"Local Watershed Reviews Fargo Flood Control Project"

At the 3/10/08 meeting of the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) in Barnesville, representatives from the City of Fargo presented their Southside Flood Control Project. In 1997, a large area of Fargo south of Interstate-94 experienced severe flooding, and the City is committed to finding a solution to this ongoing threat. Fargo Mayor Dennis Walaker gave a brief history of the project and indicated that the City is open to design suggestions. Jeff Volk, Project Engineer, Moore Engineering, presented five alternative levee designs. The most recent proposal incorporates 4,000 acre-feet of supplemental flood storage inside the levee along with river channel extensions to reduce stage increases on the Red River. The group also discussed the possibility of constructing a much larger storage area south of Fargo and west of Interstate-29 near the Wild Rice River that could provide more cost effective flood retention. The BRRWD understands Fargo’s need for improved flood control, but is concerned about the potential stage increases on the Red River that the project could cause and possible impacts to land lying east of the project area. The City of Fargo has made similar presentations to neighborhoods adjacent to the project area and other local government units. Several more meetings are scheduled.

Other business included:

- Approved permits to: the City of Moorhead to do road and bridge work in conjunction with their 34th ST S Corridor and Interstate-94 Interchange project; the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) to resurface the Trunk Highway No. 10 westbound lane from Hawley to Dilworth with culvert work; and the Clay County Highway Department to replace a County State Aid Highway No. 11 bridge over the Buffalo River in Section 17, Moland Township.

- Approved an order to continue development of Project No. 62, Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch No. 1-Branch 4-Improvement/Extension. The Preliminary Hearing was held on 3/04/08. The Board appointed Viewers Arvid Thompson, Eddie Bernhardson, and Lauren Peterson.

- Noted that an Open House is scheduled on 4/19/08 for five homes and several outbuildings associated with the Oakport Flood Mitigation project. Pifer's Auction and Realty will sell the properties on May 1, 2008.

- Noted the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has given verbal approval for the dam safety permit for Project No. 58, Riverton Township Retention. The BRRWD hopes to open bids for the project in April 2008.

- Noted that Hancock Concrete Products Company, Inc., recently contacted the office to schedule a meeting to discuss a deteriorating pipe they furnished for the Hawley EDA Diversion.

- Noted that the BRRWD’s permit application to work on Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad right-of-way in conjunction with the Kragnes Ringdike Project is still pending.
- Noted that the BRRWD Managers plan to attend the 10th Annual Joint Conference of the Red River Watershed Management Board and the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group on March 20, 2008, at the Northland Inn, Crookston. The BRRWD’s Mediation Project Team will make a presentation regarding our 2008 activities.

- Noted that the next Mediation Project Team meeting is scheduled for 4/24/08 at 7:00 PM in the MSUM Science Center east of Glyndon.

- Noting that a Citizen/Technical Advisory Committee meeting to work on Comprehensive Planning will be held on 3/14/08 at 9:00 AM in the Eagle Café, Barnesville.

- Noting that the Annual Meeting with the BRRWD’s Advisory Committee will be held on 3/28/08 at 1:30 PM at the Galaxie Supper Club, Barnesville.

- Noting that the Managers plan to attend the upcoming Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts’ Legislative Breakfast in St. Paul on March 12-13, 2008. A regional meeting with local representatives is also scheduled for March 12.

- Approved a $100 donation to the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District’s 2008 Area II Envirothon.

- Scheduled an Abandonment Hearing for Becker County Ditch No. 19 on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, in the Callaway Senior Citizens’ Center. Hearing notices will be sent.

- Noted that MNDOT has scheduled their Annual Meeting for 3/17/08 at 10:00 AM in Detroit Lakes. BRRWD representatives plan to attend.

- Approved payment of bills totaling $79,876.38.

The next meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Monday, March 25, 2008, 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.