"Local Watershed Covers Array of Issues During Lengthy Meeting"

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held their regular monthly meeting on 9/10/07 in Barnesville. The audience and their three-page agenda took four hours to complete. Nearly one hour was spent discussing a proposal by Aggregate Industries to install an overflow pipe between their mining and freshwater ponds in the NW1/4, Section 1, Riverton Township, Clay County. Downstream landowners expressed concerns regarding drainage from the gravel pit, as well as their taxation. In the end, the Board felt that the overflow culvert would not change the runoff and approved the permit.

The second discussion pertained to Clay County Ditch No. 68 in the City of Glyndon. The project was completed late last fall. An upstream landowner expressed concerns about erosion that occurred in his field this summer. Dirt from the erosion has gone downstream into the project area and will need to be removed by the contractor as warranty work. The Board will review options to address the erosion concern and expressed a willingness to help fund the solution. The contractor will submit a bid for doing part of the work, which includes a rock drop structure near the culverts to flatten the field ditch grade.

Other business included:

- Agreed to write a letter to a landowner in the NE1/4, Section 2, Barnesville Township, regarding a culvert he installed this summer without a BRRWD permit. It appears that the culvert may be damaged and undersized. Other options for entering his field will be suggested.

- Approved permits to: Ralph Krabbenhoft to replace a culvert through 100th AVE S between Sections 19 and 30, Elmwood Township, Clay County; Chad Jetvig to clean road ditches and replace a damaged culvert in Sections 5, 6, 7, and 8, Kurtz Township, Clay County; Chad Jetvig to clean ditches in the S1/2, Section 33, Kragnes Township, Clay County; Chad Jetvig to install an additional 24” dia. culvert on the quarterline in Section 12, Kurtz Township, Clay County, which will be done as a County Ditch No. 32 expense; Duane Brokate to install a new field approach and remove an existing approach in the NE1/4, Section 10, Cromwell Township, Clay County; the City of Dilworth to connect a 12” dia. overflow pipe from a storm sewer manhole to Clay County Ditch No. 50; Terry Kohler to install a sediment control basin in the W1/2, Section 21, Audubon Township, Becker County; Leon Kohler to install a sediment basin to control erosion entering Reep Lake in the NE1/4, Section 5, Audubon Township, Becker County; Andy Beyer to install three field inlets with gates and to raise a berm along an old Soil Conservation Service ditch in the E1/2, Section 18, Mitchell Township, Wilkin County; Spring Prairie Colony to install patterned tiling in the NE1/4, Section 16, Spring Prairie Township, Clay County; Jay Nord to lower a culvert in the NE1/4, Section 17, Deerhorn Township, Wilkin County; Aaron Carr to install an approach and culvert in the NW1/4, Section 30, Prairie View Township, Wilkin County; Skree Township to regrade the south ditch of 110th AVE and to replace three 12" dia. culverts with 15" dia. and 18" dia. pipes in Section 33; the City of Moorhead for the Shepherd Meadows Addition in the NW1/4, Section 27, Moorhead Township, Clay County; Kyle Schiefert for a new driveway and culvert in the SE1/4, Section 18, Humboldt Township, Clay County; and Donald Schoff to install a 15” dia. culvert in a driveway located in the SW1/4, Section 4, Cromwell Township, Clay County.
• Noting that water levels on Grove Lake, located in northwestern Otter Tail County have gone down approximately 1’ since this spring. The road access to the peninsula is now open. Landowners approached the BRRWD to look at constructing a possible outlet for Grove Lake. The BRRWD will continue working on this project, which now appears won't be ready for construction, if needed, until 2008.

• Hearings for the Riverton Township Retention site were held on 8/14/07 and 9/04/07 in Glyndon. Between hearings, the Appraisers recommended some changes to their report, which was more acceptable to the affected landowners. The Board made the Order and Findings of Fact to establish the project. The Order is subject to a 30-day appeal period. It's questionable if this project construction can start yet this fall.

• Granted one-month moving extensions to two homebuyers on the Oakport Flood Mitigation project. Presentations to the House of Representatives and Senate Bonding Committees regarding 2008 funding will be made on 9/20/07 and 9/27/07. The next Technical Committee meeting will be held on 9/27/07 at 9:00 AM in the Moorhead Police Department. A meeting with homeowners on the west side of Broadway will be held on 10/03/07 at 7:30 PM in the Oakport Town Hall. The Board authorized the sealing of approximately 10 wells based on bids received one month ago. Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.) is working on the house site demolition specifications.

• Considerable discussion took place regarding the Kragnes Ringdike project. As soon as the Appraisers file their report, the BRRWD can schedule the hearing, which could be held the second week of October. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, who furnished a Flood Damage Reduction grant for 50% of the project costs, will be contacted regarding the project design specifications.

• Agreed to lower the 2008 assessment for Clay County Ditch No. 47, which was set at the 8/27/07 budget hearing, from $100,000 to $75,000. Concerns were expressed regarding the per acre costs. Discussion also took place regarding flapgates installed on culverts underneath the Otter Tail Valley Railroad tracks that drain into County Ditch No. 47.

• Noting that the Annual Fall Tour will be held on 9/20/07, beginning at 1:30 PM at the Galaxie Supper Club, east of Barnesville. The office is working on the tour brochure.

• Agreed to include a section on lakes in the new Comprehensive Plan. The draft Plan is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The Plan will be distributed for public review and comment.

• Authorized ditch repairs for Clay County Ditch No. 31 in Section 11, Barnesville Township; Clay County Ditch No. 58 to lower three field inlet culverts in Section 1 and 12, Elmwood Township; and Clay County Ditch No. 21 to lower two field inlet culverts in Section 35, Glyndon Township.

• Agreed to submit the Barnesville River Watch Program for the 2007 Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Watershed Program of the Year. The application is due 10/12/07.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, will be held on Monday, September 24, 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.