

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF BECKER

NOTICE OF HEARING  
ON PETITION FOR IMPOUNDING DRAINAGE SYSTEM  
WATERS ON BECKER COUNTY DITCH NO. 15

The Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) hereby gives notice that a hearing will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of July 2020, at the BRRWD office, 1303 4<sup>th</sup> AVE NE, Barnesville, Minnesota, at 7:00 PM, regarding the above-entitled ditch system.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) desires to repair, maintain, and improve structures on their "South Refuge Restoration" on Becker County Ditch No. 15. The project is located in Sections 2 and 11, Audubon Township, Becker County, T139N, R42W. The proposed modifications include replacing the original culverts/gates with modified structures and raising the Homstad wetland approximately 1' above the "as-built" elevation. This change in elevation on the Homstad wetland will only affect the USFWS land. Overall, the proposed project is expected to reduce downstream flows in the County Ditch No. 15 system. The project was originally installed in 1994. The purpose of the project is to replace rusted out structures with new structures and to improve wildlife habitat and biodiversity on the Hamden National Wildlife Refuge.

The District Engineer for the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District has investigated the potential effects of the proposed repairs of the impoundments to maintain the wetlands and has filed a report of its findings, which may be reviewed at the BRRWD office in Barnesville, Minnesota. Project information can also be found on our website at [www.brrwd.org](http://www.brrwd.org).

YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN notice and invited by the BRRWD to attend this hearing to show cause, if any you may have, why the BRRWD should not allow the USFWS to do the maintenance work requested in the petition, dated March 3, 2020.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, routine public participation for the hearing will be modified. The following are available options for public participation:

- **Conference Call** – Toll Free 1-833-403-3948 or Local 701-499-9476. Access Code 2503. Conference PIN 1401.
- **Written Comments** – Complete and return the enclosed written form via mail or e-mail to [general@brrwd.org](mailto:general@brrwd.org) by July 15, 2020. The public can also call or visit the BRRWD office to discuss these repairs.
- **Limited Office Attendance** – Please RSVP by calling our office at (218)354-7710 if you plan to attend in person. We will need to practice safe social distancing and will need to be able to anticipate how many people may be in the office.

Dated: 06/24/2020

/s/ Peter V. Fjestad  
Peter V. Fjestad, President  
Buffalo-Red River Watershed District