NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 16, 2018
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"BRRWD Approves Ditch Repairs"

At their meeting held on Tuesday, October 9, 2018, at 7:00 PM in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), authorized repairs for two Wilkin County ditch systems. The first repair is in response to a ditch system landowner's request for review of a slope stability concern along Project No. 24, Wilkin County Ditch (C.D.) No. 44, on the north line of Section 12, Manston Township, along 170th ST. The channel is meandering and cutting into the ditch slope in three locations, causing a road safety hazard. BRRWD Engineer Erik S. Jones, Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI), suggested that we hire a contractor to pull some of the material from the inside bends of the meanders to help rebuild the ditch slope. The sod could be salvaged and reused. The total estimated cost to repair all three locations is $2,000. The second repair was for three inlet culverts along Wilkin C.D. No. 6A in the NE¼, Section 14, Nordick Township, for a ditch system landowner who wants the culverts lowered, extended, and realigned. The repair will require the installation of two 18” dia. x 76' corrugated metal pipe (CMP) and one 18” dia. x 66' CMP, all with flapgates. The estimated cost for this work is $10,000-$12,000. Jones noted that we may be able to reuse some of the existing culverts, which could provide some cost savings.

Other business included:

- Reviewed 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 $2,597,975.26. Administrative disbursements for the month are $34,232.90 and for the year total $291,666.39. Current 2018 accounts receivable are $3,617,886. Our total income for the year is $2,864,305.01. Income since the 8/13/18 financial report was $844,769.34. Receipts came from Clay County for their 2017 delinquent and 2018 first-half ditch/project tax collections ($797,551.52), Otter Tail County for Wilkin/Otter Tail County Judicial Ditch No. 2 cost share reimbursement ($44,364.32), Western National Insurance Company for our office building claim ($411.10); bank account interest ($2,217.40), and office rentals ($225). The Board approved the payment of bills for $586,187.28.

- Approved permits to Jeff Yaggie to pattern tile the SW¼, Section 23, Nordick Township, Wilkin County, outletting in the southwest corner directly to C.D. No. 23, to which the land is assessed, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer; and Philip Rogers to install an approach with a 15” dia. culvert on the north side of County Road (C.R.) No. 32, west of Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 9 to access a new bin site in the SE¼, Section 4, Atherton Township, Wilkin County, subject to County approval to work within their road right-of-way. Action was postponed for permit applications from Brent Ellefson and Allen Yaggie, pending receipt of signed downstream landowner notification forms.

- Discussed easement acquisition/property buyout options for a tract of land in Section 10, Wolverton Township, Wilkin County, associated with Project No. 79, Wolverton Creek Restoration. BRRWD Administrator Bruce Albright will contact Attorney Corey Elmer, Vogel Law Firm, to ask for his review of the acquisition proposal. The Board approved Pay Request No. 2 for $391,310.42 to Sellins Brothers, Inc., and Change Order No. 1 for a $1,850 net increase in the contract for minor quantities adjustments. Pete Waller, Board Conservationist, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), notified the Board that the BRRWD's Targeted Watershed Grant agreement ($2.8 million) with BWSR for the Wolverton Creek project will need to be amended to change the end date from 12/31/20 to 6/30/20, in accordance with the grant appropriation language. The project construction is ahead of schedule, so the Board isn't concerned about the new grant expiration date.

- Authorized HEI to conduct a survey regarding a drainage issue in Section 11, Meadows Township, Wilkin County, to determine if the property will drain to Wilkin C.D. No. 6A and to pick up culvert
sizings to determine if water from Section 11 could drain to Wilkin C.D. No. 23. The survey will be allocated as a C.D. No. 6A expense.

- Discussed excavation work conducted along C.R. No. 20 in the southeast corner of Section 15, Meadows Township, Wilkin County, east of T.H. No. 9, which was completed without a BRRWD permit. The ditch has been over-excavated by about 1' and now water is standing in the ditch. An area landowner contacted the BRRWD when his neighbors suggested that the culvert in the excavated ditch would now need to be lowered so the water would drain. The landowner was concerned that lowering the culvert to address illegal ditch work could set a bad precedent. The Board agreed that the culvert elevation should not be altered.

- Approved a Final Pay Request to Gladen Construction, Inc. for $6,822.10 and Change Order No. 2, which will add $285 to their contract for the spoil pile removal last summer, associated with Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation.

The Board of Managers, BRRWD, will hold their next regular meeting on Monday, October 22, 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.