"Local Watershed Handles Business"

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held their regular monthly meeting on 7/23/07. Joel S. Roehl, Vegetation Specialist, BASF Chemical Company, made a presentation regarding cattail control. The BRRWD has a program to control cattails in over 250 miles of legal drainage systems under their jurisdiction. Roehl said they have a new herbicide for experimental use called Clearcast. Roehl indicated that the chemical is very selective, and only targets problem vegetation, leaving grasses, etc., on the ditch sideslopes. Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.) is preparing a map of the areas to be sprayed in 2007.

A ditch along the east side of Trunk Highway No. 9 south of Barnesville in Section 25, Humboldt Township, was discussed. The upstream landowner would like to see the ditch cleaned. The BRRWD furnished a survey of the required work. The landowner felt that neighboring homeowners should also help pay. He will check with the Minnesota Department of Transportation regarding their permission to do the work.

The Board met with the contractor for the establishment of Clay County Ditch No. 68 in the City of Glyndon. H.E. recently prepared a cleanup list. The contractor is concerned about upstream erosion. He agrees that some of the work should be completed under his warranty, but other problems were caused by the excessive rains the area received in May/June 2007. The Board agreed to conduct a field review of the system. Further discussion will take place at the 8/13/07 meeting.

Other business included:

- Approval of permits to: Rick Maier to install patterned tiling in the E1/2NW1/4, Section 4, Atherton Township, Wilkin County, subject to downstream landowner approval; Xcel Energy to bore a three-phase electrical cable under Clay County Ditch No. 50 in the SE1/4, Section 3, Moorhead Township, to service the new Walmart Super Center; Oakport Township to regrade ditches and install new culverts for the Oakwood Manor Subdivision in the SE1/4, Section 18; Frank Schindler to install four 18" dia. culverts with gates in existing field ditches draining into the 170th AVE S ditch in the NE1/4, Section 33, Barnesville Township, Clay County; Mike Arntson to install a driveway with a 36" dia. culvert in Section 5, Kurtz Township, Clay County; the City of Moorhead to develop Comstock's Fifth Addition in the NE1/4, Section 20, Moorhead Township; and the City of Moorhead for the Stonemill Estates Stormwater Pond Phase 2, located in the NE1/4, Section 29, Moorhead Township. Excavated material from the project will be used at the Trollwood Performing Arts Center.

- Noting that the Board is still looking at an outlet for Maple Lake. The BRRWD has held two meetings regarding an outlet for Grove Lake in northwestern Otter Tail County. Grove Lake would be drained into Maple Lake. The office has also checked with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding possible funding assistance to construct the project.

- The Final Hearing for Project No. 58, Riverton Township Retention, will be held on Tuesday, August 14, 2007, at 8:00 PM in the Glyndon Community Center. Notices will be mailed to affected landowners.
Signed Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) paperwork for the SE1/4, Section 30, Manston Township, Wilkin County. This area is associated with the Manston Slough Restoration project.

Noting that work will start on the Nichols WRP project, located in Section 21, Humboldt Township, later this week. The work is a part of the Whisky Creek Tributaries project, which the BRRWD completed several years ago.

Noting that a Technical Committee meeting for the Oakport Flood Mitigation will be held on 8/16/07 at 9:00 AM in the Moorhead Police Department.

Authorized repairs to a downstream crossing on the Turtle Lake Outlet project.

Noting that the Appraisers have met to look at the proposed Kragnes Ringdike project.

Authorized repairs for Deerhorn Creek in Section 24, Atherton Township. The work will require DNR approval.

Reviewed three bids to repair Clay County Ditch No. 55 east of Interstate-94. The low bidder was Zeigler Construction, Inc.

Noting that the next Mediation Project Team meeting will be held on 8/23/07 at 7:30 PM in the MSUM Science Center east of Glyndon.

Noting that the last of seven regional planning meetings for the "Mainstem" Region will be held on 7/31/07 at 7:30 PM in the Hawley Community Center. The Board signed a grant amendment with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources to extend completion of the Comprehensive Planning until 12/31/08.

Authorized H.E. to investigate repairs for Clay County Ditch Nos. 21 and 40.

Noting that Wilkin County has reappointed Roger G. Ellefson, Barnesville, for a three-year term to the Board of Managers, BRRWD.

Noting that the Annual Budget Hearing will be held on 8/27/07 at 9:00 PM in the Barnesville office.

The next meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Monday, August 13, 2007, at 8:00 PM in the Barnesville office. All meetings are open to the public. For more BRRWD information, please visit our Website at www.brrwd.org.