

BUFFALO-RED RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

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MINUTES FOR MANAGERS' MEETING January 26, 2015

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held a regular meeting on Monday, January 26, 2015, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. BRRWD Managers present were Gerald L. Van Amburg, Breanna L. Kobiela, Mark T. Anderson, John E. Hanson, 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: Tami L. Norgard, Attorney, Vogel Law Firm; Eric Dodds and Rocky Schneider, AE2S; Keith Berndt, Cass County Administrator, and landowners: Caroline Swenson, Lance N. Nelson, Robert Askegaard, Don Nelson, John Ready, Jay Nord, Matt Ness, and Mark Askegaard.

Chairman Van Amburg called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. He 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 01/12/14 regular meeting. Due to late distribution, the Managers agreed to table the minutes until the next meeting to allow time for review.
Tabled.

Treasurer's Report. The Board reviewed the BRRWD's financial status. Cash on hand is currently \$1,347,419.65. Income since the last meeting totaled \$674,690.66. Administrative disbursements for the year total \$26,140.54. Albright noted that the Counties have now remitted their final 2014 tax payments. We also received payments from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the Hawley Buffalo River Restoration project (\$397,000), the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) DNR Grant (\$51,263.95) and the DNR Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) program (\$198,896.99) for Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration. Albright noted that he has added the 2014 financial information to the BWSR performance standards report.

Army Corps of Engineers (COE) F-M Diversion. At the 1/12/15 meeting, the Board took questions/comments from a number of audience members regarding the Diversion project and the pending BRRWD vote on the 2015 Metro Flood Diversion Board of Authority (Diversion Authority) budget, which began on October 1, 2014. In accordance with the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), which the Cities of Fargo and Moorhead, Cass and Clay Counties, the Southeast Cass Water Resource District, and the BRRWD have all signed, each entity is supposed to approve the annual budget. The Managers decided they needed more information from the Diversion Authority regarding the budget, and they invited members of the Authority to tonight's meeting to discuss the budget. Representatives from the F-M Diversion Authority, including Eric Dodds and Rocky Schneider, AE2S; Keith Berndt, Cass County Administrator; and Tami Norgard, the BRRWD's Legal Counsel, were present to discuss the proposed \$210.8 million budget. The proposed funding comes from North Dakota sources. The other five JPA entities have already approved the budget. Watershed meeting attendees also included a number of landowners from within the project's proposed staging area. They felt the BRRWD should wait to approve the budget until the Minnesota Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is completed by the DNR. A draft of the EIS is expected in May 2015.

Erik Dodds, AE2S, who is on the Program Management Team for the Diversion Project, went through the \$210.8 million budget. He explained the budget items, including property acquisitions for the City of Fargo, in-town flood control levee projects, which are integral to the Diversion project; the Oxbow/Hickson/Bakke (OHB) ringdike land/residential acquisitions; and acquisition of property along Rush River to the outlet. Dodds explained that the first step is to obtain permission for right-of-entry so that the surveying and appraisal work can be completed. The acquisition process is expected to extend into 2016. The next budget item is for land acquisition in the staging area for early buyouts for landowners who wish to move into Oxbow, hardship cases, and organic farmland. The funding in the budget for construction will be used primarily for in-town (Fargo) levee construction, the OHB ringdike, and other associated work within Oxbow, plus the costs for construction design consultants. Other items include technical oversight and project management, legal, financial consultants, and utility relocation. The Managers had a number of financial questions for Dodd.

Manager Anderson asked a question about the upcoming assessment district financing vote. He was concerned that landowners in the staging were being disenfranchised. Rocky Schneider explained how the \$725 million of voting values will be distributed: directly benefited properties within the project alignment (1/3), which will be based on the property's project benefit/assessment, and indirectly benefitted local jurisdictional governments within the alignment (2/3). There will also be a third category of votes (approximately \$50 million), which is comprised of the right-of-way property that will be impacted by the various projects. He explained that these votes will have greater value per vote than the other categories because the vote value will be based on the property's entire value, not just the benefit amount.

