"BRRWD Awards Stockpile Removal Contract"

At their meeting held on Monday, October 23, 2017, at 7:00 PM in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), awarded a contract for the removal of extra stockpile material, associated with Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation to Gladen Construction, Inc., LaPorte, MN, for their bid of $163,103.25. The Engineer's estimate was $250,000. The project completion deadline is 6/30/18, but the contractor plans to finish the work this fall, if possible. The material on the Pierce property will be removed first, and any remaining material will be moved to BRRWD property in Oakport Township, where it will be more accessible.

Other business included:

- Reviewed the BRRWD's financial status. Cash on hand is $1,632,136.33. Income since the 9/11/17 meeting is $24,126.32 from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for the Otter Tail River Planning 319 Grant ($24,121.32) and a refund from the Western National Insurance ($5). Total 2017 income is $2,553,597.08. Approved payment of bills totaling $33,007.70.

- Approved permits to: Donald Sakry to add a flapgate on the east end of an existing 24" dia. culvert in the northeast corner of the NE¼, Section 36, Atherton Township, Wilkin County, on a minimum maintenance road; Richard Sorby to pattern tile the west 97 acres of the NW¼, Section 25, Oakport Township, Clay County, outletting to the south side of County Road (C.R.) No. 22 via gravity flow to County Ditch (C.D.) No. 35 to which it is assessed, subject to the standard tiling disclaimer and road authority approval to work within their right-of-way (R/W); Don Yaggie to install pattern tiling in the NE¼, Section 32, Andrea Township, Wilkin County, outletting via gravity flow to C.D. No. 7 to which it is assessed, subject to the standard tiling disclaimer and road authority approval to work in their road R/W. Trosvik, Inc. to install random tile, connecting to existing tile in the NW¼, Section 6, Trondhjem Township, Otter Tail County, outletting via gravity flow to a natural waterway and then to the C.R. No. 21 ditch, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer; and LeRoy Turner to install an 18" dia. culvert adjacent to a gravel pit west of Rothsay in the NW¼, Section 3, Akron Township, Wilkin County, to help control water levels.

- Discussed a landowner's complaint about the buffer/side inlet installations for Wilkin C.D. No. 44 on his property and the BRRWD's acquisition of additional ditch R/W.

- Discussed downstream landowner concerns regarding a permit application for pattern tiling in the SW¼, Section 26, Manston Township, Wilkin County. The tile water from the project could break out across cropland in the SE¼, Section 27, Manston Township, because there is very little separation between the ditch and the field edge. The proposed project would outlet in the southwest corner of the quarter via a lift station through the township road to the north ditch along County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 26, then west to a natural waterway in Section 27 and the Manston Slough Restoration project. Currently, high water in the ditch runs north across the downstream property and the landowner thinks that the road ditch needs to be cleaned to provide enough depth to convey the added tile water. The Wilkin County Highway Department has already conducted a survey of the CSAH No. 26 north ditch. Another downstream landowner also has concerns about using this ditch as a tile outlet and suggested that the ditch should be cleaned for approximately 0.75 miles along the north side of the CSAH No. 26. The culverts should also be lowered so that the proposed tile water can drain west on the north side of the road. Other drainage problems exist further north on the natural waterway in the NW¼, Section 27, Manston Township, where more cleaning probably needs to be done. The Board postponed action on this application until the outlet concerns can be resolved.
Discussed Permit No. 17-104, Paul Daugherty, for the installation of 144 acres of pattern tiling in the SW¼, Section 2, Roberts Township, Wilkin County, outletting via a lift station to an existing field ditch on Conservation Reserve Program acreage, then north in the field ditch to 160th ST, eventually flowing east approximately 0.25 miles to Wolverton Creek. The BRRWD recently received downstream landowner approval for the proposed work and agreed to issue the referenced permit, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer and road authority approval to work within their R/W.

Discussed Permit No. 17-125, Tim Deal, for the removal of a 24” dia. culvert from the intersection of 240th AVE and 230th ST on the north side of the road in the SW¼, Section 4, Meadows Township, Wilkin County, and replace it with a 24” dia. culvert placed diagonally through the intersection, eventually draining to C.D. No. 6A. This culvert would be an outlet for surface drainage along with a tiling lift station in S½, Section 4, for which Deal already has a permit. Since the work could affect the Lucke Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) in the SE¼, Section 5, Meadows Township, the Board decided to postpone action until the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can review the proposal. An alternative could be to clean the north road ditch along the south side of Section 5 to the west toward Trunk Highway No. 9, which would maintain the hydrology of the WRP in the S½, Section 5, and keep the additional surface runoff water out of the C.D. No. 6A system.

Discussed enforcement options regarding a tiling project that was installed last year without a BRRWD permit, which outlets via existing ditches to NRCS designated wetlands on neighboring property in the SE¼, Section 3, Callaway Township, Becker County. Repeated attempts to contact the landowner have failed. The Board agreed to send a final letter to the landowner regarding the tile operation violation, stating that the BRRWD will review the matter once more at a hearing to be held in conjunction with the upcoming 12/11/17 Board meeting. If the landowner doesn’t appear to defend his actions, the BRRWD intends to turn the matter over to the Becker County Attorney’s office to seek a temporary injunction to force blockage of the tile operation.

Noting that the Wilkin County Environmental Office has scheduled the Conditional Use Permit hearing for Project No. 79, Wolverton Creek Restoration, on December 6, 2017, at 8:30 AM.

Approved Pay Request No. 1 to DM Enterprises in the amount of $31,351.17 for the inlet pipe installations on Wilkin C.D. Nos. 13-Lateral, 40, 41, 43, and 44.

Approved a $500 contribution to the 2018 IWI River Watch Forum to be held at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks.

Noting that the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts will hold their Annual Meeting on November 30 through December 2, 2017, in Alexandria. Albright and Managers Fjedstad, Van Amburg, Hanson, and Leitch plan to attend.

The Board of Managers, BRRWD, will hold their next regular meeting on Monday, November 13, 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.