

# ***BUFFALO-RED RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT***

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## MINUTES FOR MANAGERS' MEETING April 11, 2016

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held their regular meeting on Monday, April 11, 2016, at 7:02 PM in the Barnesville office. BRRWD Managers present were Gerald L. Van Amburg, John E. Hanson, Mark T. Anderson, Breanna L. Kobiela, Catherine L. Affield, Peter V. Fjestad, and Troy E. Larson. BRRWD Staff attending included: Bruce E. Albright, Administrator, and Erik S. Jones, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI). Others attending included Paul Ehlert, Robert Ehlert, Bernard Etzler, Jeremy Tischer, Vance Johnson, Jerry Nordick, Jay Nord, Greg Grommesh, Dan Olsgaard, Paul Quinnild, Max Peppel, Mike Nelson, Richard Peppel, John Ready, Larry Morris, David Henderson, Bryan Henderson, Jeffrey Steiner, and Jared Nordick.

Chairman Van Amburg called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and announced that the proceedings were being recorded to aid in the preparation of the minutes.

**Secretary's Report.** The Board reviewed draft minutes for the 03/28/16 regular meeting and the 08/27/15 Project No. 77, Clay County (C.D.) No. 51-Lateral No. 3 Final Hearing. Manager Affield noted one minor correction for the 03/28/16 minutes. **Motion** by Anderson to approve the minutes with the noted correction. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

**Treasurer's Report.** The Board reviewed the BRRWD's monthly financial report. Administrative disbursements totaled \$28,698.08 for the month and \$89,584.69 year to date. Cash on hand is \$330,056.61, and the total income for the year is \$637,705.79. Income for this month totaled \$3,778.62, including \$3,412.17 from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for the Upper Red River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) project, plus bank account interest payments (\$141.45) and HEI office rent (\$225). The current 2016 Accounts Receivable balance is \$9,397,984.38. This amount includes the pending 2016 tax payments from the counties, which should start coming in June, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant agreement for Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation-Phase 4. We will bill the DNR for reimbursement as the Oakport project costs are incurred.

Manager Kobiela asked about a pending payment from Clay County to offset the BRRWD contribution to the Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) Project in association with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Study. Albright will check on this payment's status and provide an update at the next Board meeting. **Motion** by Fjestad to approve the Treasurer's Report. **Seconded** by Kobiela. **Approved.**

**Peppel Diking Concern.** The Board heard from landowners regarding concerns in Sections 27 and 28, Barnesville Township, Clay County, regarding the removal of an old township road. Albright explained work completed by Dan Olsgaard, the renter of Paul Quinnild's property in the E½NE¼, Section 27, to remove an old abandoned township road on the section line. Olsgaard placed the fill along the property line north of the bridge, creating a berm. Olsgaard will also need to remove a number of large exposed rocks in the old road bed. Max Peppel indicated that the neighbors will work together to grade and gavel the old road bed.

Albright discussed another issue in this same area regarding Greg Grommesh's work along the quarterline between the Grommesh and the Peppel property in Section 28. Grommesh removed fill from the property line and used it to widen an approach and to fill in a low area on his property to facilitate the use of larger

machinery. The property line was lowered approximately 2' on Grommesh's side, leaving the field in an uneven and rough condition. Grommesh noted that no fill was placed in a nearby wetland. Grommesh said he had planned to level out the field last fall when he did the work, but was delayed by the weather. He will clean up the site this spring prior to planting. The landowners discussed concerns about the location of the property line between their fields. Albright observed that boundary disputes are not under the purview of the BRRWD. He suggested that the landowners might benefit from having a survey conducted to establish the legal property boundary. In addition, he suggested that the landowners conduct a field review of the site in question, and if there are still problems, they could contact the BRRWD office again.

