"Watershed Opens Bids for Another Project”

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), opened bids for the Kragnes Flood Control Ringdike, at their 9/22/08 meeting in Barnesville. The Engineer's estimate was $57,510. Five bids were received. The apparent low bidder is Ziegler Construction, Inc., with a bid of $43,440.00. The bids were referred to the Engineer for review and tabulation. In order to expedite construction, the Board also authorized award of the contract to the qualified low bidder. It is anticipated that given favorable weather conditions, the project can be completed in several weeks.

Russell Nanik, Nanik Construction, requested a time extension to complete his work on the Riverton Township Retention project. The specifications called for project completion by 10/01/08. Since starting work on the project on 8/04/08, the area has received approximately 10.5 inches of rain. Nanik indicated that if it continues to rain, he may have to postpone construction until 2009. The Board granted a 45 day extension and will meet with Nanik at that time to assess progress. The Board also approved Pay Request No. 2 in the amount of $42,070.84.

Other business included:

• Approved permits to: Howard Pender, Jr., to install drain tile in the NW1/4, Section 30, Skree Township, Clay County; William Austin to install drain tile in the SW1/4, Section 16, Elkton Township, Clay County, subject to a clean out of the ditch going south to provide an adequate outlet; Minnesota Department of Transportation to resurface the east-west bound lanes of Interstate-94 in 2009 from the Red River bridge to Trunk Highway No. 336; Stuart Nichol to install drain tile in the NE1/4, Section 22, the NW1/4, Section 23, and Section 27, Deerhorn Township, Wilkin County; Ross Aigner to install a driveway culvert in the SE1/4, Section 1, Roberts Township, Wilkin County; Ross Aigner to install patterned drain tile in the NE1/4, Section 9, Manston Township, Wilkin County; and Nick Manston, to straighten a field ditch in the N1/2, Section 3, Barnesville Township, Clay County.

• Considerable discussion regarding the Grove Lake Outlet project. The project hearing was scheduled for 10/20/08 at 7:30 PM in Hildebrand Hall, Assumption Catholic Church, Barnesville. The Appraisers' Report will be filed at the 10/14/08 BRRWD meeting. The Board discussed project funding. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will modify an existing contract to finance 50% of the costs. The BRRWD agreed to furnish 25% of the cost from the M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3 funds. The remaining 25% will be assessed to benefited landowners. The estimated project costs are $125,140. The Board scheduled a construction bid opening for 10/27/08. The project development can be expedited because the Board made an "Emergency Declaration" in accordance with M.S.A. 103D.615. The Board would like to get the outlet installed yet this fall, weather permitting.

• Accepted a settlement agreement for the Briks appeal on Project No. 62, Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch No. 1, Branch No. 4-Improvement/Extension. The Board also signed the Notice to Proceed for William Nichol Excavating, Inc. A preconstruction meeting will be held on 9/30/08.

• Approved sending a letter prepared by Rick St. Germain, Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.), regarding the Manston Slough Restoration Project to the DNR and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The letter is in response to some design considerations the agencies asked for on 8/01/08. The next step will be to sign the Memorandum of Understanding and Operation and Maintenance Agreements. Once these documents are signed, the Board can
proceed with the Environmental Assessment Worksheet, acquisition of landowner easements, and wetland permitting.

- Discussed scheduling meetings for the Oakport Flood Mitigation project. Some tentative meeting dates included 10/15/08 for an engineering/attorney meeting to discuss land acquisition, 11/06/08 for the next Technical Committee meeting, 11/25/08 for an Open House, and 12/02/08 for the Final Hearing. The Board also approved an amended contract for Northern Technologies, Inc., for their work on geotechnical exploration.

- Received permission to clean portions of Becker County Ditch No. 15 in association with the Wetlands Conservation Act.

- Received the "draft" Revised Watershed Management Plan. A special Board meeting will be scheduled to review the plan.

- Noting that a Fall Tour was held on 9/18/08. Approximately 40 people attended. Projects reviewed included Whisky Creek Tributaries, Oakport Flood Mitigation, the Kragnes Ringdike, and the Riverton Township Retention project. The afternoon session at the Hjemkomst Center included a pontoon ride on the SS Ruby, sponsored by River Keepers; and presentations from Chuck Fritz, International Water Institute, regarding the Digital Elevation Model; Justin Kristan, Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments, regarding the Red River Greenway project, and Mark Peihl, Clay County Historical Society, regarding Steam Boat Travel on the Red River of the North.

- Noting that the Clay County Board of Commissioners will schedule a meeting with the City of Moorhead and BRRWD to further discuss the Fargo Southside Flood Control project.

- Noting that the next meeting regarding the BRRWD Watershed Based Total Maximum Daily Load will be held on 10/02/08 at 1:30 PM in the Detroit Lakes Minnesota Pollution Control Agency office. It is hoped that the contracts can be signed before the end of the year. The next step will be to develop a work plan and identify stakeholders to discuss the process.

- Discussed submitting an application regarding the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Drainage Records Modernization Grant. The Grant requires a one to one match with a maximum of $50,000. The purpose of the project would include consolidation of our drainage record and promote drainage records preservation. The BRRWD has approximately 70 drainage systems under their jurisdiction in Clay, Becker, and Wilkin Counties. Erik S. Jones, H.E. will give a report at the 10/14/08 meeting. The grant application is due by 10/31/08.

- Approved payment of bills totaling $90,337.80.

The next meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, 2008, at 8:00 PM in the Barnesville office. The meeting date is changed from the traditional second Monday because of Columbus Day. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please visit our Website at www.brrwd.org.