Van Amburg commented that the Diversion project development will be a long process. The BRRWD has been a signer of the JPA for many years. He feels that the BRRWD can be a part of the process, while remaining neutral on support of the Diversion, and the various project components. By being a member of the Diversion Authority, the BRRWD retains the ability to represent our constituents. Van Amburg believes that the BRRWD is not approving the development of the entire Diversion project by approving the 2015 budget, just continuing to be part of the overall process.

Tami Norgard discussed the reasons for the BRRWD's membership on Diversion Authority, primarily to have a "seat at the table" regarding the Diversion project development to represent the landowners on the Minnesota side of the Red River. Norgard explained that the BRRWD only has voting rights on Diversion issues that deal with project construction. She addressed a number of statements made by opponents of the Diversion project, which she characterized as inaccurate. Norgard pointed out that at this point, the BRRWD has not committed any funds to the project, so approving the budget would not be an illegal action. According to a second JPA amendment, which changed the proposed cost split, North Dakota is going forward with certain construction activities at their own risk, and the BRRWD is not liable for any of the current costs.

Manager Anderson expressed concerns about the Diversion Authority's going forward with activities without first obtaining permits. He felt that the project is moving forward too fast without consideration of the potentially impacted landowners in the staging area. Norgard pointed out that this is one example of why the BRRWD needs to have voice in the decision making process. Anderson questioned the effectiveness of the BRRWD's "voice" so far. Van Amburg commented on the complexity and divisive nature of the project. Once the DNR has completed their EIS later this year, the Minnesota entities will have some direction about our involvement with the Diversion project. He feels that we need to be a member of the JPA in order to "shape" how the project will be developed.

Anderson felt that the landowners in the staging area feel they aren't receiving factual information and that their concerns are being ignored and/or dismissed.

Albright commented that it has been suggested that the signers of the JPA meet to discuss some of these issues and bring the new Board members (JPA signing) up to speed. Dodd noted that the Diversion Authority will be meeting on 1/29/15.

Anderson asked if the North Dakota EIS studies that have been completed were available for public review. Schneider explained that the studies were large documents, so they were not printed for public distribution, but can be found on the F-M Diversion website.

Van Amburg discussed reasons for the delay in bringing the Budget before the BRRWD for discussion. The Board thought it would be a good idea to meet with the other Minnesota JPA entities to discuss the budget. Managers Anderson and Fjestad voiced their concerns about the Diversion project. Don Nelson also made a statement regarding his concerns regarding the JPA 2015 Budget approval. Attorney Norgard responded to Nelson's assertions regarding DNR correspondence on the Diversion and the BRRWD's liability for project costs. Norgard pointed out that according to the amended 2013 JPA, the Minnesota entities are not liable for any project costs until and unless there is a new partnership agreement that the BRRWD will participate in negotiating. After further discussion, **motion** by Anderson to table a vote on the 2015 Diversion Authority budget until after the DNR's EIS has been completed. Motion died for a lack of a second. **Motion** by Anderson not to approve the 2015 budget. Motion died for a lack of a second. **Motion** by Van Amburg to approve the 2015 Diversion Authority Budget, with the understanding that the BRRWD still maintains its neutrality regarding the construction of the F-M Diversion project and that a vote to approve the FY15 budget does not indicate approval of the overall project. **Seconded** by Hanson. The vote was tied 3 to 3 (Van Amburg, Hanson, Kobiela-aye, Larson, Fjestad, and Anderson-nay). **Tabled.** Van Amburg commented that discussion on this issue will continue at the next meeting when Manager Affield is in attendance. A meeting with representatives from the Diversion Authority will be scheduled in the near future.