**Wilkin County Ditch Assessments.** Albright noted that the office has received a number of phone calls from landowners with concerns about the 2016 Wilkin County ditch assessments. Albright explained that in several years ago, the Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) started receiving funding from Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to bring the county ditch systems up to current standards. Most of the ditches lacked inlet culverts, buffer strips, and generally needed repairs and maintenance. The SWCD and the Wilkin County Highway Department agreed to work together to complete this required work on two to three ditch systems per year with Wilkin County equipment and BWSR funding through the SWCD. In 2012, the BRRWD was enlarged to bring this area into the Watershed District, and Wilkin County transferred all their ditch systems to the BRRWD. The Board agreed that the Highway Department should continue their ditch system "retrofitting" projects with the rationale that while the initial costs might be high, future costs would be lower if the ditches were properly maintained. The Wilkin SWCD received another BWSR grant to complete more work in 2016. At the BRRWD's Budget Hearing last fall, the Board levied \$150,000 to complete repairs on Wilkin C.D. No. 7 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. Albright noted that the landowners are concerned about the amount and term of their assessment. The ditch system benefits were redetermined in 1975 with total benefits of \$94,455. He observed that the current assessment is actually more than the total system benefits.

The landowners were concerned that the Wilkin County Highway Department's costs might be too high. The Board felt that the County does a good job, and that the costs are comparable to other contractors. The 2016 BWSR grant payment for C.D. No. 7 repair has not yet been determined. Albright observed that it might be possible to divide the repair costs over a two or three-year period to reduce the assessments. He explained that with a Watershed District, the landowners are the owners of the ditch and pay for any work associated with it. Any unspent revenue remains in the ditch system's financial account and earns interest. The current balance in the C.D. No. 7 account is \$32,435.37. Albright suggested that the Board could contact the County Auditor to see if they would be willing to change their property tax billing for Wilkin C.D. No. 7 and spread the payment over two-year period. He read through the 2016 assessments levied for the other Wilkin County ditch systems. The Board discussed the current balance in the C.D. No. 7 financial account and potential BWSR grant proceeds that could help pay for the 2016 repairs.

Robert Ehlert questioned why the repair costs for C.D. No. 7 were so high and why the Board levied the entire amount in one payment for 2016. Managers Fjestad and Larson commented that the Wilkin County Highway Department advised the Board that the landowners would be able to absorb the repair costs in one year. There was also a discrepancy regarding how many miles the ditch repair will cover. Van Amburg suggested Albright could contact the County regarding these issues. Jerry Nordick commented that the landowners shouldn't be taxed for the full amount when there is BWSR grant money that will be available for some percentage of the costs. Albright explained that he will contact the Wilkin County Auditor with these concerns to see if there is a way to adjust the current C.D. No. 7 levy.

Robert Ehlert commented that under Minnesota Drainage Law, the BRRWD is required to let bids for any work estimated to cost over a certain amount (Minnesota Statutes Annotated (M.S.A.) 103E.705). Albright explained that there will be costs associated with advertising for bids, engineering, and administration that would be a ditch system expense and add to the project costs if the Board hires a contractor other than the County to do the work. He added that the County does not have a profit margin built into their costs, as a

contractor would, but if the landowners want the Board to solicit bids for the work, we will follow their wishes, according to Statute for the repairs on Wilkin C.D. No. 7. The Board discussed the question regarding the current assessment for C.D. No. 7. **Motion** by Anderson to reduce the 2016 Wilkin C.D. No. 7 assessment to from \$150,000 to \$75,000, subject to the County Auditor's approval to make those changes. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.**

Larson asked if the work on the ditch systems should be suspended until the BRRWD can let construction bids, etc. Albright will investigate this issue and report to the Board at the next meeting. Larson pointed out that he didn't question the County's proposal to continue their ditch system retrofit projects because they do very good work and they had the process in place for the remaining ditch systems at the time of the transfers. Albright explained that the County bills the BRRWD/ditch system only for the work they complete on an hourly basis, plus materials, etc.

Jeremy Tischer commented that smaller C.D. No. 7 benefit area appears to be absorbing some of the drainage repair costs for the larger C.D. No. 3 system, which he feels is all the same water. He suggested that C.D. Nos. 3 and 7 should be combined into one system. Jones noted that the ditches could be consolidated, but it would require a redetermination of benefits, hearings, etc. Kobiela asked about how the financial account balances would be allocated in the event of merging two systems. Albright thought that the balances would go toward the individual ditch costs even when combined until that old money was spent.

