"Managers Plan to Attend MAWD Annual Meeting"

At their meeting held on Monday, November 13, 2017, at 7:00 PM in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), appointed Managers Gerald Van Amburg and John Hanson to be delegates to the 2017 Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Annual Meeting & Trade Show to be held on November 30 through December 2 at the Arrowwood Conference Center in Alexandria, MN. Manager Peter Fjestad will serve as the alternate. BRRWD Administrator Bruce E. Albright and Manager Jay Leitch also plan to attend. The MAWD Annual meeting provides an opportunity for watershed district managers, staff, and key partners to join each other in professional development and training seminars, and to meet vendors and key partners from across the state.

Other business included:

- Approved the BRRWD's monthly financial statements, including the project account balance sheet, administrative disbursements, summary of income, and the accounts receivable report. Cash on hand is $1,645,617.64. Administrative disbursements for the month are $29,984.87, and for the year total $414,745.20. Current 2017 accounts receivable totals $3,895,543.45. Total income for the year is $2,631,437.26. Income since the 10/10/17 meeting was $101,966.50, including 2nd half tax payments for ditches/projects and real property from Otter Tail County ($8,312.32), Wilkin County ($59,143.37), the State of Minnesota's 2017 agricultural market value credits ($9,378.58), 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). The balance of the income came from bank interest and HEI office rent. The Board approved payment of bills totaling $447,715.20.

- Approved permits to: Tom Paulson to install an approach/culvert on the north side of 200th ST east of a natural waterway in the SW¼, Section 21, Manston Township, Wilkin County, and to realign and fill the natural waterway in Section 21, subject to the road authorities' permission to work within their right-of-way (R/W) and the installation of the one-rod grasses bufferstrip with the realigned channel having 3H:1V or flatter sideslopes; Monsanto to add the drainage from their new building's downspouts via Hickenbottom risers to their existing tile system in the SW¼, Section 12, Glyndon Township, Clay County, outletting north to the Buffalo River, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer; Paul Anderson to enlarge an existing private ditch in the N½, Section 29, Alliance Township, Clay County, between County Road No. 2 and Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch No. 1, subject to the recommended slope and bottom width geometry; and Kevin Nelson to install two 4" dia. tile lines in the SW¼, Section 2, Glyndon Township, Clay County, north of a new permanent Minnesota Department of Transportation snow fence along Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 10, outletting west to the 100th ST N ditch, eventually to Clay County Ditch (C.D.) No. 68, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer.

- Reviewed previously postponed permit applications for Troy Goltz (Permit No. 16-052) and Richard Scheffler (Permit No. 16-119). Both projects were under review pending hearings to add/remove lands to Wilkin C.D. Nos. 40, 42, and 43. The Board approved both requests at the 9/26/17 repair hearing for Wilkin C.D. Nos. 40, 41, 42, 43, and 44. The Board agreed that the permits could be issued.

- Reviewed Permit No. 17-103, Paul Daugherty, for 220 acres of pattern tiling in the SW¼, Section 3, and the W½NW¼, Section 10, Roberts Township, Wilkin County. The permit was not issued, pending the receipt of all the downstream landowner notification forms. The BRRWD recently received the downstream landowners' approval for the proposed work and agreed to issue the referenced permit, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer.
• Withdrew Permit No. 17-125, Ideal Farms, Inc., to install a new culvert diagonally through 230th ST in the southwest corner of Section 4, Meadows Township, Wilkin County. Upon review, it was determined that the landowners could clean a few hundred feet downstream of the existing culvert along the south side of Section 5 toward T.H. No. 9. This would maintain the hydrology of the Wetlands Reserve Program site in the SE¼, Section 5, keeping the additional tile water out of the C.D. No. 6A system, and allow the water to drain freely on the north side of 230th ST. The Board agreed to withdraw the application as a BRRWD permit isn't required for routine ditch maintenance.

• Noted 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, Breckenridge.

• Noted that the preconstruction meeting with Gladen Construction, Inc., for the stockpile removal for Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation, is scheduled for December 5, 2017, in the Fargo HEI office. An Oakport landowner contacted Manager Leitch regarding a possible incursion by the contractor onto private land outside of the project R/W last summer during Phase 4 construction. Staff was directed to contact the landowner to investigate the issue.

• Noted that the Wilkin C.D. No. 43 repair and seeding is completed. The Wilkin County Soil and Water Conservation District doesn't expect to complete the buffer seeding on C.D. Nos. 40, 41, 42, and 44 until next spring, but we will still be able to use the funding from the 2013 BWSR grant ($150,000) by the 12/31/17 deadline for work that has already been completed. The Board received an appeal on 11/13/17 regarding the acquisition of additional R/W for the C.D. No. 44 buffers, but the appeal period expired on 11/10/17. The appeal was not filed on 11/09/17 because the Courthouse was closed due to Veteran's Day. The Board plans to work with the landowner regarding his concerns, but will also consult their attorney regarding the validity of the appeal. The Board approved Pay Request No. 2 to DM Enterprises in the amount of $6,441.63 for the buffer/side inlet pipe installations and Pay Request No. 1 to R. J. Zavoral and Sons, Inc. in the amount of $108,508 for the C.D. No. 43 repairs.

The Board of Managers, BRRWD, will hold their next regular meeting on Monday, November 27, 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.