"BRRWD Discusses Tiling Project"

At their meeting held on Monday, November 27, 2017, at 7:00 PM in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), had an extended discussion regarding a tiling permit application in Manston Township, Wilkin County. The neighboring landowners are concerned about the adequacy of the outlet. During a field meeting on 11/15/17, the affected parties agreed that the applicant could install the tile project and improve the downstream ditch with the understanding that the tile pump could not be operated until the ditch was lowered to the recommended grade. The Board authorized staff to send the applicant a written notice stating that they currently don't have a permit to operate their system, and a permit will not be issued until the downstream ditch is graded according to the agreement.

The Board also discussed a possible purchase of a 40-acre parcel in Section 22, Barnesville Township, Clay County, which has been enrolled in Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) since 1993. Approximately 4.6 acres of the tract is under a BRRWD easement for Clay County Ditch (C.D.) No. 34. The BRRWD is eventually going to need additional ditch right-of-way (5.3 acres) on this tract for the Barnesville Township Comprehensive project, which includes a possible inlet channel for a retention site. Once land is enrolled in RIM, changing the land use is difficult, but the BRRWD has been working with Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources personnel on an easement alteration, which could be possible if the BRRWD can demonstrate how we plan to restore the old channel alignment, and improve habitat and water quality. The Board indicated interest in the parcel and invited the landowners to meet again in the next few weeks.

Other business included:

- Reviewed the BRRWD's current financial status. Cash on hand is $1,197,902.44. No new income was received since the 11/13/17 meeting. Total 2017 income is $2,631,437.26. The Board approved the payment of bills totaling $120,868.40.

- 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 Houston Engineering, Inc. office.

- Discussed negotiations with a landowner regarding the channel repair and inlet pipe installation along his property on Wilkin C.D. No. 13-Lateral. The landowner continues to refuse access.

- Noting that William Nichol Excavating, Inc. plans to start the main repair of Wilkin C.D. No. 22 in the next few weeks and will continue to work upstream as crops are harvested, as long as weather permits. The landowners were mailed permission to level spoil forms, which they will need to sign and return to the BRRWD.
• Noted that DM Enterprises has completed the Wilkin Ditch buffer/side inlet installations for C.D. Nos. 40, 41, 42, 44, 13, and 13-Lateral. One remaining side inlet on C.D. No. 13-Lateral will be sublet this week.

• Noted that Memorandum of Agreement, draft By-Laws, and scope of work have been completed for the One Water, One Plan and are ready to be distributed to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Counties for their review and signature.

• Noted that the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Annual Meeting will be held November 30 through December 2, 2017, in Alexandria. The Board discussed the proposed resolutions that will be voted on during the annual meeting.

• Discussed the 2017 ditch maintenance bill from the City of Moorhead and approved a review of our agreement with the City regarding the frequency and costs of mowing the ditch systems.

• Noted that the next Mediation Project Team meeting will be held on 12/14/17 at 1:30 PM in the BRRWD office.

• Discussed possible options/timeline regarding the hiring of an assistant BRRWD Administrator.

The Board of Managers, BRRWD, will hold their next regular meeting on Monday, December 11, 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.