Albright noted that the BRRWD and Wilkin County Highway Department held a public meeting regarding the proposed repairs/costs for both C.D. Nos. 3-Branch 2 and 7 on 09/09/15. The landowners asked if the County has a detailed plan on a mile by mile basis for the C.D. No. 7 repairs. Albright said that the County would have the repair plans. He added that the County has the ditch right-of-way staked and is ready to begin work about June 1. Apparently, the landowners did not receive a notification from the County regarding the pending repair work on their property. Albright reiterated that he will contact the County Auditor regarding the approved 2016 reduction for C.D. No. 7, and he will investigate the bidding process for the remaining Wilkin County ditch repairs scheduled for later this summer.

Robert Ehlert continued to discuss his questions about the proposed repair costs and the Board's decision to levy \$150,000 for the work on C.D. No. 7. He felt that the cost per mile was excessive and wanted to see a detailed plan about what the costs would be on a per mile basis. Van Amburg said that the Board would get this information from the County. Jones commented that the proposed work for C.D. No. 7 could vary from a typical ditch cleanout project. Albright will get more detailed information from the County regarding a breakdown of costs per mile for review at an upcoming BRRWD meeting.

Jerry Nordick had a question about his assessment for C.D. No. 23. He wondered if the assessment was for earlier work completed before the ditch system was transferred to the BRRWD. Albright explained that the assessment was for bufferstrip acquisitions. Nordick asked if the assessment for C.D. No. 1A was also for bufferstrip acquisition, and Albright said that was correct.

There was also a question about Wilkin C.D. No. 4 assessments. Albright explained that the assessment was for finishing slope repairs, adjusting inlet culvert elevations, and acquiring bufferstrips. Albright observed since the BRRWD now has jurisdiction over all the Wilkin County ditches, the Board will try to do a better job of coordinating with the landowners regarding proposed repairs and assessments in the future.

**Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee.** Jay Nord asked about the BRRWD's interview in regards to our BWSR Targeted Watershed Program grant application. Albright and Jones met on 03/31/16 with a review panel comprised of representatives from BWSR, the Department of Agriculture, MPCA, and Department of Health, to be considered for funding. BWSR has \$8.75 million available in 2016 for this program.

Albright said that the BRRWD is asking for \$2.8 million for our project. If selected, we are not guaranteed to receive the full requested amount. He added that last week, the BRRWD had a meeting with the State Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) agency personnel in our office. NRCS has Wetlands Reserve Enhancement (WRE) funding available for 2017 that could potentially pay 100% of the easement and construction costs. As with any NRCS program, the individual landowners are responsible for applying for the funding. Van Amburg felt this funding source looked very promising. Van Amburg suggested that the Board hold a Phase 1 landowner informational meeting to encourage NRCS sign-up. Albright explained that this is a busy time of year for landowners, and we do have some time to work with the landowners since the WRE funds won't be available until 2017.

Jones is also working on a funding application for the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) Conservation Partners Legacy Grants (CPLG) Program, which is due on May 26, 2016.

**Other Business brought before the Board included:**

**Permit No. 16-027, Randy Affield.** Applicant proposes to replace a damaged 18" dia. corrugated metal pipe (CMP) with a new 24" dia. CMP crossing the centerline of 150<sup>th</sup> ST on the north side of 100<sup>th</sup> AVE S in the southwest corner of Section 22, Elkton Township, Clay County. Albright recommended permit approval.

**Permit No. 16-028, Cristian Anderson.** Applicant proposes to bury a single line of random tile on the bottom of an existing field ditch in the corner of the NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 1, Cromwell Township, Clay County, to cross the field drainage with farm machinery.

