"BRRWD Approves Investigation"

At their regular meeting held on May 28, 2019, at 7:00 PM, in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), heard concerns from the Gruenberg family about a natural waterway in Section 27, Wolverton Township, Wilkin County, that is holding water on their property in Section 34. The property in question has buffers enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. The Board authorized Houston Engineering, Inc. to conduct a survey of the waterway and to prepare plan and profile drawings. The survey is estimated to cost approximately $4,000 and will be paid for as a BRRWD Survey and Data Acquisition expense. The BRRWD staff will contact the affected landowners for permission to conduct the survey. Once completed, the next step will be to meet with the landowners to review the area drainage problems and discuss possible options to repair the waterway, which is a tributary to Wolverton Creek.

Other business included:

- Reviewed the BRRWD's financial status. Cash on hand is $2,262,052.67. Total income since the 5/13/19 meeting was $284,38 from the Red River Watershed Management Board for Mediation Project Team expenses. Total income to date is $1,191,121.39. The Board approved payment of the bills, totaling $213,954.00. Auditor Harold Rotunda plans to attend the 6/10/19 Board meeting to present the 2018 audit.

- Noted that the Fargo-Moorhead Diversion Authority (DA) granted the BRRWD's request for a time extension until our 6/24/19 meeting to allow the Board time to make a decision regarding the DA's permit application. The Managers will meet with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), DA, and the City of Moorhead in St. Paul on 6/5/19 to discuss the DNR permit conditions related to the "maximum flood pool elevation", which determines the 500-year floodplain boundary, or the Probable Maximum Flood, and the potential impacts to the Minnesota properties under the BRRWD's jurisdiction. The DA's engineers have completed additional modeling for the DA's Conditional Letter Of Map Revision/Federal Emergency Management Agency application, which yielded new eastern tie-back maps, showing potentially significant impact reductions for the Wilkin County properties.

- Approved permits to Pheasants Forever for a series of United States Fish and Wildlife Service designed wetland restorations in Section 7, Parke Township, and Section 28, Tansem Township, Clay County; Moorhead Public Service to install a new 12” dia. water main for the southeast corner of the City of Moorhead by horizontal directional boring to improve watermain pressure and flow capacity in Section 23, Clay County, crossing Clay County Ditch (C.D.) No. 47, subject to our standard utility disclaimer; and Century Link to install fiber optic cable via directional boring under C.D. No. 47 north of 30th AVE on 34th ST in Section 22, Moorhead Township, Clay County, subject to our standard utility disclaimer.

- Noted that Hawley Township plans to move the intersection at 12th AVE S and 200th ST S about 20' to the west with the same-sized (18" dia.) pipe. A BRRWD permit will not be required.

- Discussed a diking complaint in Section 27, Callaway Township, Becker County, where a landowner added to the berm on the west side of County Road (C.R.) No. 21 without a BRRWD permit. The dike affects both the upstream property and C.R. No. 21. A letter was sent to the landowner regarding the permit violation, who has not yet responded.
• Approved Pay Request No. 5 to Sellins Brothers, Inc. in the amount of $145,264.49 for construction work completed on Project No. 79, Wolverton Creek Restoration. The Board approved 2019 crop damage payments to landowners in the areas where construction was not finished last fall because of inclement weather.

• Noted that the One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee is scheduled to meet on 5/29/19 at 10:30 AM in the BRRWD Office. The next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2019, 1:00-3:00 PM.

• Noted that a landowner informational meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 4, 2019, at 7:00 PM in the BRRWD office to discuss possible repairs for Clay C.D. No. 55.

• Noted that the Preliminary Resolution hearing for the proposed Stony Creek Restoration project is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, 2019, at 7:00 PM in the BRRWD office.

• Approved the 2019/2020 Barnesville River Watch water monitoring budget, totaling $5,537.68, and allocated $1,500 to Lowell Deedee to pay for the chemical analysis of his citizen water sampling efforts in Becker County.

The Board of Managers, BRRWD, will hold their next meeting on Monday, June 10, 2019, 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.