"Local Watershed Meets"

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held their meeting on 3/12/07 in Barnesville. They met with a landowner who had several concerns. The first issue pertains to drainage in Section 32, Spring Prairie Township. The landowner agreed to work with his neighbors and conduct a survey to determine which way the water should flow. The second issue involves a long-standing drainage feud between neighbors in Section 25, Moland Township, Clay County. The BRRWD agreed to invite all of the affected parties to another meeting. The last issue pertains to erosion control on Clay County Ditch No. 2 in Section 28, Moland Township. The BRRWD authorized Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.) to conduct an investigation.

The BRRWD also met with another landowner regarding a bridge that accidentally burned in the fall of 2006 on Clay County Ditch No. 32 in Section 15, Kurtz Township. The BRRWD has obtained an estimate from an area contractor to make repairs. The landowner will check on his insurance coverage. The same landowner will also file a repair request to investigate the lower 3.75 miles of the ditch system. Historic flooding occurs east of the Burlington Northern Sante Fe Railroad tracks.

Other business included:

- Approved permits to Brian Meyer to repair erosion along Whisky Creek at 361 2nd ST NE in Barnesville, Meyer has also obtained a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources permit for the work; the City of Sabin for their Quarterline Crossing 3rd Addition, located in Section 7, Elmwood Township; the City of Dilworth for their proposed Woodbridge 4th Addition in Section 1, Moorhead Township; the City of Dilworth for 2007 street rehabilitation and drainage swale improvements; and Moorhead Public Service for an electrical cable crossing under Clay County Ditch No. 47 in Section 23, Moorhead Township.

- Noting that the Preliminary Hearing for the Improvement of Clay County Ditch No. 11-North is scheduled for Thursday, April 19, 2007, at 8:00 PM in the Comstock Community Center. Notices will be mailed to affected landowners.

- Discussion regarding the proposed Swede Grove Lake Outlet in Highland Grove Township, Clay County. Downstream landowners have expressed opposition to the project.

- Dismissal of a petition filed by Feder Properties for the creation of Lateral No. 3 to Clay County Ditch No. 41 in Section 18, Glyndon Township. The petitioner has forfeited the bond. The BRRWD will contact the Minnesota Department of Transportation to attempt to recoup some of their extra costs.

- Appointment of Appraisers Lauren Peterson, Arvid Thompson, and Eddie Bernhardson to review benefits for the proposed Riverton Township Retention site, located on The Nature Conservancy property.

- Noting that a presentation will be made to the Wilkin County Board of Commissioners regarding the proposed Manston Slough Restoration project on 3/13/07.

- Noting that houses acquired for the Oakport Flood Mitigation project will be offered for sale by public auction on 5/03/07. Pifer's Auction and Realty, Moorhead, is handling the sale.
• Noting that the Long Lake siphon associated with the Turtle Lake Outlet project has been restarted. The outlet valve has been repaired and reinstalled. Both lakes about 6” above their targeted water levels.

• Noting receipt of a funding commitment in the amount of $50,000 for the Kragnes Ringdike Levee and $15,000 to construct another farmstead ringdike in 2007.

• Noting that Managers Ellefson, Nelson, and Hanson, along with BRRWD Administrator Bruce E. Albright, will attend the upcoming Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Legislative Breakfast and Briefing in St. Paul on 3/14/07-3/15/07.

• Noting that all Managers plan to attend the upcoming Red River Watershed Management Board/Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction WorkGroup Conference in Crookston on 3/29/07.

The next meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Monday, March 26, 2007, at 8:00 PM in the Barnesville office. All meetings are open to the public.