**Permit No. 16-029, City of Moorhead.** Applicant proposes the construction of new city streets, including the installation of a 78" dia. storm sewer pipe from the Horizon Shores Regional Pond to 24<sup>th</sup> AVE S and 45<sup>th</sup> ST S in the W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, Section 14, Moorhead Township, Clay County. This work is part of the City of Moorhead's Master Plan for the Horizon Shores Addition on the east side of the city. Jones recommended permit approval.

**Permit No. 16-030, Becker County Highway Department.** Applicant proposes to remove a 36" dia. reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) and a cattle crossing in the NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 35, Riceville Township, and replace it with a 88" x 54" span RCP arch pipe (RCP-A), as part of a reconstruction project for County Road (C.R.) No. 13. The upstream structure is a 36" dia. x 62' CMP and is located approximately 2 miles east of the project on 220<sup>th</sup> AVE. The natural waterway flows westerly from the project location into Bisson Lake. Jones recommended permit approval.

**Permit No. 16-031, Alan Hansen.** Applicant proposes to install a new field approach with a pipe in the township right-of-way (r-o-w) to get access from 220<sup>th</sup> ST S in the NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 34, Hawley Township, Clay County.

**Permit No. 16-032, Kenneth Kading.** Applicant proposes to replace an existing 18" dia. culvert with a new 24" dia. pipe in the NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 16, Kurtz Township, Clay County. Wade Opsahl, Technician, HEI, conducted a field review and verified adjacent culvert sizes and locations. Jones recommended permit approval.

**Permit No. 16-033, Clay County Highway Department.** Applicant proposes to add one line of 16' x 10' RCB to the existing two lines of 12' x 10' RCB in the crossing over the Buffalo River on 220<sup>th</sup> ST S on the line between Sections 22 and 23, Hawley Township, Clay County. The proposed additional culvert will increase the existing structure's capacity to accommodate the river flows at this location, eliminate the current high water velocities, reduce road overtopping, and reestablish the original hydraulics for the upstream area, according to the detailed Flood Insurance Study (FIS) rate map. The project will require a

DNR permit to work in protected waters. Jones has reviewed the proposal and recommended permit approval.

**Permit No. 16-034, Clay County Highway Department.** Applicant proposes to replace an existing bridge on 100<sup>th</sup> AVE S crossing Hay Creek between Section 22 and 27, Elkton Township, Clay County, with two lines of 12' x 5' RCB culverts with minor grading and riprap at the culvert inlets and outlets, and seeding. The project will require a DNR permit to work in protected waters. Jones has reviewed the proposal and recommended permit approval.

**Permit No. 16-035, Clay County Highway Department.** Applicant proposes to replace two lines of 10' 11" x 7' 1" arch culverts with one line of 14' x 9' RCB-A pipe on Clay C.D. No. 10 at the junction of 130<sup>th</sup> AVE N and 60<sup>th</sup> ST N between Sections 17 and 18, Morken Township, including riprap and seeding. Jones recommended permit approval.

**Motion** by Fjestad to approve Permit Nos. 16-027 through 16-035. Permit approval is subject to the applicable standard disclaimers, state/federal agency permitting requirements, and road authorities' permission to work within their road r-o-w. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

**Duane Boeder Complaint.** Duane Boeder contacted Albright today, but Albright has not had time to respond.

**Bryan and David Henderson Waterway Concern.** Copies of the additional survey in the NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 27, Manston Township, Wilkin County, regarding drainage concerns in Section 34, Manston Township, were mailed today to Terry Neilson and his renter, David Abel. According to the survey, there are some high spots that could be cleaned. The Board will wait for their response.

**Clay/Wilkin County Line Drainage Concerns.** The BRRWD held two landowner informational meetings to evaluate potential project options for a possible new drainage ditch on the south side of the county line. A landowner recently contacted the office asking that Albright draft a petition for a legal ditch system. One issue is that the land along the mile of the proposed ditch in Section 6, Wolverton Township, involves multiple out-of-state owners and an estate, which might create problems with the petition signing requirements.

