NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 23, 2020
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"BRRWD Responds to Landowner Concerns"

At their regular meeting held on September 28, 2020, at 7:00 PM in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), discussed a variety of landowner concerns and requests. The first issue came from landowners in Audubon Township regarding drainage violations their neighbor has completed over the last several months. The Board authorized staff to prepare a list of actions for the landowner to return the area drainage back to its original alignment. The Board approved a request from the Turtle Lake Improvement Association for a cost analysis of converting the Turtle Lake Outlet project's Long Lake siphon to a gravity outlet, including an analysis of the potential long-term operating cost savings. In response to a request from a landowner on Wilkin County Ditch (C.D.) No. 3, the Board authorized a hydraulic analysis of a low water crossing to determine an appropriate culvert replacement alternative. The Board approved an investigation of road slope problems in Sections 15 and 17, Morken Township, on Clay C.D. No. 10. They also authorized staff to assist Parke Township officials with a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permit application and technical assistance to install a permanent tile outlet for Dewey Lake in Sections 34 and 35 on 280th ST.

Other Business included:

- Reviewed the BRRWD's financial status. Cash on hand is $3,092,153.30. There was no income since the 9/14/20 meeting. Total income this year is $4,225,357.93. The Board also approved payment of the bills in the amount of $114,650.32.
- Accepted the BRRWD's 2019 Financial Audit, prepared and presented by Harold J. Rotunda, CPA.
- Approved permits to John Thompson for a ditch improvement project on the west side of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 11 in the NE¼, Section 24, Deerhorn Township, Wilkin County, subject to the revised plan to stop excavation at the downstream farmstead property line; Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources to develop a wetland banking site in the W½W¼, Section 6, Callaway Township, Becker County, subject to providing positive grade for a diversion tile outlet; United States Fish and Wildlife Service to widen an existing approach and culvert extension for the Holland/Braton Northern Tallgrass Prairie Refuge in Section 32, Humboldt Township, Clay County; Wilkin County Highway Department to replace two existing 18’ dia. entrance pipes along the south side of CSAH No. 11 in the N½, Section 12, Mitchell Township, outletting to Wilkin C.D. No. 22-Lateral 3, with 30’ dia. culverts to establish a consistent gradeline and culvert sizing; Shane Thompson to add random tile to an existing tile system in the N½, Section 8, Barnesville Township, Clay County, outletting to the existing lift station, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer; and Emmanuel Jerger & Sons to install pattern tile in the NW¼, Section 29, Atherton Township, Wilkin County, outletting via an existing main directly into the South Branch of the Buffalo River, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer.
- Selected a preferred project plan for the Army Corps of Engineers Federal Section 1135 Ecosystem Restoration feasibility study for the Otter Tail River Corridor Habitat Restoration project.
- Authorized submittal of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the channel restoration phase of the Stony Creek Restoration project.
- Authorized Acting BRRWD Administrator Erik Jones to sign the DNR grant agreement for the redesign of the Silver Lake Outlet.
- Approved a cost-share contribution of $12,100 to Pheasants Forever to be applied toward the purchase of a tract in Section 10, Manston Township, Wilkin County, for a 320-acre Wildlife Management Area. The BRRWD will be given access to the tract to complete the Upper South Branch of the Buffalo River stream restoration project and for future project maintenance.

The Board of Managers, BRRWD, will change their next regular meeting date to Tuesday, October 13, 2020, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office in observance of the 10/12/20 Columbus Day Holiday. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, we will hold an electronic meeting in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Annotated 13D.021. The public is welcome to dial in to the meeting. More information will be posted on the BRRWD's website prior to the meeting at www.brrwd.org.