"Watershed Contributes to Water Quality Testing"

At their 5/29/07 meeting held in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), agreed to contribute $8,400 to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for water quality monitoring and testing within the BRRWD. Bruce Paakh, MPCA, Detroit Lakes, discussed about eight different studies that are currently ongoing in the area. The Board felt that water quality will become a more important issue at the local, state, and federal levels.

Other business included:

- Authorization for Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.) to obtain some survey elevations along Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 9 south of Barnesville. Several years ago, the BRRWD rerouted drainage in this area to protect homes on the west side of T.H. 9. The upstream landowners now feel the ditch is no longer working. The survey should locate the problem.

- Approval of permits to: The City of Moorhead for site developments for the Trollwood Performing Arts School in Sections 30 and 31, Moorhead Township; Michael J. Stetz to install a field approach with a 24" dia. culvert off from CSAH No. 32 in Section 5, Atherton Township, Wilkin County; the City of Moorhead for 28th ST S improvements between 30th and 40th AVE.; and three permits to Red River Valley Coop Power Association for underground electrical cable crossings on Clay County Ditch Nos. 40, 55, and 63.

- Noting that an informational meeting regarding the Grove Lake Outlet project is scheduled for 6/19/07 at 8:00 PM in Hildebrand Hall, Barnesville.

- Board approval for the office to send a letter to Atherton Township landowners regarding culvert gates on the Deerhorn Creek Levee project, which were recently tampered with. Someone has been opening, removing, or damaging the gates. The gates are an integral part of the project. If the responsible parties can be identified, they could be charged both criminally and civilly in accordance with BRRWD Rules.

- Board approval to send letters regarding an illegal culvert installation north of Barnesville and to Humboldt Township landowners regarding a culvert that was recently plugged with plywood to divert water flow. Both activities are illegal.

- Noting that a meeting has been arranged with the Riverton Township Supervisors for 6/12/07 at 8:30 PM to discuss the proposed Riverton Township retention site.

- Noting that H.E. intends to file their engineering study for the Kragnes Ringdike at the upcoming 6/11/07 BRRWD meeting. Once that is done, the Appraisers can begin assessment of benefits and damages. The Board remains optimistic that this project can be constructed in 2007.

- Noting that the office has received a $10,000 bond to accompany the petition for the improvement and extension of Branch No. 4 on Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch No. 1. The Board authorized H.E. to complete the Preliminary Survey Report.

- Noting that the next Mediation Project Team meeting is scheduled for 6/21/07 at 7:30 PM at the MSUM Science Center east of Glyndon.
Noting that the office has asked for an extension from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources regarding time needed to complete the Comprehensive Planning effort. The new deadline will be 12/31/08. A meeting for the "Southern Region" has been scheduled for 6/26/07 at 7:30 PM in Hildebrand Hall, Barnesville. The Southern Region primarily involves land in Wilkin County and includes Deerhorn Creek and the area that drains directly into the South Branch of the Buffalo River.

Authorized H.E. to complete an investigation regarding the repair of four miles of Clay County Ditch No. 35 near Dilworth.

The next meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Monday, June 11, 2007, at 8:00 PM in the Barnesville office. All meetings are open to the public. For more information regarding the BRRWD, please visit our Website at www.brrwd.org.