**Project No. 77, Clay C.D. No. 51-Lateral No. 3.** BRRWD Attorney Tami Norgard, Vogel Law Firm, is in the process of reviewing and listing the documents related to Attorney Zenas Baer's request for information from the BRRWD. Attorney Baer has asked to change Jones's deposition date to either the May 3 or 4.

**Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration.** Albright toured the project last week with Dan Gunderson, Minnesota Public Radio, and discussed his upcoming article on water quality. Gunderson also met with Jared and Jerry Nordick that same day. The group briefly discussed the project water elevations.

**Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation.** The Fischer family responded to the BRRWD's February 2016 lease payment offer of \$24,153.27 for a temporary fill storage site on their property for the past four years. Our initial offer was for \$20,604.32. Their initial payment request last year was for approximately \$40,000. On April 6, the Fischers countered our offer with a request for \$35,000. The Board discussed this proposal and potential litigation costs if we were to go to condemnation for the lease. Albright suggested that the Board wait to negotiate a final settlement of this issue until the dirt pile has been removed from the Fischer property after the completion of the Phase 4 construction. Albright will contact Elaine Gess, who is the contact person for the Fischer family, to let her know the Board plans to wait until later this summer to settle the negotiations after the project is finished.

Albright plans to work with the Vogel Law Firm to obtain the remaining easements for the Phase 4 work. Jones reported that the contractor, R.J. Zavoral and Sons, Inc., has started tree removal for Phase 4.

**Project No. 39, Georgetown Levee.** Wade Opsahl, Technician, HEI, is working on a few final cleanup items this spring, including the ball diamond seeding. Opsahl has estimated amounts from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 2011 spring flood reimbursements so that we can determine what the final project costs will be for the City of Georgetown. He will forward this information to the City.

**Project No. 34, Clay C.D. No. 41.** Jones met today with American Crystal Sugar Company's (ACSC) engineering consultant from Wenck Associates regarding repair alternatives for a slide on the ditch system in the factory yard. Jones has proposed a design with a higher embankment (elevation 895.0) and a single line of 16' x 8' RCB pipe, placed at a lower elevation to provide protection for the 10 to 15-year event. ACSC is reviewing the proposal in regards to their budget. Wenck is encouraging ACSC to consider HEI's crossing alternative instead of trying to repair the slope, which could trigger more slides because of pressure from the adjacent lagoons. ACSC previously indicated that they had budgeted approximately \$100,000 to contribute to the repairs, but now they might prefer to wait for next year to do the repair, or work out a way for the BRRWD bill them for the work next year. Albright observed that at this point, ACSC needs to make a final decision regarding a plan. The Board had a brief discussion about the history of the existing crossing, which consists of two 48" dia. pipes. Over the last several wet years, this low water crossing would wash out, and ACSC subsequently raised the road nearly 5' higher than the original design. Albright explained that the proposed alternative would bring the road elevation back into compliance with the design elevation and reduce the chance of the crossing washing out in a flood. Jones added that currently, the crossing is designed for about a 5-year event, and the proposed option would convey about a 35-year event. Albright also suggested that the work should be started as soon as possible while the plant is not operating in June-August.

**Project No. 30, Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch No. 1 (J.D. 1).** The landowners have submitted their petition and \$20,000 bond for an outlet diversion to take water out of J.D. No. 1 to flow west along the south side of the County line to Wolverton Creek. Albright will review the petition and then forward it to Attorney Norgard for her review.

Manager Anderson has received a few phone calls from landowners asking if they could level off the spoil on the ditch r-o-w left after the Clay County repair last fall. Albright noted that HEI will be staking in the near future in preparation for reseeding the r-o-w this spring, and landowners should not work in this area.

**Project No. 24, Wilkin C.D. No. 44.** Albright noted that there is a meeting scheduled with BWSR on 04/20/16 to discuss a Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) proposal for the South Branch of the Buffalo River in Section 11, Manston Township, Wilkin County. This larger project could affect the Township's proposal to abandon the north ditch of 170<sup>th</sup> ST, remove a deteriorated centerline pipe, and relocate the legal ditch system to the south side of the road in Sections 3 and 10, Manston Township. Jones noted that BWSR could make minor adjustments to their plans that would make the channel relocation possible.

