"Another Long Meeting for Local Watershed"

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), took just over four hours to complete their meeting held on 7/14/08 in Barnesville. A wide array of programs/projects/permits were on the agenda.

The Board received a report from the Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District regarding their conservation activities within the BRRWD. For the past several years, the BRRWD has helped support that work with a contribution of $12,000. The funding is used to offset salaries for an additional person to work on these programs. A motion was approved to contribute another $12,000 for 7/01/08-6/30/09.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the status of the BRRWD's ringdike program. A landowner near Sabin discussed steps to build a ringdike along the South Branch of the Buffalo River. The work will start with a floodway analysis to determine the impacts of constructing a dike. The next steps will include a geotechnical investigation and a design survey. Discussion also occurred regarding the status of the Kragnes project. The Final Hearing was held on 6/25/08. The BRRWD is still trying to obtain the insurance required by the Burlington Northern/Sante Fe Railroad for their license agreement. The office has also received two more requests for ringdikes on the Buffalo River east of Kragnes.

Other business included:

- Approved permits to: Paul Ehlert to install diking associated with Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) projects in Section 7, Tanberg Township, and Section 12, Manston Township; Clay County Highway Department to replace a bridge over the Comstock Coulee between Sections 9 and 16, Holy Cross Township; Roger Foltz to install water and sediment control basins in Section 7, Richwood Township, Becker County; the City of Moorhead to reconstruct 8th AVE N between Trunk Highway No. 75 and 28th ST N, including replacement of culverts on County Ditch No. 41; James Briks to install a new approach and culvert off County Road No. 176 in the W1/2, Section 22, Manston Township, Wilkin County; Minko Construction for the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Thrift Store, including a storm water detention pond and new outlet pipe into Clay County Ditch No. 41, Lateral No. 2; Inez L. Johnson to install an approach and culvert in the E1/2, Section 12, Elkton Township, Clay County; Darrin Lee Haugen to relocate an approach and culvert at 205 65th AVE N in Section 17, Oakport Township, Clay County; Russ Okeson to install water and sediment control basins in Section 21, Callaway Township, Becker County; and Pete Jacobson to install a water and sediment control basin in Section 9, Audubon Township, Becker County.

- Noting that a 7/16/08 meeting has been scheduled with a downstream landowner on Whisky Lake to discuss the Grove Lake outlet project.

- Approved the Findings of Fact and Order for the establishment of Project No. 62, Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch No. 1 (J.D. 1), Branch No. 4-Improvement/Extension. The Final Hearing was held on 6/30/08. This action will start the 30-day appeal period. Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.) was authorized to prepared the construction plans and specifications and advertise for bids.

- Approved the purchase of 0.6 acres of wetland mitigation credits from the Polk County Highway Department for the Riverton Township Retention project. The contractor is still assembling the contract documents. Work on the project is expected to begin this month.
• Approved a motion to seek 75% funding from the State of Minnesota for the Manston Slough Restoration project and to ask for a time extension for completing that work. The current grant expires on 6/30/09. The Board signed an easement agreement with Lake Region Electric Cooperative regarding a WRP site in the SE1/4, Section 30, Manston Township.

• Noting that a meeting with the Appraisers and Ulteig Engineers, Inc. will be held on 7/15/08. The Board granted Master Construction an extension until 8/15/08 to complete the demolition of 13 properties. Letters will be sent to homeowners who still have buildings onsite that should have been removed by 10/01/07.

• Received repair plans for erosion slides on Clay County Ditch No. 53 and J.D. 1. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved funding for the repairs after the 2006 spring flood. Information will be forwarded to the respective landowners. Additional right-of-way acquisition will be required.

• Noting that a meeting was held with Hancock Concrete Pipe Products Company, Inc., on 7/02/08 to discuss the deteriorating reinforced concrete pipe on the Hawley Diversion project. Core samples of the pipe will be taken to determine the concrete's strength. A contractor will also be hired to try to fill voids along the pipe.

• Authorized H.E. to investigate additional repairs for Becker County Ditch No. 15. Development of plans will hopefully lead to more work being done in the fall of 2008.

• The next meeting of the BRRWD's Mediation Project Team will be held on 7/24/08 at 7:00 PM in the MSUM Science Center east of Glyndon. A fall tour is scheduled for 9/26/08.

• Scheduled the Annual Budget Hearing for the 8/25/08 regular BRRWD meeting. At the 7/08/08 Clay County Commissioners meeting, they approved authorization for the BRRWD's continued use of funding from M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3.

• Approved payment of bills totaling $126,440.92.

The next meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Monday, July 28, 2008, 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.