"Local Watershed Agrees to Help Landowners"

A special meeting of the Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), was held on Thursday, August 27, 2009, at 8:00 PM in the Barnesville office. The meeting was scheduled to meet with landowners on the Clay/Wilkin County line, four miles east of Barnesville, to discuss their high water problem. Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.) has completed an investigation regarding possible outlets. Water is currently over 180th AVE S in Humboldt Township, as well as threatening area buildings. If the water continues to rise, potentially four homeowners could be located on an island. Attendees agreed that a project should be considered that would lower the wetland water level approximately 4 feet. In accordance with M.S.A. 103D.615, Emergency Projects, the Board approved a motion to hopefully fast track the project development. There are several issues that still need to be addressed, including a search for funding assistance, working with Minnesota Department of Transportation regarding outletting the water along Interstate-94, wetland impacts, coordination of the project with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, an owner adjacent to part of the wetland in question, and working with downstream landowners to find an acceptable route for the water. Another meeting will be scheduled in approximately 3-4 weeks to discuss the project.

Business included:

- Approved permits to: Moorhead Public Service for a directional boring under Clay County Ditch No. 47 on 34th AVE S; the Becker County Highway Department to replace culverts on County Ditch No. 15 in County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 13, CSAH No. 12, and County Road (C.R.) No. 104; Michael Jaeger to install an approach with a 30" dia. culvert in Section 20, Elkton Township, Clay County, along CSAH No. 10 west of Downer; the City of Moorhead to develop Horizon Shores Seventh Addition; Kevin Braseth to replace a culvert in a berm along C.R. No. 31 in Section 25, Skree Township; Rick Maier to increase the sizing of an approach culvert along C.R. No. 30 in Section 25, Deerhorn Township, Wilkin County; Harlan Manston to install three field laterals in the SW1/4, Section 36, Elkton Township; Zachary Midthun to install an approach with an 18" dia. culvert for a driveway to a lot in the Eglon Hills subdivision, and Mark Ekre to install drain tile in Section 1, Skree Township, and Section 33, Eglon, Clay County.

- Noting that an informational meeting regarding a potential outlet for LaBelle and Boyer Lakes will be held on 8/31/09 at 7:30 PM in the Lake Park Community Center.

- Approved replacing approximately 30' of culvert on the outlet of Clay County Ditch No. 11 N, west of Rustad in conjunction with the ditch improvement and CSAH No. 8 regrading.

- Considerable discussion took place regarding the Oakport Flood Mitigation project. Riley Brothers Construction has started work on Phase 1B. A ground breaking ceremony is scheduled for 2:45 PM on Wednesday, September 3, 2009.

- Noting that the City of Georgetown was awarded a $240,000 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Grant to work on their flood control levee. The next step will be to conduct the geotechnical investigation. Additional funding will be sought through the 2010 Minnesota Legislative Session to complete work on raising the dike.

- Approved payment of bills totaling $9,220.49.

The next regular BRRWD meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 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.