NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 11, 2017
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"BRRWD Approves Permits"

At their meeting held on Monday, September 25, 2017, at 7:00 PM in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), reviewed several permit applications for tiling, culvert installations, and other fall projects that area landowners hope to complete yet this year. The recent wet weather that has slowed down harvest progress.

The Board approved permits to: Dilworth Serenity Manor for a bridge over Clay County Ditch (C.D.) No. 50, including a ditch right-of-way (R/W) encroachment agreement; Tim Deal for 317 acres of pattern tiling in the S½, Section 4, Meadows Township, Wilkin County, eventually outletting to Wilkin C.D. No. 6A, subject to the standard tiling disclaimer; the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for a Wetland Reserve Enhancement project in the W½SE¼, Section 13, Wilkin County; Orlen Valen to install a drainage ditch and gated culvert in the E½SE¼, Section 25, Kurtz Township, Clay County, outletting to C.D. No. 40 to which the property is assessed; Paul Daugherty to tile 220 acres in the SE¼, Section 3, and the W½NW¼, Section 10, Roberts Township, Wilkin County, outletting via a lift station along 130th AVE to a natural waterway, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer and downstream landowner notification; Paul Daugherty to install 144 acres of pattern tile in the SW¼, Section 2, Roberts Township, Wilkin County, outletting via a lift station along 160th ST to Wolverine Creek, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer and downstream landowner notification; Ron Erdman to install a 30” dia. culvert at the outlet of a waterway in the W½SE¼, Section 1, Barnesville Township, Clay County, and 2 or 3 field inlets to prevent ditch erosion; Dennis Butenhoff to install a gate on the south end of an existing 24” dia. culvert through County Road (C.R.) No. 55 in the NW¼, Section 21, Barnesville Township, Clay County, to prevent breakouts from Whisky Creek through C.R. No. 55, subject to downstream landowner notification; Trevor Sorby for 124 acres of pattern tiling in the SW¼, Section 3, Oakport Township, Clay County, outletting via an existing lift station to C.D. No. 51 to which the property is assessed, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer; Trent Eidem to install tiling in the NE¼, Section 30, Spring Prairie Township, Clay County, outletting to C.D. No. 2 to which the property is assessed, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer; Dale A. Langseth for an approach/24” dia. x 48' culvert along C.R. No. 17 in the NE¼, Section 22, Glyndon Township, Clay County, subject to County approval to work within their R/W; Gary Forsberg to install two new approaches/culverts in the SE¼, Section 28, Parke Township, Clay County, pending the results of a NRCS wetland delineation; John Jones to install pattern tile in the SW¼, Section 33, Flowing Township, Clay County, along C.R. No. 26, outletting eventually to C.D. No. 65 to which the property is assessed, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer, downstream landowner notification, and County approval to work within their road R/W.

Other business included:

- Reviewed the BRRWD’s financial status. Cash on hand is $2,038,376.58. Income since the 9/11/17 meeting is $2,628.86 from the State of Minnesota for the final Federal Emergency Management Agency 2011 Spring Flood ($2,021.56) payment and Otter Tail County for 1st half delinquent real property and ditch/projects tax payments ($407.30). Total 2017 income is $2,522,992.74. The Board approved the payment of bills totaling $55,036.91.

- Discussed the status of Project No. 70, Wolverton Creek Restoration. The project appeal period ends on 10/10/17. A meeting to discuss the easement acquisition phase of the project was held with various state, local, and federal agencies on 9/26/17. The Board approved an amendment to extend the Enbridge Grant ($100,000) for one year to 12/31/18.
• Approved a landowner's request to relocate a Wilkin C.D. No. 13-Lateral crossing on his property in Section 23, Deerhorn Township, to the east line of the SW1/4 to provide better access to his field from the south via an existing approach off 140th ST. The work will be done as a C.D. No. 13-Lateral expense. Erik Jones, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI), investigated the potential hydraulic impacts of the proposed change and recommended that an overflow spillway should be constructed on the north side of the texas crossing. Used pipes from the Manston Slough Project will be installed in the crossing. The crossing's upstream impact is approximately 0.1’ for the 100-year event.

• Authorized Albright to travel with a regional delegation to Washington, D.C., to meet with Congressmen Cramer and Peterson on October 2-4, 2017. The delegation will present a proposal for the Red River Comprehensive Subwatershed Pilot project located in Wilkin County, which is a large-scale pilot project demonstrating the benefits of comprehensive water management, incorporating tile drainage water management (DWM), agricultural best management practices (bmps), conservation and protection of natural areas, and regional retention sites.

• Hosted the Fall Tour on 9/28/17. Approximately 45 people attended the bus tour of several of BRRWD projects in Wilkin County, including the Nordick Farm's DWM project site in Meadows Township.

• Noted that an agency meeting was held on 9/25/17 for the One Watershed, One Plan to discuss the development of a draft Memorandum of Agreement, workplan, budget, plan timeline, and setting up a variety of committees: Steering (agency personnel), Policy (elected officials), Advisory, and Technical.

• Discussed the BRRWD's application for the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Drainage Records Modernization grant program to be used to offset some of the administration costs to transfer our records into the new M-Files data management software program, which includes a feature to allow the public access to selected documents. The Board authorized HEI to submit a $69,000 (local)/$50,000 (BWSR) application to make our request more competitive.

• Noted that the Red River Basin Commission is holding their 35th Annual Land & Water International Summit Conference on January 23-25, 2018, at the Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Albright and Managers Hanson, Van Amburg, and Fjestad plan to attend.

• Noted that the BRRWD's 2018 funding application for the Upper South Branch River Restoration-Phase 1 has been recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for $1.195 million to do channel work upstream of Trunk Highway No. 9.

• Noted that both our applications were selected as finalists for the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) 2017 Awards Program. We submitted applications for the Project of the Year (Oakport Flood Mitigation) and the Program of the Year (Barnesville River Watch). The next step in the award process is to submit more extensive applications by 10/27/17. The winners will be announced at the MAWD annual meeting, scheduled for December 1-2, 2017, in Alexandria.

• Awarded contracts to R. J. Zavoral and Sons, Inc. for repairs to a 1,000-foot stretch of Wilkin C.D. No. 43 west of Lawndale along C.R. No. 30 ($108,508), and to DM Enterprises, Wadena, MN, for the installation of the side inlet structures for C.D. Nos. 40, 41, 43, 13, and 13-Lateral ($39,930.50).

• Authorized Class V gravel to repair soft spots along Wilkin C.R. No. 176/190th AVE, especially along the shoulders. The road is part of the Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration embankment.

The Board of Managers, BRRWD, will hold their next regular meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2017, at 7:00 PM in the BRRWD Office, located at 1303 4th AVE NE, Barnesville, MN. The meeting date was moved to Tuesday in observance of the Columbus Day Holiday. All meetings are open to the public. For more information about the BRRWD, please visit our website at www.brrwd.org.