Program for Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation (Project of the Year) and the Barnesville River Watch Program (Program of the Year).

- Accepted the Viewers' Reports for the incremental installation of buffer strips and side inlets for Wilkin C.D. Nos. 40, 41, 42, 43, and 44, and tentatively scheduled the ditch system hearings for Thursday, September 14, 2017, at 7:00 PM in the BRRWD's office.

- Approved payment of bills totaling $275,975.57.

- Approved repairs for Project No. 1, Wilkin C.D. No. 22-Main, estimated to cost approximately $35,000-$40,000. The ditch upstream of County State Aid Highway No. 3 needs repair, but the worst sections of the channel are in Section 32, Deerhorn Township, and Section 9, Mitchell Township. Permission to Level Spoil forms will be obtained from the ditch system landowners. The contractor plans to work on portions of the ditch as crops are harvested so that the repairs can be completed this year. All landowners within the ditch system benefiting area will be notified by letter.
• Approved repairs for Project No. 31, Deerhorn Creek Levees, in Sections 20 and 21, Atherton Township, Wilkin County, where the Creek is blocked by debris. The estimated repair cost is $4,000-$5,000.

• Discussed a repair investigation report from HEI regarding options for Wilkin C.D. No. 43 where there is slope failure and slumping problems along a 2.9 mile stretch of the ditch in Sections 28, 29, and 30, Prairie View Township, and Section 25, Atherton Township, on the north side of C.R. No. 30. Four alternatives were discussed, but the Board decided to consider a revised repair proposal for about 1,000' of the ditch west of Lawndale where the slumping is the worst. HEI will prepare a revised plan and cost estimate for the Board’s review at their next meeting. Possible funding could come from our BWSR 2013 Clean Water Assistance Grant for the Upper South Branch of the Buffalo River (75/25 cost share).

• Noting that the BRRWD has an interview scheduled for 8/23/17 in St. Paul with the LSOHC regarding the South Branch River Restoration-Phase 1 application for 2018/FY19 funding. Albright, Jones, and Manager Anderson plan to attend.

• Noting that BWSR has scheduled a One Watershed, One Plan orientation meeting with the BRRWD and the Bois de Sioux Watershed District in Breckenridge on 8/21/17.

The Board of Managers, BRRWD, will hold their next regular meeting and 2018 Annual Budget Hearing (9:00 PM) on Monday, August 28, 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.