"Large Crowd Attends Watershed Meeting"

There was a packed house at the 4/09/07 Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) meeting held in Barnesville. Approximately 30 people attended to discuss a proposed hog production facility in the E1/2, Section 20, Skree Township, Clay County. The neighboring landowners expressed concerns regarding groundwater, area sandy soils, and health concerns. The hog barn developer will be applying for a Conditional Use Permit at the 5/15/07 Clay County Planning and Zoning meeting. The landowners will petition the developer to conduct an Environmental Assessment Worksheet.

Approximately seven people attended the meeting to discuss a proposal from Aggregate Industries to expand their gravel mining operation in Section 1, Riverton Township, Clay County. The project will reroute a natural waterway into their pit area. The outlet for the area will remain the same. No changes in downstream flows are anticipated. The downstream landowners have expressed concerns to the BRRWD for approximately 25 years regarding pit drainage. The landowners also talked about the need for an outlet one mile west of County Road No. 86. The BRRWD approved Permit No. 07-14 to Aggregate Industries for the project.

The Turtle Lake Association President expressed thanks to the BRRWD for the development of the outlet siphon system in 1999. This spring, the lake is up approximately 18” from its amended Minnesota Department of Natural Resources permit level. Both siphons are currently operating. Albright said several landowners around the lake have expressed concerns regarding the project's operation. Ice damage along the shoreline cannot be attributed to the project.

The contractors for the establishment of Clay County Ditch No. 68 in Glyndon attended the meeting to discuss their concerns regarding the excavation quantities. Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.) is still trying to sort out the details.

Harold J. Rotunda, CPA, presented the 2006 Audit. Over one-half of the 2006 expenditures pertained to the Oakport Flood Mitigation project. There was considerable discussion regarding the status of the BRRWD finances and possible membership with the Red River Watershed Management Board.

Other business included:

- Approved permits to: the City of Moorhead to modify 34th ST from 24th AVE S to 12th AVE S. The project will reconstruct 34th ST in this location from a two-lane roadway to a four-lane divided highway; and to the Comstock Farmers' Co-op Farmers' Elevator to expand their grain handling facility in the NW1/4, Section 28, Holy Cross Township, Clay County.

- Noting that H.E. will file their Preliminary Engineer's Report regarding an outlet for Grove Lake in northwestern Otter Tail County at the upcoming 4/23/07 meeting.

- Noting that the Preliminary Hearing for Project No. 61, Clay County Ditch No. 11N-Improvement will be held on 4/19/07 at 8:00 PM in the Comstock Community Center.

- Signed Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) Grants for the Kragnes Ringdike Project in the amount of $57,438 and for the Riverton Township Retention for $397,230.

- Noting that discussions continue with the Holubok family regarding acquisition of the SE1/4, Section 30, Manston Township, for lands needed for the Manston Slough Restoration project.

- Noting that thirteen houses and associated outbuildings will be sold by Pifer's Auction and Realty for the Oakport Flood Mitigation project on May 3, 2007.
• Approval to submit a Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Challenge Grant application for public education water quality information. The total project cost is estimated at $12,000 and the BRRWD is asking for 50%.

• Noting that the Western Region (Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee) Comprehensive Planning meeting is scheduled for 4/19/07 at 7:30 PM in the Comstock Community Center. The Lakes Region (the area east of Callaway) Comprehensive Planning meeting is scheduled for 4/24/07 at 7:30 PM in the Callaway Community Center. Notices have been sent to affected landowners.

The next meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Monday, April 23, 2007, at 8:00 PM in the Barnesville office. All meetings are open to the public. For more information regarding the BRRWD, please refer to the BRRWD Website at www.brrwd.org.