**Mediation PT.** The PT met last week on 04/07/16, and their next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2016, in the Barnesville office at 7:00 PM. Albright noted that the Board has to develop guidelines for easement values for the various potential retention projects. Jones plans to meet with the DNR Safety personnel to discuss the high hazard dam classification for the proposed Stony Creek structure. Jones also noted that when the BRRWD met with NRCS personnel on 04/06/16, they discussed the Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) program as a potential funding source for some of the BRRWD's retention projects, including Stony Creek.

**Revised Watershed Management Plan (RWMP).** Albright and Jones continue to work on the review of the draft Plan.

**Buffalo River/Upper Red River TMDL Studies.** MPCA entered into a separate contract with HEI in an attempt to complete the Buffalo River TMDL. The Upper Red River TMDL is still on schedule to be completed by the target date of 06/30/16.

**Elkton Township Wetland Restoration.** Attorney Corey Elmer continues to work with BWSR on the landowner easements. He has scheduled a phone conference with BWSR personnel on 04/13/16 in this regard.

**Diversion Authority (DA) JPA.** Albright summarized discussions regarding the DA's new Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) at the 03/28/16 BRRWD meeting. The Board discussed the JPA and the projected costs for the development of the Diversion project. Van Amburg contacted the City of Moorhead and Clay County to express the BRRWD's desire to work together with the other Minnesota entities regarding the JPA. He encouraged the Managers to review the current draft of the JPA and send comments to the City of Moorhead's Attorney, John T. Shockley, who is in the process of finalizing the JPA. Affield commented that she visited with Wilkin County Attorney Tim Fox regarding the Diversion project, and she suggested that the Board could invite him to a meeting. The Minnesota entities will discuss the Wilkin/Richland Upstream Coalition letter they sent to the DA. Attorneys Norgard and Shockley will provide the Managers with a draft copy of the Minnesota response to that letter this week. Albright will forward the information to the Managers, as soon as he gets it.

**Bufferstrip Legislation.** Albright commented that neither Clay County nor any of the BRRWD ditch systems have been covered yet in the DNR's buffer mapping efforts. HEI continues to work on surveying the 84 legal ditch systems within the BRRWD. He requested that HEI provide an updated spreadsheet with their progress.

**Clay C.D. Nos. 10, 32, and 33.** Albright suggested that the BRRWD contact the road authorities to discuss the proposed slope failure repairs for these ditch systems. The repair costs are going to be significant, and the BRRWD needs to include the Townships and County in the decision-making process to determine what work could be completed this year and a cost share formula for the road authorities.

**Otter Tail River Restoration.** The BRRWD will be mailing "permission to survey" forms to the affected landowners this week for the channel restoration work. Albright noted that some landowners filled out the forms at the 02/25/16 informational meeting held in Breckenridge.

**BRRWD Rules.** The Managers have copies of the draft Rules. Once they have completed their review and are ready to move forward with a final draft, the office will distribute the Rules to BWSR and other various entities for the mandatory 60-day review and comment period. The BRRWD must hold a public hearing before adopting the Rules.

**Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Comprehensive Water Management Plan for the Red River of the North.** Albright noted that the COE has forwarded a copy of their Comprehensive Plan for the BRRWD's review. Albright also had a condensed version of the Plan as a Power Point Presentation if any of the Managers would be interested in reviewing that instead. The COE is working with the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) on the plan. Van Amburg mentioned that there are meetings scheduled regarding the Plan on April 26 and 27, 2016, in Fargo. Jones will review the full report and might attend the meeting.

**City of Barnesville Airport Concern.** Water breaks out of the C.R. No. 52 road ditch along the City airport property and flows into a couple of their outbuildings. Albright and a HEI field technician will

conduct a survey to obtain data to install a small dike in this area to provide flood protection. Once the survey is completed, the City will need to apply for a BRRWD permit for the possible work.

