/news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 30, 2008
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"Concerned Citizens Meet with Local Watershed"

At the 7/28/08 meeting of the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), five landowners from south of Moorhead expressed concerns regarding the proposed Fargo Southside Flood Control Project. Recently, the City of Fargo released more information about their proposed project, which includes Red River channel extensions to increase the river capacity to carry more flows efficiently prior to the flood crest. Another concern is possible stage increases at various locations along the Red River. Bruce Albright, BRRWD Administrator, said that a meeting with Minnesota agencies (Clay County, City of Moorhead, BRRWD) is currently being scheduled for sometime in September. That meeting would be a good opportunity for the citizens to voice their concerns.

Another landowner, who represents property east of Glyndon, discussed concerns regarding the sizing of culverts west of Trunk Highway No. 9. The area drains into Clay County Ditch No. 68 in Glyndon. The concerned party would like to look at installing larger culverts upstream of the county ditch to address flooding/erosion problems. The Board agreed to field review the area and make recommendations. Downstream landowners will also need to be contacted.

Other business included:

- Approved permits to: Clay County Highway Department to replace a bridge over County Ditch No. 32 between Sections 15/16, Kurtz Township; Ken Bicksler to install a driveway/culvert in Section 9, Sugar Bush Township, Becker County (applicant is working with the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District regarding the Wetlands Conservation Act impacts); and Margaret Kragnes to install patterned tiling in the SE1/4, Section 12, Kragnes Township, Clay County.

- Agreed to do beaver control and dam removal downstream of Maple Lake in Tansem Township, Clay County. The work is needed to analyze a potential outlet for Grove Lake, which is experiencing high water problems. Affected landowners will be contacted.

- Noting that bid advertisements have been prepared for Project No. 62, Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch No. 1 (J.D. 1), Branch No. 4-Improvement/Extension. The bids will be opened at the 8/25/08 BRRWD meeting in Barnesville. To date, one appeal has been filed.

- Noting that Nanick Construction, Inc., will start work on 8/04/08 for the Riverton Township Retention project.

- Granted a time extension for moving buildings on lands within the Manston Slough Restoration project. The Natural Resources Conservation Service has completed the archeological survey. No concerns were noted. The Board expects a response from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in the near future regarding several design questions. Once these questions are answered, work will continue on the project development.

- Approved a pay request to Master Construction, Inc., for their work involving building site demolition on the Oakport Flood Mitigation project. A Technical Advisory meeting is scheduled for 8/14/08 at 1:30 PM in the Moorhead Court House.
• Noting that affected landowners have been contacted on Clay County Ditch No. 53 and J.D. 1 regarding Federal Emergency Management Agency repairs. The Board would like to do the work yet this year.

• Discussed issues related to the Kragnes Flood Control project and the Burlington Northern/Sante Fe (BNSF) Railroad license agreement. The issues involve liability insurance requested by BNSF. The Board hopes to resolve this issue in the next two weeks.

• Received a recommendation from Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.) to analyze deteriorating reinforced concrete pipe on the Hawley EDA Diversion project. Midwest Testing Laboratory, Inc., will take core samples from the pipe.

• Noting that H.E. is working on repair plans for additional work on Becker County Ditch No. 15. The 2008 target area is between County Road No. 13 and Pierce Lake in Sections 15, 22, 23, and 26, Hamden Township.

• Noting that the Fall Tour is scheduled for 9/19/08. Buses will load at 1:30 PM at the Galaxie Supper Club, east of Barnesville. Invitations will be sent.

• Noting that the Annual Budget Hearing will be held in conjunction with the 8/25/08 regular BRRWD meeting in Barnesville. Notices will be published.

• Authorized tree and cattail spraying on various BRRWD projects/ditch systems. Midwest Helicopters, Inc., Larimore, ND, will do the work.

• Approved payment of bills, totaling $140,031.75.

The next meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Monday, August 11, 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.