"Local Watershed Supports Conservation"

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), received a report from the Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) at their 3/26/07 meeting held in Barnesville. Craig Lingen, Technician, Wilkin SWCD, gave a report regarding their 2006 activities within the BRRWD. They've added 30 contracts, totaling 301 acres for the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program and bufferstrips. The Board approved a motion to contribute $12,000 for 2007 to the Wilkin SWCD to continue conservation marketing. The funding will be available after 7/01/07.

Other business included:

- Approved a permit for Patty McGowan to install Natural Resource Conservation Service designed stream barbs along her property in the City of Barnesville to control Whisky Creek erosion.
- Noting that the Preliminary Hearing for the Clay County Ditch No. 11-North improvement project west of Trunk Highway No. 75 is scheduled for Thursday, April 19, 2007, at 8:00 PM in the Comstock Community Center.
- Received a revised cost estimate for the Swede Grove Lake Outlet from Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.). Total project costs are estimated at $296,165. The BRRWD will work with the Legislature to see if there is state funding available to assist with project development. Downstream landowners will be contacted regarding easement options.
- Received $440,000 in bond funding for Clay County Ditch No. 68-Establishment ($310,000) and City of Moorhead/I-94 Flood Control ($130,000).
- Noting that catalogues have been prepared for the sale of 13 houses associated with the Oakport Flood Mitigation project. Pifer's Auction and Realty will sell the properties on 5/03/07. An Open House is scheduled for 4/10/07.
- Noting that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has agreed to fund 50% of the costs associated with the Kragnes Ringdike project. H.E. will complete the project design.
- Noting that the office has received enough signatures to start the Branch No. 4, Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch No. 1 Improvement/Extension. Petitioners will be contacted to file the required bond.
- Noting that the next Mediation Project Team meeting will be held on 4/26/07 at 7:30 PM in the MSUM Science Center east of Glyndon.
- The Western Region (Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee) meeting on 4/03/07 was cancelled due to inclement weather and will be rescheduled. The Lakes Region (east of Callaway) meeting will be held on 4/24/07 at 7:30 PM in the Callaway Community Center. Notices will be sent.
- Authorized Chairman Ellefson to sign a Purchase Agreement to acquire the Donald and Marlys Holubok property needed for the Manston Slough Restoration project.

The next meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Monday, April 9, 2007, at 8:00 PM in the Barnesville office. All meetings are open to the public.