

BUFFALO-RED RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

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MINUTES FOR MANAGERS' MEETING August 10, 2015

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held their regular meeting on Monday, August 10, 2015, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. BRRWD Managers present were Gerald L. Van Amburg, John E. Hanson, Breanna L. Kobiela, Catherine L. Affield, Troy E. Larson, and Peter V. Fjestad. BRRWD Staff attending included: Bruce E. Albright, BRRWD Administrator, and Erik S. Jones, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI).

Chairman Van Amburg called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He announced that the proceedings were being recorded to aid in the preparation of the minutes.

Secretary's Report. Due to e-mail delivery problems, the Board did not receive the draft minutes in time to review them, so the 07/27/15 BRRWD minutes and the 5/28/15 Barnesville Township Area Investigation Hearing minutes will be held over until the 8/24/15 meeting.

Treasurer's Report. The Board reviewed the BRRWD's monthly financial statements, including the project account balance sheet, administrative disbursements, summary of income, and the accounts receivable report. Cash on hand is \$2,369,272.95. Administrative disbursements for the year are \$216,537.76. Current accounts receivable total \$2,117,121.62. Our total income to date is \$3,698,951.81. Income since 07/13/15 was \$701,789.07, primarily from Clay County for their first half ditch/projects tax collections (\$675,387.19) and from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) (\$25,410.29). Albright noted that the office forwarded pay requests today to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for Project No. 39, Georgetown Levee (\$22,035.89) and Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration (\$124,738.82). Albright noted that the Midwest Bank checking and savings accounts are ready for use. **Motion** by Hanson to approve the Treasurer's Report. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

Business brought before the Board included:

Permit No. 15-079, Ray Amundson. Applicant proposes to install 18" dia. x 80' of corrugated metal pipe (CMP) extensions to widen his existing driveway in the Amber Waves Estates subdivision in Section 3, Oakport Township, Clay County. Amundson plans to connect the CMPs to his existing driveway culvert and use leftover fill from a building project to widen and slope his driveway to facilitate safer mowing conditions. The Board had concerns about the length of the culvert and how it would function over time. Wade Opsahl, Technician, HEI, discussed this proposal with Amundson, who decided to withdraw the application. Administratively **withdrawn.**

Permit No. 15-083, Josh Kamrud, Wenck Associates, Inc. Applicant proposes to install two new field entrances with culverts in the NW¼, Section 9, Oakport Township, Clay County, to access a new disposal field for the American Crystal Sugar Company. The culvert along the west side of the property will be an 18" dia. x 50' long CMP in County Road (C.R.) No. 96. The pipe along 80th AVE N will be an 8' x 4' x 36' long reinforced concrete box culvert (RCB). Jones recommended that the plans should be modified to place the culverts on the original ditch grades. Wenck Associates, Inc. revised their plans to incorporate Jones' recommendations. Both applications would require road authority approval (County/Oakport Township) to work in their road right-of-way (r-o-w).

Permit No. 13-084, Darin Roehl. Applicant proposes to install pattern tiling in Sections 29 and 30, Carlisle Township, Otter Tail County, with 6" dia. mains and 4" dia. laterals, outletting via gravity flow to Wilkin/Ottertail Judicial Ditch (J.D.) No. 2 to which the property is assessed.

Motion by Fjestad to approve Permit Nos. 15-083 and 15-084, subject to the applicable standard disclaimers and road authorities' permission to work within their road r-o-w. **Seconded** by Larson. **Approved.**

Scott McCaslin Tiling Outlet Concerns. At the 7/13/15 BRRWD meeting, the Board authorized BRRWD Attorney Tami Norgard, Vogel Law Firm, to seek a court order for Duane Hanson to remove the tile block on his property in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 23, Hamden Township, Becker County. Albright met with Attorney Jordan Weir, Vogel Law Firm, on 08/07/15 regarding the complaint preparation. Albright would like to contact the Hansons before the complaint is filed with the Court to be sure the work hasn't already been done.

