NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 9, 2019
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"BRRWD Contributes to Soil Health Effort"

At their regular meeting held on July 22, 2019, at 7:00 PM, in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), approved a $20,000 contribution to help fund the Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) soil health program. The SWCD currently has about fifteen landowners who are interested in working with them to improve soil conditions on their property by implementing best management practices, including planting cover crops that reduce salt content and adopting new tillage practices to reduce soil compaction. Wilkin County has also agreed to allocate the same amount to the program. The Board also agreed to contribute $12,000 for Conservation Marketing FY20 to support the SWCD Resource Specialist position. One of Craig Lingen's main responsibilities is to assist Wilkin County landowners with the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

Other business included:

- Reviewed the BRRWD’s financial status. Cash on hand is $2,439,474.24. Fenger reported there was no income since the 7/8/19 meeting. The Board approved payment of the bills in the amount of $68,896.43. They adopted the 2018 BRRWD financial audit and agreed to schedule the 2020 Annual Budget Hearing for August 26, 2019, at 8:00 PM in conjunction with our regular meeting. The Board also approved renewing the Midwest Bank $600,000 line-of-credit.

- Approved permits to Oakport Holdings, LLC for the construction of a residential development in the NE¼, Section 18, Oakport Township, Clay County, including roads, ditches, and culvert installations; City of Moorhead for street and underground utilities for Phase 4 of the Johnson Farms 1st Addition residential development in Section 21, Moorhead Township, Clay County, north of 48th AVE S; Holy Cross Township, to replace seven deteriorated concrete pipes with longer corrugated metal pipes in Sections 9, 14, 15, 16, and 21 in 140th AVE (30"dia.) and 170th AVE (24"dia.); Natural Resources Conservation Service for minor wetland restoration work on a Wetlands Reserve Program easement in the NE¼, Section 27, Elkton Township, Clay County; and Dan Rosenfeldt to relocate an existing 18" dia. culvert approximately 100’ north of its current location to the 1/16th line off C.R. No. 71 (110th ST S) in the NE¼, Section 23, Glyndon Township, Clay County, subject to County approval to work within their road right-of-way.

- Approved repairs for Project No. 27, Clay County Ditch (C.D.) No. 55-Main in Sections 23 and 24, Elmwood Township, and Section 19, Elkton Township, to clean four miles of the ditch west of County State Aid Highway No. 21 to Stony Creek and to reuse the spoil to raise the ditch spoil bank wherever breakouts occur.

- Noted that Drewes Construction, Inc. plans to start construction on Project No. 78, Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch (J.D.) No. 1-Outlet Repair, next week (8/5/19).

- Approved Pay Request No. 1 in the amount of $44,293.75 for States Borders Construction, Inc. for the Wilkin-Otter Tail J.D. No. 2 repairs.

- Approved Change Order No. 3 for Project No. 79, Wolverton Creek Restoration, to Sellin Brothers, Inc., in the amount of $584,657.65 for an increase in the Phase 1 contract quantities for the channel alignment changes in Section 26, Wolverton Township, and for the addition of restoring two miles of channel in Sections 27 and 34, Holy Cross Township, downstream of the county line. The additional downstream restoration work was slated for Phase 3, but the Board decided to get it cleaned now to improve the outlet for the J.D. No. 1 work. Sellin Brothers, Inc. agreed to do the
work for their initial bid prices. The Board also approved an extension of the contract completion date for Project No. 79 until 12/31/19, due to the added channel restoration work and poor weather conditions.

- Noted that Wilkin County Manager Catherine L. Affield was reappointed for a three-year term and signed her new Oath of Office.

- Approved the installation of a field inlet with a 30" x 40' culvert and flapgate in the northwest corner of Section 17, Kragnes Township, on Clay C.D. No. 28 to help prevent water backup from the ditch. Fill will be hauled to the site. The probable opinion of cost for the culvert installation is $3,500-$4,000.

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