South Branch of the Buffalo River Erosion Concerns. Carolyn Swenson attended the meeting to discuss her concerns with flooding and erosion, as well as breakout flows affecting her property in the NE¼, Section 6, Manston Township, Wilkin County. Jones is currently working a channel restoration/retention concept for the area between Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 9 to Wilkin County Road (C.R.) No. 30, including setback levees, channel restoration, and possible retention sites in the S½, Section 5, Manston Township, and the Neumann WRP site in Section 11, Manston Township, east of T.H. No. 9. Swenson commented that she wants to be sure her property is included in the project area and that the project is on track to be started this year. Jones explained his work on the potential retention investigations upstream of Swenson's property. These smaller projects are part of a comprehensive project for the Upper South Branch of the Buffalo River. Swenson wanted to know if bids have been let for her levee project. Jones thought that the bid packages could be sent out as early as the end of February. The BRRWD still needs to schedule a meeting with Swenson and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Jones noted that there could be Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding available from NRCS for this project; however Swenson will need to file an EQIP application. Swenson commented that she attended tonight just to get an update about the project development affecting her property.

Other business brought before the Board included:

Permit No. 15-002, Jerry Matter. Applicant proposes to install a 135" x 88" used corrugated metal arch pipe (CMP-A) in Becker County Ditch (C.D.) No. 21 in the northwest corner of the SE¼, Section 10, Riceville Township, to provide access to his land on the other side of the ditch. Jones investigated the

neighboring (upstream and downstream) drainage structures and recommended permit approval, subject to HEI staking the culvert to be sure the culvert is placed on the original ditch grade. **Motion** by Hanson to approve Permit No. 15-002, subject to the referenced condition. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.**

Jeff Halvorson Tiling Project. Fjestad submitted a permit application for tiling in Section 18, Carlisle Township, Otter Tail County, which will be entered into the permit system and reviewed at the next meeting.

Project No. 77, Clay County Ditch No. 51-Lateral No. 3. The Preliminary Hearing was held on 01/05/15. Jones has completed his analysis of the existing drainage conditions and the adequacy of the existing drainage and alternative drainage routes to the east in Section 28, Kragnes Township. Once Albright has a chance to review the information, he will distribute it to the Managers prior to the 02/09/15 meeting. Albright noted that he is currently reviewing the draft 01/05/15 Preliminary Hearing minutes. He will work with Tami Norgard, Attorney, Vogel Law Firm, to prepare a Findings and Order for the Board's consideration at the 02/09/15 BRRWD meeting. The Board discussed possible appeals to the BRRWD's decision regarding this project. Albright pointed out that according to a Court decision regarding an appeal of the previous Project No. 74, Clay C.D. No. 51-Lateral Preliminary Hearing Order, it has been determined that an Order to move forward with a project at this stage is not subject to appeal. Only after a Final Hearing, can a Board Order be appealed.

Jones noted that Duane Brendemuhl, who rents the Norby property in Section 28, contacted him with questions about the current drainage conditions. Brendemuhl was hopeful that an agreement might still be possible to avoid the inevitable litigation that will follow any Board Final Hearing decision for this controversial project. **Motion** by Fjestad to table action on Project No. 77. **Seconded** by Anderson. **Approved.**

Project No. 75, Wilkin C.D. No. 31-Lateral. Jones has completed the easement drawings for the Board's review. Albright noted that the next steps for the repair of Whiskey Creek in Section 14, Connelly Township, will be to prepare and forward the easement packets to the landowners. Jones has also prepared an application for a Wilkin County Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the Board's signature. **Motion** by Fjestad to authorize signature of the CUP application. **Seconded** by Kobiela. **Approved.**

Albright noted that we just found out that Wilkin County was not selected to receive funding through the 2015 Clean Water Fund (CWF) to complete the retrofit of the upstream Whiskey Creek ditches. The County needs to clean the outlet (Whiskey Creek) before the upstream drainage systems, so if the BRRWD is not able to acquire the easements in a timely manner, the County might decide to move on to the other ditch work, which does not use Whiskey Creek as an outlet, according to their 2-year plan to complete the ditch repairs within the BRRWD. Albright will work with Wilkin County to update their 2015 budget for ditch repairs in light of the new information about the CWF funding.

