"BRRWD Awarded 319 MPCA Grant"

At their meeting held on Monday, October 22, 2018, at 7:00 PM in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), received news that we have been awarded a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) 319 Small Watersheds Program Grant that will provide up to 16 years of dedicated funding ($150,000-$300,000 per year) for the Whiskey Creek Enhancement project near Kent, MN. The funding could be used to install best management practices along the Whiskey Creek alignment and to help construct a channel restoration project, similar to our current Wolverton Creek project. The BRRWD staff worked with Don Bajumpaa, District Manager, Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District, to prepare and submit the application.

Other business included:

- Reviewed the BRRWD's financial status. Cash on hand was $2,013,484.24. No income was received since the 10/9/18 meeting. Total income this year is $2,864,305.01. The Board approved the payment of the bills, totaling $22,820.31.

- Approved permits to the City of Moorhead to install an approach with two lines of 18" dia. culvert in the SE¼, Section 19, Moorhead Township, Clay County, to provide a new field entrance on the north side of the Moorhead Municipal Airport; and Thomas Arnhaist to install 303 acres of pattern tiling in the W½, Section 35, Mitchell Township, Wilkin County, outletting via an existing lift station in the southwest corner of the section to the 220th ST road ditch, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer.

- Agreed to continue the easement acquisition/property buyout process for a tract of land in Section 10, Wolverton Township, Wilkin County, associated with Project No. 79, Wolverton Creek Restoration, subject to review by BRRWD Attorney Corey Elmer, Vogel Law Firm.

- Discussed a landowner's concerns about coyote predation along the Wolverton Creek Restoration project area. The Board also discussed concerns about the height of the newly constructed berm in Section 10, Wolverton Township, Wilkin County. The landowners are concerned the water might pond behind the dike and flood their cropland. BRRWD staff will meet with the landowners to address their concerns.

- Approved Pay Request No. 3 ($5,051.02) for Sellin Brothers, Inc., to replace the power take-off driven lift station pumps with permanent electric motors in compliance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency requirement for the Project No. 71, 50th AVE Flood Mitigation levee certification process. The Board also approved Change Order No. 1 for a net decrease in the contract of $610.75.

- Approved the 2017 BRRWD Annual Report.

- Authorized repairs for Project No. 31, Deerhorn Creek Levees, in Section 29, Prairie View Township, Wilkin County, estimated to cost approximately $3,000-$3,500. The work will include the installation of two rock drop structures downstream of the Otter Tail Valley Railroad tracks where the tracks cross Deerhorn Creek to control channel erosion.

The Board of Managers, BRRWD, will hold their next regular meeting on Monday, November 12, 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.