**Clay C.D. No. 3.** Landowner Charles Peterson has requested a partial clean out of C.D. No. 3. Albright recommended that the Board authorize a survey of approximately 2 miles of the ditch system starting at T.H. No. 9 and going downstream. **Motion** by Fjestad to authorize HEI to conduct the referenced survey. **Seconded** by Kobiela. **Approved.**

**Office Lawn Maintenance.** Hoppe Lawn Care Service submitted a 2016 fertilizer and weed control contract for spring and fall applications for \$406.13. **Motion** by Fjestad to approve the contract, which is the same as last year. **Seconded** by Larson. **Approved.**

**The following bills were presented for approval:**

Accounts Payable	Description	Account	Amount
AmeriPride	March billing (3)	Admin.	\$ 80.16
Barnesville Record-Review	Forum notices (3)	Mediation PT	\$ 324.00
Bruce E. Albright	MAWD lodging/meals	Admin.	\$ 602.02
Carmen Pattengale	March office cleaning (3)	Admin.	\$ 195.00
Dacotah Paper Co.	#21993, soap/towels	Admin.	\$ 146.68
Daily News/News Monitor	Forum notices (2)	Mediation PT	\$ 142.43
Eagle Café	Advisory Committee Food	Admin.	\$ 80.16
Everbank Commercial Finance	#3671947, late fee	Admin.	\$ 91.80
Fergus Falls Daily Journal	Forum notices (3)	Mediation PT	\$ 265.50
Forum Communications Co.	#1704952 Forum notices (3)	Mediation PT	\$ 505.35
Forum Communications Co.	#1703659, DL Tribune notices (3)	Mediation PT	\$ 278.10
HEI	March billing statement	Varies-see attached	\$ 176,548.88
Jerome Flottesmesch	Advisory mileage	Admin.	\$ 46.44
LM Road Service	Clay County Ditch Brushing	Varies	\$ 2,670.25
MAWD	BEA-registration	Admin.	\$ 125.00
Premium Waters, Inc.	#367590-03-16	Admin.	\$ 34.37
RRVCPA	03/01/16-04/01/16 service (3)	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 249.85
The Press	Forum notices (3)	Mediation PT	\$ 283.50
United States Treasury	1st Qtr. Form 941 taxes	Admin.	\$ 1,246.95
Vogel Law Firm	#172876, February Billing	Admin.	\$ 161.00
Vogel Law Firm	#172877, February Billing	COE Diversion	\$ 1,840.00
Vogel Law Firm	#173105, March billing	Pj. 39, Georgetown	\$ 219.00
Vogel Law Firm	#173106, March billing	Wetland Restorations	\$ 460.00
WREC	02/18/16-03/18/16 service (2)	Pj. 46, Turtle Lake	\$ 62.53
Xcel Energy	02/25/16-03/27/16 office	Admin.	\$ 67.32
Xcel Energy	02/27/16-03/28/16 service	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 68.07
			<b>\$ 186,794.36</b>

**Motion** by Anderson to approve payment of the bills. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

**Wilkin C.D. No. 6A.** Jerry Nordick noted that C.D. No. 6A in Section 9, Meadows Township, needs to be sprayed for brush. He wanted to know who was responsible for ditch maintenance, spraying, etc., now that the BRRWD has jurisdiction over the Wilkin County ditch systems. Van Amburg said that the BRRWD is the new ditch authority and is responsible for ditch maintenance. Albright explained that the Townships could inspect their ditches and let the BRRWD know what needs to be done.



**Tiling Field Day.** Jared Nordick mentioned that a tile demonstration field day has been scheduled for June 23, 2016, on the Nordick farm in association with NRCS and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA).

**MAWD Summer Tour.** The Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) has scheduled their summer tour on June 22, 23, and 24, 2016, in Winona, MN.

**Next Meeting.** The BRRWD will hold their next regular meeting on Monday, April 25, 2016, at 7:00 PM in our Barnesville office.

**Adjournment.** Chairman Van Amburg adjourned the meeting at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hanson, Secretary