Project No. 54, Whiskey Creek Tributaries. Albright reported that he and Jones met today with NRCS staff to discuss repair options for the Kelly Nichols NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) site in Section 21, Humboldt Township, Clay County. There were muskrat problems with the dike, which caused the structure to leak. Initially, the NRCS suggested that the dike be removed, but as it is an important feature for Project No. 54, the NRCS has agreed to consider rebuilding the embankment and to lower the permanent pool. The impoundment site will be used as temporary flood storage in the spring, but water won't be retained to the previous depths, which should discourage muskrat activity. Albright noted that the BRRWD should probably consider being responsible for annual inspections and mowing of the dike. The NRCS will fund the current repairs, which could cost approximately \$100,000. More information will be forthcoming, once NRCS completes their analysis.

Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation. Albright reported that Lobbyist Joel Carlson is working with Senator Kent Eken and Representative Ben Lien on bills allocating the \$5.66 million to complete Phase 4 of the project. The bill will be introduced in both the House and the Senate. At this time, there is no guarantee that the Legislature will set aside funding for the project in 2015, but at least the request will be documented.

The City of Moorhead plans to pass a resolution at their meeting tonight in support of the needed funding for the Oakport project. Robert Zimmerman, Engineer, City of Moorhead, had informed Albright that the City had received a request from the Governor's office for potential projects for 2015 bonding. He will forward the information to Albright.

Albright reported that the Carl Pierce Family has signed their new 2015 storage lease for approximately 4 acres for \$3,000. The payment is on tonight's bill list. No word has been received from the Fischer Family regarding their storage lease.

Project No. 39, Georgetown Levee. BRRWD Attorney Corey Elmer, Vogel Law Firm, is working with Congressman Collin Peterson's office on the negotiations with the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to finalize the Greywind mortgage transfer. HUD will hire an appraiser at the BRRWD's expense (\$600.00) to place a value on Greywind's new house. The DNR has extended the grant until 12/31/15. The hazardous materials inspection of Greywind's old house has been completed, but mitigation cannot be started until the Greywind acquisition is final. HEI has assembled a punch list for the contractor to finish this spring when conditions permit.

Project No. 30, Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch (J.D.) No. 1. Albright met with Lynn Brakke, Blayne Tonsfeldt, and Bryan Kritzberger today regarding a petition to create a diversion on the County line. It appears they are having trouble getting the required signatures of the landowners along the proposed alignment. Albright plans to visit with Attorney Norgard regarding her review of the petition. The Board discussed possible alternatives to developing a lateral project in this area, according the Minnesota Drainage or Watershed Law.

Mediation PT. The next PT meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2015, at 1:30 PM in the BRRWD office in Barnesville.

South Branch of the Buffalo River Erosion Concerns. Jones is working on the Phase 1 concept plan for an area between T.H. No. 9 to Wilkin C.R. No. 30, including setback levees, channel restoration, and possible retention sites in the S $\frac{1}{2}$, Section 5, Manston Township, and the Neumann WRP site in Section 11, Manston Township. An Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) and a DNR permit will be needed for the project. There should be EQIP funding available, but landowners will need to apply.

According to Terry Czichotzki, the land he was farming in Section 11 (Deutsch Family) near the Neumann site has been enrolled in Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM). Albright noted that the BRRWD will need to coordinate with BWSR on the development of a potential retention site on this property. The Deutsch Family owns the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 11.

Barnesville Township Area Drainage. Albright noted that landowners have been contacting him regarding the status of a project in this area. Jones is working on alternative designs and will share information as it is completed.

WRP Sites. Albright will meet again with Mike and Zita Jacobsen this spring (Easter) regarding an easement on their property near South Reep Lake in Becker County. Currently, the Jacobsens

have said that they might not be interested in agreeing to any easements. They have indicated they are still willing to visit with Albright when they return to the area.

Haick/Peppel WRP. The survey work for the Haick/Peppel WRP site is completed. As soon as the design is ready, an informational meeting will be scheduled with the landowners.

