NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 7, 2018
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"BRRWD Meets with the City of Georgetown"

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), met with City of Georgetown representatives to discuss their 2018 assessment, the pending 2011 flood Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement, BRRWD buyout properties, and the bond sale payoff. When the City receives the FEMA reimbursement and remits the BRRWD's share ($69,776.98), and the 2018 assessments are collected ($25,000), the Georgetown project account balance will still be -$27,000. The City asked the Board to consider a contribution to help with the balance. The City taxpayers were concerned that the $25,000 assessment for 2018 would be levied again in 2019. There are also two more years left on the bond sale (approximately $11,500 per year, ending in 2020). At the time of the property buyouts for the 2012 levee project, it was discussed that the BRRWD might transfer those properties to the City when the project was completed. Some of the property that the BRRWD owns inside the dike on the north side of town (former Ziegler land) has development potential if the lots were raised above the floodplain elevation. The land would have to go through a Letter of Map Amendment and Revision process with FEMA prior to construction. The rest of the buyout properties outside of the dike would not be available for future development. The Board asked the City to provide a few funding options in writing prior to the 5/14/18 meeting to allow some time for Managers to review their requests.

Harold J. Rotunda, Certified Public Accountant, presented the draft 2017 audit. He discussed the BRRWD's management of our Minnesota Statutes Annotated 103D.905, Subd. 3, taxing authority and project assessment practices. The Board will review the draft audit and take action to approve it at their next meeting.

Other business included:

- Reviewed the BRRWD's financial status. Cash on hand is $1,811,588.11. Income since the 4/09/18 meeting was $17,349.06 from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for the Otter Tail River Planning 319 Grant. Total 2018 income to date is $449,622.23. The Board approved payment of bills totaling $17,768.72.

- Approved permits to the City of Moorhead to install street and underground utilities for the Hampton Place 3rd Addition in the SW1/4, Section 29, Moorhead Township, Clay County, subject to our standard utility disclaimer; Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) for pavement rehabilitation and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance work in the City of Wolverton, plus a mill/overlay and ditch/culvert cleaning on Trunk Highway No. 75 in Section 28, Wolverton Township, Wilkin County, from County Road No. 184 north to the Clay County line; City of Dilworth for street/utilities/stormwater improvements for the Summerwood 3rd Addition in Section 1, Moorhead Township, Clay County, outletting to County Ditch No. 41, as assessed, subject to our standard utility disclaimer; MNDOT to line nine in-place corrugated metal pipes in the median or centerline of Interstate-94. The Board postponed action on permit applications for Dennis Butenhoff and Joel Simmer pending neighboring landowner approval.

- Scheduled a permit hearing for 5/29/18, regarding a drainage dispute in the SE1/4, Section 20, Hamden Township, Becker County. The affected parties will be contacted.
• Noted that the Phase 1 construction and easement options for Project No. 79, Wolverton Creek Restoration, will be forwarded to the affected landowners in the next several weeks. Once the construction easements have been acquired, the bidding process can move forward.

• Discussed possible design options for the Stony Creek Comprehensive Project to allow for interior diking along the alignment of the township road (150th ST S) to use only part of the project for summer operation. The landowners would be able to crop their fields on the west side of the control dike during most flood events up to the 50-year level, when both pools would be utilized. The changes could provide some easement costs savings. Staff plans to meet with the landowner who owns most of the land affected by the project to discuss these options.

• Discussed a possible Board retreat sometime in June. BRRWD Bylaws pertaining to Open Meeting Law will apply.

• Noted that the One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee will meet on 5/4/18. The Planning Team met on 4/18/18 to work on the draft workplan, budget, and schedule for the Policy Committee's review and approval. The office is working on appointments to the Advisory Committees.

• Noted that the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Summer Tour is scheduled for June 20-22, 2018, hosted by the Carver County Water Management Organization and the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District.

• Noted that a landowner informational meeting has been scheduled on June 4, 2018, at 7:00 PM in the Government Services Center, Commissioners Room, Fergus Falls, to discuss the buffer work for Wilkin/Otter Tail Judicial Ditch No. 2 and a possible redetermination of benefits. Notices will be sent to the benefited landowners in Wilkin County and the landowners within the drainage area in Otter Tail County.

• Noted that the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) recently approved the transactions to complete the wetland banking process to mitigate approximately 0.3 acres of wetland on Janice Getz's property in the E½SE¼, Section 28, Deerhorn Township, Wilkin County, which is part of a larger wetland site that the Briks Family LP mitigated to complete their wetland banking credit purchase.

• Watched a BWSR training video regarding the Data Practices Act-Copy Costs. The videos are designed to provide Watershed Boards with free training on these topics to meet the Level II Performance Review and Assistance Program standards for "Board Training".

The Board of Managers, BRRWD, will hold their next regular meeting on Monday, May 14, 2018, 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.