"Winter Storm Shortens Local Watershed Meeting”

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), took approximately 1.5 hours to go through their four-page meeting agenda, at their regular meeting held in Barnesville on Monday, March 9, 2009. With a winter storm bearing down on the region, the Managers wanted to make sure that everyone got home safely.

Board actions included approving an order that would add approximately 120 acres of property located in the SW1/4, Section 16, Elkton Township, to the benefiting area of Clay County Ditch No. 55. The issue arose last fall when a landowner wanted to do tiling on the referenced property, which would drain to the ditch system. The area was not assessed benefits when the ditch system was redetermined back in 1995. The hearing for the inclusion of the property was held on 3/05/09 in Barnesville. Related actions included amending Permit No. 08-73, which was filed for the tiling project. Initially, the water was to drain north. The change allows the water to come south to County Ditch No. 55. Motions were also approved to bore an 18” dia. culvert with a flapgate under County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 10 on the east side of Interstate-94 as a ditch system expense, and ordering the cleanout of the CSAH No. 10 north ditch when conditions permit this spring.

Other business included:

- Discussion regarding a right-of-way (r-o-w) concern associated with Clay County Ditch No. 11 North. The Project No. 61, Clay County Ditch No. 11 North-Improvement, final hearing will be held on 3/30/09 at 7:30 PM in the Moorhead City Hall Council Chambers. Questions have arisen regarding r-o-w that was apparently purchased in 1956, and if that r-o-w still exists today. The Engineer was asked to investigate this issue further and report back at the 3/23/09 BRRWD meeting.

- An order to submit the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the Manston Slough Restoration project, the 30-day comment period will run from 3/23/09-4/22/09. Notice of the EAW availability will be published in the Fargo/Moorhead Forum.

- Discussed funding for the Oakport Flood Mitigation project. Currently, the BRRWD has about $20,000 left in State funding from Grant Amendment No. 4. The BRRWD is working with local Legislators regarding a bill that would appropriate more funding to the project later this year.

- Noting that the next meeting of the Mediation Project Team will be held on 3/26/09 at 1:30 PM in the MSUM Science Center east of Glyndon.

- Noting that a hearing for the redetermination of benefits for Clay County Ditch No. 49 will be held on 3/17/09 at 7:30 PM in the Moorhead City Hall Council Chambers.

- Noting that all Managers plan to attend the upcoming Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Legislative Breakfast on March 18-19, 2009, at the Kelly Inn, St. Paul. The BRRWD will be seeking funding for the Oakport and Manston Slough projects, as well as a possible extension of our taxing authority under M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3.

- Noting that the annual meeting with the Advisory Committee will be held on 4/02/09 at 2:00 PM at the Galaxie Supper Club east of Barnesville.
• Received a report from Houston Engineering, Inc., regarding culvert sizings on Wilkin County Ditch No. 22-Lateral No. 2. The information will be forwarded to affected landowners.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2009, at 8:00 PM in the Barnesville office. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please visit our Website at www.brrwd.org.