Revised Watershed Management Plan (RWMP)/Watershed District Enlargement. Albright forwarded the maps from the 01/13/15 and 01/15/15 meetings, showing where landowners indicated problem areas to Jones for his analysis. Fjestad will also give the maps to Rick West, Otter Tail County Engineer, for his review and input. The next step is to schedule a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting. The goal is to have the meetings completed and a draft plan drawn up by 03/01/15, so BWSR can begin the 60-day review period, completing the process by the 5/31/15 deadline.

BRRWD/Bois de Sioux Watershed District (BDSWD) Boundary. An open house has been scheduled on February 6, 2015, at 1:00-4:00 PM in the Wilkin County Environmental Office, Breckenridge, for landowners to discuss changes to the boundary between the BRRWD and the BDSWD as a result of the enlargement of the BRRWD. The office mailed notices to the affected landowners. The purpose of meeting is to allow landowner input regarding the watershed boundary changes. Once the new boundary map has been finalized, the BRRWD, BDSWD, and Otter Tail County will file a joint petition with BWSR, who will then hold a hearing to adopt the new boundary line. Manager Larson plans to attend the 01/06/15 meeting. Fjestad discussed one landowner's concerns about which Watershed District his property should be in. The property in question is located in Section 9, Western Township, Otter Tail County.

Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP). Albright will meet with Don Bajumpaa, District Manager, Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Aaron Larson, Farm Bill Technician, West Otter Tail SWCD, to discuss an agenda for the Farm Forum to be held at the Nordick Farm on 02/26/15. Bajumpaa has informed Albright that in the last few weeks, he has certified two or three more producers. Albright suggested that we schedule a keynote speaker for the Forum.

Elkton Township Wetland Restoration. HEI has processed the Final Pay Request for Ziegler Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$8,972.41. There were a number of change orders that increased the final costs by \$12,768.43, based on BWSR requirements that caused changes to the original plans. **Motion** by Anderson to approve the pay request and change order. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.**

Albright met with landowner Chuck Anderson last week regarding his 2013-2014 crop damage claim, which will be filed with the contractor.

Laserfiche Digital Document Storage. Albright noted that the office is working with HEI on some of the network/server requirements for a proposed document storage system. Albright and the office staff participated in a webinar on 01/12/15 with sales representatives from Solbrekk Business Technology Solutions to review how their technology can be used to scan and digitally store the BRRWD paper records. Jones commented on the BRRWD's alternatives for document storage.

Buffalo River/Upper Red River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The Upper Red River study should be completed at the end of 2015. Tara Mercil, Project Manager, MPCA, has taken the lead for this study. Bruce Paakh, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), has completed the stressor identification study for Whiskey Creek. The February 12, 2015, Buffalo River TMDL and Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) meeting has been cancelled. A meeting will be held with Paakh to discuss water quality issues on Whiskey Creek on February 11, 2015, at 9:00 AM in conjunction with the Wilkin SWCD meeting in Breckenridge.

Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee Restoration. Albright noted that NRCS has indicated that there could be EQIP funding for this project. Next steps would be to schedule an informational meeting with the landowners to update them about the status of the project. We need to identify those landowners who would be involved with the Phase 1 work and encourage them to apply for the NRCS EQIP program. The EQIP program has a continuous signup, so there is no deadline. According to Albright, since the project is "shovel ready", it will score high on the NRCS ranking criteria. The office will look at a date for an informational meeting.

Clay C.D. No. 5 Repair. Last fall, Don Pake requested that the BRRWD investigate the repair of C.D. No. 5, in Section 1, Kragnes Township, and the W½, Section 6, Morken Township. Pake reports that several years ago, the ditch froze about half full of water and when it thawed the following spring, the ice chunks tore up the banks, and now the ditch doesn't drain properly. HEI conducted a field survey in January. Jones reviewed the survey, original ditch plans, and recommended repairs. The probably opinion of cost for the repairs is \$12,000. **Motion** by Hanson to authorize the noted repairs, in accordance with Jones' recommendations. **Seconded** by Anderson. **Approved.**

2015 CWF. Albright reported that none of our funding applications were successful this year. He noted that it appears some of our proposed project work could be funded through EQIP.

