"Students Present to Local Watershed"

Barnesville High School River Watch students made a presentation to the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), at their meeting held on 5/14/07 in Barnesville. Sheila Carlson, Biology Teacher, is their Advisor. In 2006, the students monitored water quality at 16 sites. This was their fifth year for chemical water testing. Their presentation focused primarily on Whisky Creek and how the water quality changes from the east side of Barnesville to the west.

The Board approved $1,500 contributions each to Brian Meyer and Patty McGowan for their erosion control projects on Whisky Creek within the City of Barnesville. The Meyer project is completed. McGowan expects to finish her project in the next 6-9 months.

The Board received the preliminary design report from Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.) for an outlet for Grove Lake in northwestern Otter Tail County. The report includes two potential drainage routes, as well as cost estimates for varying alternatives that look at draining the lake approximately 2 feet. The estimates ranged from $61,000 to $77,000. The BRRWD will schedule an informational meeting with the Grove Lake landowners for some time in June 2007.

Considerable discussion took place once again regarding the excavation quantities associated with the establishment of Clay County Ditch No. 68 in the City of Glyndon. H.E. has conducted an analysis of the quantities and recommended that the Board pay the plan quantity amount. The Engineers agreed that the contractor had moved more yards of materials than was actually required, but the contractor was supposed to build the ditch to the Engineer's specifications.

Other business included:

- Approved a one-year time extension regarding Permit No. 96-73 to Baer Poultry Farms, Inc., to install culverts and isolate a bay of Axberg Lake. Disapproved a permit for Steve Holubok to lower a culvert along the north line of Section 20, Humboldt Township, because there was not an adequate downstream outlet. Approved permits to: Margaret T. Brady to install a crossing in a tributary to Spring Creek in Section 25, Elkton Township; Stuart Shulstad to install a crossing off County Road (C.R.) No. 31 in Section 26, Humboldt Township; the City of Moorhead for the Parkview First Addition in Section 21, Moorhead Township; Doug Duran received an "after-the-fact" permit to install two approaches with 18" dia. culverts in Section 12, Atherton Township, Wilkin County; Moorhead Public Service for an electrical cable crossing on the Moorhead/I-94 flood control project outlet in Section 24, Moorhead Township; and the Clay County Highway Department to install three approaches with culverts in the City of Sabin along C.R. 11, along C.R. 115 in Section 36, Highland Grove Township, and along C.R. 95 in Section 10, Oakport Township.

- Discussed permitting for the removal of an abandoned railroad grade north of Glyndon. The buyers of right-of-way have questioned if they need BRRWD permits. The Board felt if grade removal does not affect the movement of water, no BRRWD permit will be required.

- Noting that the office has sent a letter to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) regarding extra BRRWD costs assumed for the development of Project No. 59, Clay County Ditch No. 41-Lateral No. 3. The petitioner stopped the project and forfeited his bond.

- Noting that a Steering Committee meeting for Oakport Flood Mitigation project will be held on 5/30/07 at 1:30 PM in the Moorhead Police Department.
• Noting that the office is still receiving concerns regarding the elevation of Turtle Lake. As of 5/11/07, the lake was about 17" above the maximum drawdown elevation.

• Noting that the office has received a petition from the City of Moorhead to reroute a portion of Clay County Ditch No. 47 in conjunction with their 34th ST interchange project. The City has also requested that the BRRWD reassess benefits for Americana Estates, as this area has now been annexed into the City of Moorhead.

• Noting that BRRWD representatives will attend a MNDOT preconstruction meeting for the installation of culverts through I-94 on Clay County Ditch No. 55 west of Downer. The meeting will be held on 5/17/07 at 1:00 PM in the Detroit Lakes MNDOT office.

• Acknowledged a Morken Township request to change the sizing on five structures on Clay County Ditch No. 49. The BRRWD also authorized a redetermination of benefits.

• Approved the final pay request to All Seasons Contracting, Inc. for their work associated with the Moorhead I-94 Flood Control project.

Because of Memorial Day, the next meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Tuesday May 29, 2007, at 8:00 PM in the Barnesville office. All meetings are open to the public. For more information regarding the BRRWD, please visit the BRRWD Website at www.brrwd.org.