NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 31, 2019
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Bruce E. Albright, Administrator, 218-354-7710

"BRRWD Approves Stony Creek Resolution"

At their regular meeting held on July 8, 2019, at 7:00 PM, in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), adopted the Preliminary Resolution Order to move forward with the development of the Stony Creek Water Resource Management Project. A Preliminary Resolution Hearing was held on 6/25/19 where the Engineer's Preliminary Report was presented, and the project's feasibility, costs, and potential funding sources were discussed with the affected landowners. Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI) was designated as the project engineer and was directed to prepare the Detailed Engineer's Report. BRRWD President Jay Leitch plans to work with HEI to implement value engineering into the design process.

The Board also approved an Order to adopt the BRRWD's revised Rules. The BRRWD has spent several years working on this Rules update, which is an expansion of the original 1979 Rules, and includes two new Sections on subsurface tile drainage and Buffer Rule regulations. The 2019 Amended Rules can be downloaded from the BRRWD website (www.brrwd.org), or printed copies can be obtained from the BRRWD office upon request.

Other business included:

- Approved the BRRWD's monthly financial report, including the project account balance sheet, administrative disbursements, and summary of income. Cash on hand is $2,969,641.42. Administrative disbursements this month equal $22,666.29, and for the year, $170,233.76. Total income this year is $2,330,819.82. Income received since the 6/10/19 meeting totaled $606,072.53, including $105,582.34 from Becker County and $490,244.14 from Clay County (property) for 2019 1st half ditch/property tax proceeds; $4,185.00 from Audubon Township for 50% of the cost of a culvert replacement on Project No. 23, Becker County Ditch (C.D.) No. 15, $4,660.05 from Midwest Bank June interest, and $225 from HEI for their monthly office rent. The Board also approved payment of the bills, totaling $530,167.18.

- Received an update from Vogel Law Firm regarding the status of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permit contested case and the Diversion Authority permit denial. The Board has considered additional conditions that might form the basis for discussions to avoid a permit appeal, which has a 30-day deadline. The pre-hearing conference regarding the DNR contested case was held 7/2/19. The hearing is scheduled for June 8-June 19, 2020, and a pre-trial phone conference is scheduled for 11/04/19, to review the discovery process.

- Approved permits to Buffalo River Properties to install an approach with an 18" dia. culvert with a 30' drivable top within the City of Hawley in Section 11, Hawley Township, Clay County, subject to City approval to work in their street right-of-way (R/W); Hawley Township to install an 18" dia. culvert across 220th ST S, approximately 0.5 miles south of 40th AVE S in Section 27, Hawley Township, Clay County; and Troy Larson to install a new approach off 240th ST with an 18" dia. culvert in the NE¼, Section 14, Akron Township, Wilkin County, subject to township approval to work within their road R/W.

- Approved repairs for Project No. 23, Becker C.D. No. 15-Branch 7. The work will include 220th ST structure replacements on Branch 7 in Audubon Township, Becker County, with an estimated cost of $12,000-$15,000. The Board plans to split the project costs 50/50 with Audubon Township.

- Approved Pay Request No. 6 for Sellin Brothers, Inc. in the amount of $378,201.93 for Project No. 79, Wolverton Creek Restoration.
• Noting that LM Road Services has been hired to spray for cattails and leafy spurge on the ditch systems under BRRWD jurisdiction. Larson Helicopters will spray areas that LM Services can't access.

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