Becker County SWCD had the No. 1 (Hay Creek watershed within the BRRWD) and No. 10 (Wild Rice River) CWF projects in the entire state.

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD). Ray Bohn, MAWD, forwarded information regarding upcoming events. The MAWD Legislative Reception/Legislative Breakfast and Day at the Capitol will be held on March 11-12, 2015, in the Embassy Suites, St. Paul. The office will handle Manager reservations. Managers Hanson, Fjestad, and Van Amburg plan to attend.

The 2015 MAWD Summer Tour will be held on June 24-26 in Duluth.

Minnesota Environmental Initiatives (MEI). MEI is currently seeking nominations for their Environmental Initiatives awards. Applications are due by the 2/27/15. Albright suggested that the BRRWD should nominate our Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration, for their natural resources category. **Motion** by Anderson to authorize Albright to submit the application for Manston Slough. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.**

Advisory Committee. Albright plans to schedule the annual Advisory Committee meeting for late March/early April before field work starts. He distributed a list of the current Committee members for the Board's review and reappointment of a few members. Albright explained that function of the Advisory Committee for the new Managers. Fjestad noted that the new Clay County Commissioner, Jenny Mongeau, should be appointed to the Committee.

Clay SWCD Open House. The Clay SWCD is holding a retirement party for Karen Carlsrud, Clay SWCD Secretary, on 01/29/15 from 2:00-4:00 PM at the Clay SWCD office in Moorhead.

BWSR Audit. BWSR is conducting an audit of the BRRWD's CWF grant projects. The audit is scheduled for March 31, 2015, at 10:00 AM in the BRRWD office.

Becker County Area I Envirothon. Becker County is asking for a donation for the 2015 Envirothon. **Motion** by Hanson to donate \$200. **Seconded** by Kobiela. **Approved.**

Special Topic-Stony Creek Detention. The Board discussed issues involving Stony Creek Detention, north of Barnesville. Jones distributed two drainage area maps and a concept map for a possible detention

site. Albright explained that the waterway has approximately 25-30 square miles (sq. mi.) of drainage at T.H. No. 9. It includes Clay C.D. No. 31 (built in the early 1900s) in Barnesville Township, which straightened the creek. The BRRWD has been working with landowners to develop a comprehensive project for this area. While the ditch system benefit area is about 5 sq. mi., there are probably about 38 sq. mi. that are using the C.D. No. 31 outlet for drainage. The benefit rates are very low with total benefits of approximately \$18,000, based on benefit rates from the 1900s. A redetermination of benefits should probably be conducted to update the benefit rates and to bring in upstream lands that are currently not paying into the ditch system, but are using it. A 2-stage channel restoration has been proposed for Stony Creek that would start at T.H. No. 9 and go down to the outlet of Stony Creek where it joins Hay Creek in Section 32, Elkton Township, incorporating a levee system on the outside of the channel in certain places based on its capacity. Material from the channel excavation could be used to help build the levees. There are breakout areas east of T.H. No. 9 in the middle of Section 3, causing water to flow across country to Hay Creek, where it has created an erosion site. During peak flows, 50-60% of the water escapes and travels in that direction. At this stage, minor/spot repairs would not be effective.

The Board also reviewed a concept map, showing two detention pools creating about 6,500 acre-feet of storage. According to preliminary estimates, Pool A could handle a 100-year, 24 hour summer rainfall event without using Pool B. More capacity would be needed for the spring runoff. Most of the land within the pool footprint is tilled farmland. Jones displayed a hydrograph, showing the effect of the proposed retention site on the outlet of Stony Creek, which would be significant. Albright observed that the landowners of the property within the pools would need a fair price for their land. He added that at this early stage, it would be difficult to determine easement values. There would be some township road work involved with a potential project. There are no farmsteads that would be affected by the project. Jones pointed out that there is still more survey work to be completed before the design can be developed. He noted that the BRRWD could apply for an acceleration grant from the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (RRBFDRWG) to defray some of the survey costs. Albright suggested that we could also apply for funding from the City of Fargo for upstream retention projects, associated with the F-M Diversion. The Board talked about possible natural resource enhancement (nre) features that might be provided by a potential project. **Motion** by Fjestad to authorize Jones to complete the necessary survey work and to apply for any available funding, plus authorizing Albright to continue discussions with the affected landowners. **Seconded** by Anderson. **Approved.**