Grommesh Diking Concern. HEI completed the survey of the 0.5 mile stretch of ditch along the west side of Grommesh's property in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 28, Barnesville Township, Clay County, to provide a ditch grade and existing culvert elevations to be sure that Greg Grommesh has the correct elevation for a new culvert in his field approach along 140th ST S (Permit No. 15-050). Albright forwarded the survey results to landowners Paul Quinnild and Greg Grommesh. The survey showed that water can't drain south to Clay County Ditch (C.D.) No. 54 on the south side of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 2 because Grommesh's 18" dia. field approach culvert is too high. The survey information allows us to calculate the correct gradeline and required culvert sizing (48" dia.) to drain water south to C.D. No. 54, but the proposed ditch grade along 140th ST S might impact a buried NuStar Energy Company pipeline in this area. Jones has been working with representatives from NuStar and the Magellan Pipeline Company to determine the location and depth of their pipelines. Magellan has existing survey information for their pipeline that they will forward to Jones. The Board reviewed LiDAR maps on the overhead monitors showing where the pipelines cross Section 28, Barnesville Township. Albright commented that until the pipeline issues are resolved, Grommesh won't be able to work on the ditch gradeline. The companies have indicated that they might consider lowering their lines, but it is not clear how soon that work would be completed.

Project No. 77, Clay C.D. No. 51-Lateral No. 3. The Final Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, August 27, 2015, at 7:00 PM, in the Moorhead City Hall Council Chambers. The hearing notices have been mailed to the affected parties and The Extra Newspaper. Albright will meet with the Viewers prior to the hearing.

Project No. 75, Wilkin C.D. No. 31-Lateral. Albright contacted Sharon Josephson regarding her easement. Josephson thought that she would be able to obtain her family members' signatures over the weekend. Albright reported that he did not hear from her today. Josephson's family was unwilling to take a perpetual easement and wanted the language changed to a 30-year easement. Other area landowners, Thomas Vertin and Rick Rogers, have stated that when Josephson signs her easement, they will sign theirs.

Project No. 73, Country Heritage Ditch. Jones reported that Opsahl doesn't think a survey is necessary as there is enough slope in the ditch to get it to drain properly with just some minor landscaping. He plans to hire a contractor to complete the work in the near future.

Project No. 71, Moorhead 50th AVE Flood Control. The seeding subcontractor contacted the BRRWD regarding payment for his work and his liability for some of the seeding that the neighboring landowner sprayed and killed this spring. Payment to the contractor, Gladen Construction, Inc. has been held up pending the replacement of the 48" dia. sluice gate, which has now been completed. HEI submitted Pay Request No. 8 (\$14,586.52) with 2% retainage (\$50,000) and Change Order No. 3 to increase the contract amount (\$14,675.86) for the new sluice gate. There is a stretch of the dike along the north end of the

project, which wasn't part of the project design, that isn't high enough to tie in to another existing dike, so before the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will certify the project, that work needs to be completed. This additional item, which was not included in the original plan, will be added to the contract, and Gladen will return to finish the work in the next few weeks. **Motion** by Fjestad to approve Pay Request No. 8 and Change Order No. 3. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

Project No. 61, Clay C.D. No. 11. The ditch system repair hearing was held on 07/21/15. Jones noted that he will have construction bid results for the Board's review at their 09/14/15 meeting. The Board approved the Findings and Order for the project at their 07/27/15 meeting. Albright had the documents prepared for the Board's signature tonight.

Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration. Jason Ehlert plans to start the following work this week: resetting three inlet culverts on the Briks property north of Tower Road (210th ST) in the SE¹/₄, Section 1, Nordick Township, Wilkin County; installing one new open inlet for Tim Buth and deepening one open inlet on the Buth property. Cody Zarak, HEI, will be onsite to supervise the repairs. B&J Landscaping has completed the native grass seeding and mulching. The office prepared a pay request to the DNR for approximately \$125,000. The grant will expire of 09/30/15. Albright is working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on their Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) easement for the Stuehrenberg property. He doesn't think that NRCS is going to get the WRP easement in place before the grant deadline. Since the NRCS easement must be in place before our easement is recorded, Albright suggested that we ask Stuehrenberg to sign the BRRWD project easement and then pay him before the grant deadline so that the expenditure will be eligible for grant reimbursement. We won't record our easement until NRCS has finalized the title work for their WRP easement.

Project No. 54, Whiskey Creek Tributaries. Opsahl is working with Scott and Betty Anderson regarding the proposed repairs for their property in the N¹/₂N¹/₂, Section 14, Barnesville Township, Clay County, which the Board approved at their 07/27/15 meeting. The repair recommendations are to fill in the existing ditch on the Anderson property and regrade the ditch back to the west through their pasture into a stock pond and then eventually north to the road ditch (140th AVE S).

Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation. Albright explained that Pat Lynch, Financial Coordinator, DNR Waters, will be forwarding the Flood Damage Reduction Grant agreement paperwork for the Board's signature for the \$5.53 million to complete Phase 4. Albright suggested that the Board authorize Chairman Van Amburg and him to sign the grant contract as soon as we receive it. **Motion** by Kobiela to authorize Albright and Van Amburg to sign the DNR contract. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

Albright briefly explained that the Phase 4 easements have expired due to the delay in State funding, which held up project completion. He plans to check on the Clay County website to see if ownership has changed for any of the parcels, and then contact the landowners with a request for them to sign a new revised construction easement. Once the project is completed and the levee is certified, the landowners will have reduced flood insurance premiums or no longer be required to carry flood insurance.

Albright discussed the negotiations regarding the Fischer stockpile. He prepared an easement value analysis for the Board's review comparing the Fischer and Pierce stockpiles to determine a fair payment for the Fischer easement. Albright calculated that we already paid \$638.30 per acre for the Pierce stockpile (\$3,000 per year for 4.7 acres). The Fischer Family has asked for \$10,000 per year, based on what they consider to be a fair value for their property and dissatisfaction with their original easement payment for farmland involved with the Oakport project. Leonard Fischer claims that there is actually 8.07 acres impacted by the project: the stockpile and access road (4.24 acres), plus an additional 3.83 acres that are not tillable because of the stockpile. Albright field verified the Fischer acreage. His analysis indicated that the Fischers' proposed easement payment would be \$1,239.16 per acre, or roughly twice what the BRRWD has already paid for the Pierce easement. He suggested that the Board could offer the Fischers a total of

\$20,604.32, based on the value of the Pierce easement (\$638.30 per acre for four years). Albright observed that if the stockpiles were not on the Pierce and Fischer properties, the land would be farmed. He pointed out that farmland rent is much less than the proposed \$638.30 per acre. He also noted that once the Oakport project is finished, the value of the Fischers' other 35 acres protected by the certified levee should go up significantly. **Motion** by Kobiela to forward Albright's easement analysis to the Fischers with a counter offer of \$20,604.32. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

Project No. 42, Clay C.D. No. 67. Jones is working to prepare plans and specifications to let bids for both alternatives for the outlet replacement. Currently, a bid opening is tentatively scheduled for 08/24/15, and Jones will bring the results to the BRRWD meeting that night for the Board's review. Jones noted that they plan to use fill material from the Pierce stockpile for the work. He thought we might need some additional temporary easement acreage on the north side of the construction site.

Project No. 39, Georgetown Levee. The City of Georgetown is holding a payment (approximately \$210,000) from FEMA for 2011 flood expenses. The Clay County Highway Department would like to meet with Albright, Opsahl, and Tammi Sather, Clerk, City of Georgetown, to discuss allocation of the FEMA payment to the County. Opsahl and Nathan Gannon, Clay County Highway Department, met to analyze the 2011 FEMA expenditures for Georgetown, and determined that the entire FEMA payment should go to the County. The City has agreed to turn over the partial FEMA payment to the County. Albright noted that the 2009 and 2010 Flood FEMA paperwork has been finalized, and we are now waiting for the State to complete their work to close out the 2011 claim.

The Condemnation Commissioners visited Georgetown to view the Greywind house on 07/30/15. According to Jordan Weir, Vogel Law Firm, the condemnation hearing is scheduled for Thursday, August 27, 2015, at 10:00AM, in the Clay County Courthouse. Michael Greywind has been informed that he will be responsible for the additional costs incurred by the BRRWD plus the \$20,000 down payment on his mortgage through the condemnation proceedings. The attorneys have suggested that the BRRWD could retain ownership of Greywind's new house and enter into a Contract for Deed with him, which would allow the BRRWD to own the property until his debt is paid.

Opsahl is working with the hazardous material removal contractor and is preparing a punch list for Reiner Construction, Inc., when they return to finish the project. Albright advised the Board that there might be some cost increases because the contractor bid the project four years ago.

Project No. 38, Farmstead Ring Dikes. The 2015 Legislature allocated \$400,000 for farmstead ringdikes in the Red River Valley to be administered by the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB). Pat Lynch, DNR, contacted Albright regarding the ringdike allocation. He indicated that if there is a problem with the BRRWD receiving ringdike funding through the RRWMB, the DNR would be willing to work directly with the BRRWD to provide funding. Opsahl will contact the landowners we have on our potential ringdike list to see if they are still interested in the program and then prepare a list of candidates by mid-September to submit to the RRWMB.

