NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 10, 2019
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Bruce E. Albright, Administrator, 218-354-7710

"BRRWD Schedules Final Hearing"

At their meeting held on Monday, December 10, 2018, at 7:00 PM in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), accepted the Viewers' Report and the Engineer's Detailed Survey Report for Project No. 78, Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch No. 1-Improvement. They scheduled the Final Hearing for Monday, January 7, 2019, at 7:00 PM in the BRRWD Barnesville Office. The Viewers will meet with project landowners prior to the Final Hearing on Thursday, January 3, 2019, in the BRRWD office from 2:00-4:00 PM.

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 $2,484,460.61. Administrative disbursements for the month are $25,618.96 and for the year total $342,014.33. Current 2018 accounts receivable are $2,535,422. Income received since the 11/12/18 meeting totaled $1,006,149, primarily coming from County property and ditch tax collections: Clay (property only)-$392,004.67, Becker-$99,964.97, Otter Tail-$18,286.92, and Wilkin-$323,637.26. Other income came from the 2015 Enbridge Grant ($100,000) for Project No. 79, Wolverton Creek Restoration, the City of Georgetown for the 2011 Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement ($69,776.98), office rent ($225), and bank account interest ($2,253.20). Total income this year is $3,963,902.82. Staff will contact Clay and Becker Counties regarding outstanding revenue for the Buffer Aid funding and Clay County for their 2nd half project/ditch tax collections. Staff will also send out invoices for the outstanding individual bills on the Accounts Receivable list before the end of the year. Albright noted that Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources has already forwarded 50% of the $2.8 million grant for the Wolverton Creek project and will forward reimbursements from the other half of the funds as needed. The Board approved the payment of bills totaling $253,140.13.

- Noted that Albright will be meeting with the Clay County Commissioners on 12/18/18 to present the BRRWD's 2019 petitions to use our taxing authority in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Annotated 103D.905, Subd. 3.

- Noted that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) granted an extension for the Wolverton Creek Restoration Protected Waters construction permit until December 7, 2023. We will also contact the DNR Area Fisheries office next spring for a variance to work in the protected waters during the spawning season from 3/15 through 6/15.

- Noted that a landowner informational meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 13, 2018, at 7:00 PM in the Kent Community Center for the Whiskey Creek Restoration project.

- Approved Pay Request No. 1 (Final) for $81,984 to Asplin Excavating, Inc. and Change Order No. 1 for a $20,124.20 decrease in the total contract amount ($102,108.20) for the Pierce stockpile removal associated with Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation. The DNR Grant for this project expires on 12/31/18. Payment is subject to the contractor providing the required payroll information and other paperwork.

- Authorized signature of a Voucher and Practice Certification reimbursement request to the Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to release funding to the BRRWD in accordance with our Clean Water Fund cost-share agreement for repairs to Wilkin County Ditch Nos. 7 and 40, totaling
$187,541.96. The Board also approved an amendment to a Conservation Practice Assistance contract with the Wilkin SWCD to increase the cost-share allowance for the BRRWD from 46% to 66.8%.

- Completed review of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) Strategic Plan Input questionnaire. Staff will assemble the Board's comments and provide a draft copy for the Board's review prior to submitting our response to the RRWMB.

- Discussed adding members to the BRRWD's Citizen's Advisory Committee.

- Approved a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Surface Water Assessment Grant agreement for $40,000 to fund Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies for nine BRRWD sites where insufficient data was collected during the previous TMDL studies. Albright was designated as the grant signatory.

The Board of Managers, BRRWD, will hold their annual meeting on Monday, January 14, 2019, at 7:00 PM in the BRRWD office, located at 1303 4th AVE NE, Barnesville, MN. The second December meeting (December 24) will not be held due to the Holidays. All meetings are open to the public. For more information about the BRRWD, please visit our website at www.brrwd.org.