"Local Watershed Schedules Meetings"

At their 7/27/09 regular meeting held in Barnesville, the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), scheduled several meetings to address highwater problems in the eastern part of the District. A meeting regarding wetland concerns on the county line east of Barnesville will be held on 8/27/09 at 8:00 PM in the Watershed office. A meeting regarding the LaBelle/Boyer Lakes highwater problem between Lake Park and Audubon in Becker County will be held on 8/31/09 at 7:30 PM in the Lake Park Community Center. A meeting regarding Tansem and Ranum Lakes along Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 34 east of Barnesville will be held on 9/03/09 at 8:00 PM in the Watershed office. The Board also scheduled the annual Budget Hearing, which will be held on 8/24/09 at 9:00 PM in conjunction with the regular meeting that night. The annual Fall Tour will be held on 9/17/09 at 1:30 PM in the Galaxie Supper Club, east of Barnesville.

It took the Managers approximately 4.5 hours to get through their meeting agenda, which extended into Tuesday, July 28, 2009.

Business included:

- An offer regarding a property for sale in conjunction with the Oakport Flood Mitigation project. The Board made a counter offer and the perspective buyer has 48 hours to reply. Kris Carlson, Ulteig Engineers, Inc., presented the plans and specifications for Phase 3A. An 8/24/09 8:00 PM bid opening was scheduled. The names of seventeen landowners who are interested in appraisals were furnished to Guy Miller. Appraisals are expected to be completed by 10/01/09. A Technical Committee meeting will be held on 8/11/09 at 1:30 PM in the Clay County Courthouse.

- Disapproved permits to: Robert Softing/Bruce Nelson to change the alignment of a culvert in 110th AVE S in the southeast corner of Section 25, Skree Township, Clay County; Les Dunham to install a culvert in a field approach off 110th AVE S for drainage the E½SE¼, Section 25, Skree Township; and Brandon Anderson to install a culvert through 150th ST S in the Village of Downer to drain water from the west side of the road to the east side. All of the permit requests have various problems. Applicants are entitled to refile their applications at a later date should the need arise.

- Approved permits to: Matt Ness to install a culvert in the old T.H. No. 75 near the north-south quarterline in Section 5, Wolverton Township, Wilkin County; Four Hill Farms, Inc. to install approaches off County State Aid Highway No. 31 into Section 14 and 23, Humboldt Township, Clay County; the Minnesota Department of Transportation to repair a culvert in Interstate-94 on Deerhorn Creek in Section 15, Prairie View Township, Wilkin County; and tiling permits to David Kragnes for projects located in the E½NE¼, Section 25, Kranges Township, and the W½SW¼, Section 28, Morken Township, Clay County.

- Discussed retention capabilities of a possible Wetlands Reserve Program site, located in the SW¼, Section 5, Humboldt Township, Clay County. Due to poor soils and the steep terrain, the Board felt using the site for water retention may not be feasible. The landowner will be contacted.

- Noting that the Grove Lake Outlet project in northwestern Otter Tail County is fully operational. The lake is down approximately 18" from its all-time high. The outlet pipe will continue to operate unless there are downstream flooding conditions, or until we reach the design water level.
Reviewed the list of 2009 ringdike applicants and established priorities for installing six ringdikes in 2009 using Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources funding. An additional three sites may be constructed using Environmental Quality Incentive Program funds through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Granted a time extension request to Nanik Construction, Inc., for their work on the Riverton Township Retention project. The site has finally become dry enough so that they can work efficiently. The extension was approved until 10/01/09.

Discussed the Minnesota Recovers application, submitted on behalf of the City of Georgetown, for raising their flood control levee. It appears that funding will not be available to do the project in 2009. The BRRWD will work with the Legislature during the upcoming session to acquire the needed $1.5 million.

Submitted an Emergency Watershed Protection application to the NRCS for funding to remove logjams from area rivers and waterways. Landowners aware of problem areas should contact the BRRWD office.

Noting that repair work is scheduled to start on Becker County Ditch No. 15. The area has finally become dry enough to do the work. Mattson Excavating, Inc. was hired as the contractor.

Discussed the redetermination of benefits for Clay County Ditch No. 49. The Viewers field reviewed the area again on 7/23/09. It appears some additional land may need to be added to the system, which will require a new hearing. A date for the hearing was not set.

Authorized $20,000 to the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District to assist with the installation of conservation practices within Becker County and the BRRWD. Funding will be good for the period of 2009-2010.

Authorized the advertisement of bids for Phase 2 work on Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee. The bids will be opened during the 8/10/09 BRRWD meeting.

Authorized tree and cattail spraying on various ditch systems/projects, as recommended by Wade Opsahl, Technician, Houston Engineering, Inc.

Approved payment of bills totaling $124,424.96.

The next regular BRRWD meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 10, 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.