Project No. 30, Clay/Wilkin J.D. No. 1. William Nichol Excavating, Inc. is working on the J.D. No. 1 repairs in Clay County. Once Nichol started the work, it became apparent that there was more sediment in the ditch than previously expected. Albright commented that Nichol is basically cleaning the entire length of the ditch in Clay County.

The outlet stabilization effort is now focused on repairs to Wilkin C.D. Nos. 5A, 26, and 22, which will probably expend the existing grant funding (Wolverton Creek) by the 12/31/15 deadline.

Project No. 24, Wilkin C.D. No. 44. Albright has a draft petition prepared for Manston Township to partially abandon the north ditch along 170th ST and to remove the centerline pipe. He plans to forward the

document to the Township. Once the Township files the petition, the BRRWD will schedule a ditch system hearing.

Project No. 23, Becker C.D. No. 15 Repair. Opsahl has had no response to the letters he sent to the affected landowners regarding the repair work south of the Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) on the remaining portions of the ditch system, including the SW¹/₄SE¹/₄, Section 11, Audubon Township, as petitioned for by Kraig Nelson. He plans to visit with the landowners individually to obtain permission to enter their property and to deposit spoil as needed. Opsahl is working with Chad Mattson to complete the repairs later this fall.

Buffer Strip Installation Hearings. The Viewers met on 07/22/15 and set a value of \$6,000 per acre for the easements needed to install the one-rod grassed buffer strips on Wilkin C.D. Nos. 26, 5A, and 22 (Lateral Nos. 1 and 2). The Board plans to hold a combined hearing for all three ditches. HEI filed the Viewers Reports, and the Board discussed the Viewers' findings. **Motion** by Larson to accept the Viewers' Report and authorized Albright to schedule the ditch system hearings as soon as possible. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

Mediation Project Team (PT). The next PT meeting will be held on September 10, 2015, in the Barnesville office. The Fall Tour is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2015.

South Branch of the Buffalo River. Jones reported that Thomas Eskro, HEI, is working on the design for the channel restoration, plus extending the setback levees to the Wilkin County line. Jones is working on an expansion of the investigation to C.R. No. 30 to review a larger retention area.

Barnesville Township Area Study. Jones is working NuStar Energy Company and the Magellan Pipeline Company to determine the depth of their gas line and to potentially lower their pipelines to accommodate improved area drainage and a possible retention area.

Wetlands Reserve Enhancement (WRE). Albright briefly discussed issues with NRCS' progress in developing our proposed WRE sites. Albright met with Nevis Shulstad and her son, Stuart, regarding a possible WRE site for their property. Albright mentioned that the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) program could be a viable funding option for the Shulstads to consider.

Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (RRBFDRWG). Van Amburg noted that the next RRBFDRWG meeting is scheduled for 08/19/15. The North Dakota State University (NDSU) is conducting a study regarding easement values in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Fargo-Moorhead Diversion project. Results from this study, which are expected to be released in a few weeks, could be used to coordinate easement values/acquisition throughout the Red River Basin.

Stony Creek Comprehensive Project. Jones continues to work with Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) to determine a design for a possible structure through Interstate-94 (I-94). He needs to determine their process to do the work and what the BRRWD costs would be before MNDOT starts the design work.

Revised Watershed Management Plan (RWMP)/Watershed District Enlargement (WDE). Jones is working on the draft RMWP. Albright noted that he has completed proofing the sections Jones has provided. Van Amburg noted that Pete Waller, BWSR, was wondering about scheduling the BWSR Committee hearing regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

Albright reported that when the Bois de Sioux Watershed District's (BDSWD) attorney prepared the boundary change petition, he used the incorrect Statute when referencing Watershed Law. BWSR contacted BDSWD, noting the typographical error. BWSR will schedule a public hearing regarding the proposed boundary changes in Fergus Falls or Breckenridge later this fall.

COE F-M Diversion. Van Amburg noted that the Diversion Authority will meet this week. He reported that the Diversion Authority has been instructed by a Federal Judge to halt any construction work on the Oxbow/Hickson/Bakke dike. The Court did allow house construction to continue in this area. The Court Order does not apply to flood mitigation related construction in the City of Fargo.

