"Watershed Updates Landowners About Lake Outlet Project"

At the 5/26/09 meeting of the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), a group of landowners were updated regarding an outlet project for LaBelle and Boyer Lakes near Lake Park. The Board has made an "emergency declaration" to fast track project development. Both lakes are above the Ordinary High Water (OHW) elevation, and water is threatening driveways, property, and roads. Erik Jones, Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.), will have a complete report for the 6/08/09 meeting. The Board will schedule an informational meeting with all affected landowners shortly thereafter.

Other business included:

- Approved permits to: David Sogge to install a 3" dia. waterline through a driveway along County Road (C.R.) No. 86 in Section 2, Riverton Township, Clay County; Cromwell Township to install an 18" dia. equalizer culvert in Cemetery Road in Section 35; Lucas Dauner to install a driveway/culvert off 80th AVE N in Section 11, Cromwell Township, Clay County; Humboldt Township to install an 18" dia. equalizer culvert in 210th ST S between Sections 33 and 34; Richard Wang to install a drain tile through his driveway to the Buffalo River in Section 7, Moland Township, Clay County; and the City of Barnesville to install a diversion ditch on the east side of the Heartland Addition in Section 32, Humboldt Township, Clay County.

- Discussed a possible project to lower water levels for a number of wetlands along Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 34, east of Barnesville, including Tansem and Ranum Lakes. H.E. will have some project options to consider at the next meeting.

- Noted that the contractor plans to finish the Grove Lake Outlet, starting the second week of June. He is currently waiting for the water levels to go down. The project is operating.

- Authorized the right-of-way (r-o-w) payments to landowners involved with Project No. 61, Clay County Ditch No. 11. The payment includes both permanent and temporary r-o-w. The permanent r-o-w includes the required one-rod grassed bufferstrips.

- Noted that both the Turtle and Long Lakes siphons are operating. The Long Lake siphon was stopped for a two-week period because the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources planted walleye fry in the lake.

- Noting that a Mediation Project Team meeting will be held on 5/28/09 at the MSUM Science Center east of Glyndon. A wide array of projects will be discussed.

- Noting that H.E. representatives are working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency regarding flow monitoring at several of the water quality sampling sites. Two landowners' informational meetings will be held regarding the Buffalo River Total Maximum Daily Load Study. A meeting will be held on 6/23/09 at Hildebrand Hall in Barnesville, and on 6/30/09 at the Hawley Community Center. The meetings are open to the public.

- Approved payment of bills totaling $623,381.48.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2009, 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.