NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 28, 2008
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"Local Watershed Meets"

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held their regular meeting on 3/24/08 at their Barnesville office. Guests included Paul Wannarka, Red River Basin Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR); Thomas Groshens, Red River Fisheries Specialist, DNR; and Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute. The two DNR officials wanted to introduce themselves. Wannarka will be working with the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group. Groshens deals with fishery issues and can serve on a Project Team (PT) if a particular project has fishery resource concerns. Fritz gave an update regarding the Red River Basin Mapping Initiative. The first LIDAR data collect for Phase 1 will take place in April. The first phase, costing $1 million, is being funded by a variety of agencies, including the United States Geological Survey, Natural Resource Conservation Service, local cities, the Red River Watershed Management Board, the BRRWD, and the North Dakota Joint Red River Water Resource District. Future federal funding for the Phase 2-5 collects will include the Army Corps of Engineers.

Fritz also said the 13th Annual River Watch Forum was held on 3/19/08 at the University of Minnesota-Crookston Campus. The Barnesville River Team received gold medals for their presentations and displays. Sheila Carlson, Biology Teacher, Barnesville High School, also received the "Voyager Award" for her involvement with the program.

Other business included:

• Approved permits to: Benedict Farms, Inc., for 247 acres of patterned tiling in the E1/2, Section 14, Elkton Township, Clay County, pending Manager field review; and Moorhead Public Service to cross Clay County Ditch No. 47 with electric cables for the new 34th ST Interchange project.

• Noting that Grove Lake Outlet project development is still pending due to scheduling a meeting with a downstream landowner on Maple Lake.

• Noting that a meeting will be held with the Clay County Highway Committee on 4/02/08 at 4:15 PM in the Courthouse to discuss the Swede Grove Lake Outlet project. The project has taken on a larger scope than what was called for in the County's petition to lower water away from the road. Proposed project costs will be discussed.

• Schedule a bid letting for Project No. 58, Riverton Township Retention, on 4/28/08 at 8:00 PM in the Barnesville office. The Nature Conservancy has signed their easement option. Houston Engineering, Inc. is working on the construction plan/specifications.

• Discussion regarding the Manston Slough Restoration project. United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) concerns are being analyzed. A meeting with them will be held in early April.

• Signed a contract with Northern Technologies, Inc., for the geotechnical work associated with the Oakport Flood Mitigation project. An informational meeting with all landowners will be held on 4/03/08 at 7:00 PM in the Dilworth Community...
Center. Future development will depend on the outcome of the 2008 Legislative Session and the amount of funding allocated in the bonding bill for this project.

- Noted that the Turtle Lake siphon will be restarted in the near future. The Lake is approximately 0.7' above the permitted elevation.

- Noted that the next Mediation Project Team meeting will be held on 4/24/08 at 7:30 PM in the MSUM Science Center.

- Scheduled a hearing with the Wilkin County Ditch No. 40 landowners for 4/29/08 at 8:00 PM in the Barnesville City Hall. The hearing is required for the Lawndale Trout Stream restoration project.

- Noting that an abandonment hearing will be held for Becker County Ditch No. 19 on 4/08/08 at 8:00 PM in the Callaway Senior Citizens' Center.

- Accepted the work plan for the Hay Creek Sediment Reduction project in Becker County. The BRRWD and Becker Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) received $190,000 in funding through the Clean Water Legacy (CWL) grant. The project will install bufferstrips and sediment control basins.

- Authorized the removal of a log jam on the Buffalo River in Section 34, Georgetown Township, Clay County. William Nichol Excavating will do the work based on his bid of $4,840.

- Authorized the office to purchase an overhead projector/replacement bulb with the cost not to exceed $300.

- Payment of bills totaling $21,385.17.

The next meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Monday, April 14, 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.