Wilkin/Otter Tail J.D. No. 2. Jones has been working with Julie Aadland, Area Hydrologist, DNR, regarding a possible DNR permit to raise the east berm of J.D. No. 2 in Sections 7 and 18, Orwell Township, Otter Tail County, to address Dan Bradow's concerns about flooding on his property. Jones visited with Bradow today about his inlet pipes into J.D. No. 2. He also asked Bradow for clarification regarding his concerns about a wash out site along 190th ST near Bradow's property. Jones also needs to visit with Otter Tail County regarding Carlisle Township's concern about the road sideslope on 240th ST. He observed that this area is approximately 500'-1,000' upstream of J.D. No. 2, Lateral No. 1, and doesn't appear to be part of the ditch system. Jones needs to work with the Otter Tail County ditch inspector to confirm who has jurisdiction of the problem area. The Board discussed Otter Tail County's billing practices for the joint county ditch repairs.

2015 Red River Stressor Response Project. Albright discussed a joint Red River Stressor project involving the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the North Dakota of Health (NDH), entitled "Red River of the North Stressor Response Project-Periphyton Monitoring". The MPCA contacted the BRRWD to ask if we would agree to be the project overseer and contract holder. The BRRWD will receive a total of approximately \$3,000 to administer the project funding. The project, which will investigate the relationships among nutrients, suspended sediment, primary productivity, and the biological response of the Red River of the North, will be completed by the end of the year. The project results will be submitted to the International Joint Commission. Additional sites with identical parameters are being collected in Manitoba. Algal taxonomy will be conducted by RESPEC Laboratories. Energy Laboratories in Montana will be doing the analysis. **Motion** by Kobiela to enter into the agreement with MPCA and NDH to administer the project. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

Upper Red River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Albright explained that the next step for this study would be to schedule a landowner meeting to satisfy the public outreach/communication requirement. Currently, we are waiting for MPCA to move the project forward.

Elkton Township Wetland Restoration. Chuck Anderson submitted a bill for the weed mowing on the levees. Anderson is still waiting for a response from the contractor's insurance company regarding his crop loss claim.

All of the necessary landowner easement signatures have been obtained, and Corey Elmer, Vogel Law Firm, forwarded the paperwork to BWSR last week for signatures. Once BWSR executes the documents, they can be filed with Clay County. As soon as the easements are filed, the BRRWD can start using 20% of the wetland mitigation banking credits immediately, and after 5 years, we should receive the full allotment of credits.

Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee. At their 07/27/15 meeting, the BRRWD authorized signing the Enbridge, Inc. \$100,000 grant agreement in association with the Minnesota Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils, Inc. (MARC&D). Albright sent the signed agreement to the MARC&D for signature. The BRRWD hopes to use this funding to start the channel restoration project,

and pay for the outlet stabilization/buffer strip work on Wilkin County C.D. Nos. 5A, 22, and 26. The office will handle distributing a public press release regarding the Enbridge grant award.

The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) is meeting tomorrow to determine which grant applicants will be offered an interview. In addition, Jones is still working with Scott Smith, NRCS, to obtain possible Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding for this project.

Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP). Albright reported that Wilkin and West Otter Tail Counties are wrapping up the pilot area program by the 12/31/15 deadline. The NRCS through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) has grant money available to expand the MAWQCP statewide. Plans are to hire a coordinator for each of the Technical Service Areas (TSA) to coordinate regional certification efforts. Marci McLaughlin, Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)/MAWQCP, would like the BRRWD to consider participating in facilitating the implementation of a coordinator position for TSA#1 (Red River Valley). The Board discussed the proposal.

BRRWD Altered Hydrology Study. The Board discussed a potential Clean Water Fund (CWF) project application being sponsored by HEI that will look at altered hydrology within the BRRWD. Water quality monitoring done to date within the BRRWD can estimate land run-off contributions. However, the engineers know that some of the sediment in our waterways is also coming from the stream banks. If funded, this study would try to calculate the amount of loading that is occurring from within the stream channel. The benefits that could be realized by the BRRWD from the Study include: (1.) Set goals for "altered hydrology" from MPCA stressor ID reports; (2.) Connect benefits from potential Best Management Practices (BMPs) to altered hydrology goals; and (3.) Estimate how hydrology changes will impact stream channel stability. The study would make it possible to connect BMP implementation to changes in stream sediment discharge, and make our grant applications more competitive. The Board had an extended discussion regarding this proposal. The BRRWD's match for this study would be approximately \$11,000. The CWF application deadline is 08/25/15. **Motion** by Fjestad to participate in the study and authorize the \$11,000 match expenditure. **Seconded** by Kobiela. **Approved.**

Administrative Assistant Hiring. Albright gave the Board a brief update on the new office assistant hiring. We have two applicants scheduled for interviews on 08/12/15. More information will be available regarding this process at the 08/24/15 meeting.