Special Meeting Topics. Van Amburg suggested that a special topic could be a review of the Mediation Project Team process to give the new Board members a better understanding of that process. Albright noted that he will make copies of an updated list of the Board's short, mid, and long-term goals. He suggested that the special topic in February could be for the Board to review their list and reprioritize for 2015.

Red River Basin Commission International Summit Conference. The Board discussed their thoughts about their attendance at the Conference. Albright noted that the BRRWD received Certificates of Achievement for a number of our projects: Project No. 71, 50th AVE S, Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration, Hawley Buffalo River Restoration, and C.D. Nos. 9, 32, and 33 Conservation Drainage.

Tiling Water Quality. The Board discussed the results of water quality testing on the Nordick Farm tile lines. There appears to be more nitrogen leaving the tile than was expected. The site in question is a Minnesota Discovery Farm project.

The following bills were presented for approval:

| Accounts Payable | Description | Account | Amount |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Becker SWCD | 2015 Area I Envirothon donation | M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3 | \$ 200.00 |
| Breanna L. Kobiela | #15-06, 11/01/14-12/31/14 | Admin. | \$ 567.61 |
| Bruce E. Albright | Fort Garry lodging (2) | Admin. | \$ 586.52 |
| Carl A. Pierce | 2013 storage lease (1/3) | Pj. 49, Oakport | \$ 1,000.00 |
| FRS, Inc. | #V21500024, name plates | Admin. | \$ 44.59 |
| Gerald L. Van Amburg | #15-07, 11/01/14-12/31/14 | Varies | \$ 1,941.45 |
| Joan E. Lazorekno | 2013 storage lease (1/3) | Pj. 49, Oakport | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Joel Carlson, Inc. | February 2015 Lobbyist fees | Admin. | \$ 850.00 |
| Mark T. Anderson | #15-02, 11/01/14-12/31/14 | Admin. | \$ 516.37 |
| Peter V. Fjestad | #15-03, 11/01/14-12/31/14 | MAWQCP/Admin | \$ 712.02 |
| Richard L. Pierce | 2013 storage lease (1/3) | Pj. 49, Oakport | \$ 1,000.00 |
| RRBC | Bus ride to Winnipeg (3) | Admin. | \$ 75.00 |
| RRVCPA | 12/10/14-01/10/15 service (3) | Pj. 49, Oakport | \$ 251.88 |
| Ulteig Engineers, Inc. | #49451, Wetlands thru 12/31/14 | Pj. 49, Oakport | \$ 660.00 |
| United States Treasury | 4th QTR Form 941 taxes | Admin. | \$ 550.80 |
| Vergas State Bank | Building Loan payment | New Office | \$ 102,965.00 |
| Vogel Law Firm | #146097, December billing | Pj. 56, Manston | \$ 9.83 |
| Vogel Law Firm | #146098, December billing | COE Diversion | \$ 1,242.00 |
| Vogel Law Firm | #146099, December billing | Pj. 77, Clay 51-Lat. 3 | \$ 46.00 |
| Wilkin SWCD | 10/01/14-12/31/14 billing | MAWQCP | \$ 13,029.00 |
| Xcel Energy | #51-0010578911-8, Office NG | Admin. | \$ 116.68 |
| Ziegler Construction, Inc. | Pay Request No. 2-Final | Elkton Wetland Restoration | \$ 8,972.41 |
| | | | \$ 136,337.16 |

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

Next Meeting. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, February 9, 2015, at 7:00 PM in our Barnesville office.

Adjournment. Chairman Van Amburg adjourned the meeting at 10:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hanson, Secretary