Repair Contracts. Jones had contracts prepared for the Board's signature for projects the Board previously awarded to Johnson Excavation (Clay C.D. No. 41 channel repair) and American Enterprises, Inc. (Clay C.D. No. 41-Lateral channel repair). Jones noted that Johnson Excavation plans to start work this week with a pre-construction meeting on site on 08/13/15.

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Legislative Update. Albright provided a copy of the recent MAWD Legislative update for the Board's review.

Manager Appointments. Albright announced that Managers Hanson, Fjestad, Larson, and Kobiela were reappointed for three-year terms by their respective Counties. The office will forward letters to the State of Minnesota to record the reappointments.

2016 Budget Hearing. The budget hearing notices have been forwarded to the newspapers for publication. Albright has scheduled a meeting with Wilkin County regarding the ditch systems they recently turned over to the BRRWD. Albright noted that according to the Board's authorization at the 07/27/15 meeting, the hearing notice included all potential levies, including the RRWMB levy. The Board has a meeting with the

Otter Tail County Commissioners tomorrow morning (08/11/15). On Tuesday, September 1, 2015, the Board will meet with the Becker County Commissioners. Discussions will include possible RRWMB membership. The 2014 Annual Report and the 2014 BRRWD Financial Audit will also be distributed to the Commissioners. Manager Larson noted that after the Board's meeting with Wilkin County, Commissioner Lyle Hovland asked to meet with him privately to discuss the information they received at the meeting with the Managers. Albright pointed out that the Board can submit a preliminary budget by September 15, 2015, that includes all the proposed levies, and then file a final budget by 12/15/15 if they decide to remove the RRWMB levy. He explained that they can reduce the levy in December, but they can't increase it. The Board had an extended discussion regarding RRWMB membership.

CWF Grant Applications. Jones noted that he is working on new CWF grant applications for the Board's review at their next meeting.

Clay Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Tour. Van Amburg noted that the Clay SWCD Fall Tour is scheduled for September 10, 2015. He encouraged the other Managers to consider attending. Van Amburg suggested that the BRRWD should send a formal invitation to NRCS State Conservationist Kathy Pullman to attend either our Fall Tour in October, or a future PT meeting. He also suggested that the BRRWD send a letter to Congressman Collin Peterson enlisting his help with the problems we are experiencing with obtaining NRCS funding.

Ditch/Project Identification. Van Amburg asked if the staff could provide maps showing the BRRWD's legal ditch systems/projects to help the Board become more familiar with their locations. Jones noted that HEI could provide that information. The Managers would like to have the information in booklet format for easy reference.

Buffer Strip Violations. The Board discussed ditch inspection schedules and options for dealing with landowner encroachment on ditch system buffer strips. Van Amburg noted that the Board should set up a meeting with County SWCDs to discuss how we can collaborate regarding the new buffer strip legislation. The Board had an extended discussion about the new legislation.

The following bills were presented for approval:

Accounts Payable	Description	Account	Amount
Agassiz Mechanical, Inc.	#217075, spring service	Admin.	\$ 338.00
AmeriPride	July billing-office rugs (2)	Admin.	\$ 53.44
Anderson Custom Farms	#161, wetland/dike mowing	Elkton Wetland Restoration	\$ 2,442.00
Barnesville Phone Co.	7/25/15 billing-Phones/DSL	Admin.	\$ 289.02
Bridge Comm., LLC	1-year support subscription (5)	Admin.	\$ 450.00
City of Barnesville	5/29/15-6/29/15 office utilities	Admin.	\$ 412.33
Finish Grade Const., Inc.	#035857, Branch 3 repairs, Sect. 8	Wilkin C.D. No. 41	\$ 11,300.50
Finish Grade Const., Inc.	#035858, driveway repair	Wilkin C.D. No. 41	\$ 9,423.50
Gladen Construction, Inc.	Pay Request No. 8	Pj. 71, 50th AVE	\$ 14,586.52
H.E.	July billing summary	Varies-see attached	\$ 114,977.72
Hancock	#1147209, tie bolts	Wilkin C.D. No. 3-3	\$ 384.00
LM Road Services LLC	#440-Leafy Spurge Spraying	Varies	\$ 7,878.50
LM Road Services LLC	#441-Brush Spraying	Pj. 31, Deerhorn Crk. Levees	\$ 5,928.75
LM Road Services LLC	#442-Cattail Spraying	Varies	\$ 7,339.00
MN Dept. of Health	#00000288605, WQ analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3	\$ 782.00
Post Master	Annual box rental	Admin.	\$ 50.00
Premium Waters, Inc.	#366590-07-15, office water	Admin.	\$ 34.37
Purchase Power	08/02/15 billing, meter postage	Admin.	\$ 100.00
RMB Laboratories, Inc.	#270520, WQ analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3	\$ 632.00
RMB Laboratories, Inc.	#271458, WQ analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3	\$ 474.00

RMB Laboratories, Inc.	#271653, WQ analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3	\$ 711.00
RMB Laboratories, Inc.	271802, WQ analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3	\$ 342.00
RMB Laboratories, Inc.	271963, WQ analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3	\$ 641.00
Roger Lundberg	07/28/15 billings, beaver control	Becker C.D. Nos. 15/19	\$ 623.73
RRVCPA	06/20/15-07/31/15 service (3)	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 334.19
SECAP Finance	#2481200-JY15, 8/20/15-11/20/15	Admin.	\$ 112.22
Stuart Bjorgan	#241904, Wall ST mowing	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 620.00
Terracon	#T671325, 07/05/15-07/25/15	Clay C.D. 10, 11, 32, 33,41	\$ 5,158.00
Tim Crompton Excavating	#397612, clean culvert	Wilkin C.D. No. 41	\$ 560.00
Tim Crompton Excavating	#397615, beaver dam removal	Clay C.D. No. 60	\$ 210.00
Tim Crompton Excavating	#397616, culvert repairs (Brandt)	Clay C.D. No. 36	\$ 1,215.00
Tim Crompton Excavating	#397622, Nelson inlet culverts	Clay C.D. No. 40	\$ 9,020.00
Troy Larson	#15-19, 03/01/15-04/30/15	Admin./PT	\$ 298.64
Troy Larson	#15-27, 05/01/15-06/30/15	Admin.	\$ 269.89
TrueNorth Steel	#FP0000006813, Culvert	Wilkin C.D. No. 41	\$ 4,413.52
TrueNorth Steel	#FP000006855, T.Wulfekuhle culverts	Wilkin C.D. No. 1C	\$ 26,395.20
TrueNorth Steel	#HU0000011519, S.Nelson culvert	Wilkin C.D. No. 43	\$ 11,935.92
Vogel Law Firm	#158356, June Billing	Admin.	\$ 69.00
Vogel Law Firm	#158357, June Billing	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 46.00
Vogel Law Firm	#158358, June Billing	COE Diversion	\$ 437.00
Vogel Law Firm	#158359, June Billing	Pj. 77, Clay 51-Lat. 3	\$ 713.00
Vogel Law Firm	#158476, July Billing	Pj. 39, Georgetown	\$ 3,375.75
Vogel Law Firm	#158477, July Billing	Elkton Wetland Restoration	\$ 377.00
Wilkin Co. HWY Dept.	Ditch billings thru 6/30/15	Varies	\$ 62,560.76
Wm. Nichol Ex., Inc.	#177, Clay Co. repair	Pj. 30, Clay-Wilkin J.D. 1	\$ 18,112.50
WREC	06/18/15-07/17/15 service (2)	Pj. 46, Turtle Lake	\$ 133.47
Xcel Energy	06/24/15-07/26/15 service/office	Admin.	\$ 67.32
Xcel Energy	06/27/15-07/27/15 service (2)	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 86.17
			\$ 326,713.93

Motion by Fjestad to approve payment of the bills. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

Next Meeting. The next regular meeting and 2016 Annual Budget Hearing (9:00 PM) will be held on Monday, August 24, 2015, at 7:00 PM in our Barnesville office.

Adjournment. Chairman Van Amburg adjourned the meeting at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hanson, Secretary