

BUFFALO-RED RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

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MINUTES FOR MANAGERS' MEETING May 22, 2017

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held their regular meeting on Monday, May 22, 2017, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. BRRWD Managers present were Gerald L. Van Amburg, Jay A. Leitch, Mark T. Anderson, John E. Hanson, Catherine L. Affield, and Peter V. Fjestad. Others attending included: Bruce E. Albright, BRRWD Administrator, and Erik S. Jones, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI); and landowners Kurt Krueger, Bryant Haugrud, and Bradley Nelson.

Chair Van Amburg called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 05/08/17 regular meeting. **Motion** by Leitch to approve the minutes. **Seconded** by Anderson. **Approved.**

Treasurer's Report. The Board reviewed the BRRWD's current financial status. Cash on hand is \$1,486,784.05, and income this year to date is \$577,487.07. Current income for the month totals \$227,634.42 from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant for Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation (\$220,060.77) and Clay County for the Wall ST NW overlay in Oakport (\$25,573.65). Albright noted that we should start to receive the 1st half property tax proceeds by the beginning of June.

Albright distributed the draft 2016 Annual Report for the Board's review, which includes the revised 2016 BRRWD Audit. He encouraged the Managers to review the document and bring any corrections or comments to the 6/12/17 meeting for approval. Copies of the approved Report will be forwarded to the Counties and various agencies.

Wilkin County Ditch (C.D.) Nos. 13/13-Lateral. Bradley Nelson requested that the Board consider replacing his Texas crossing on Wilkin C.D. No. 13-Lateral in the SW¹/₄, Section 23, Deerhorn Township, in conjunction with the current ditch system repair project. Last fall, Nelson was only able to access his sugar beet field by crossing his neighbor's property because of the height of water over the existing crossing. The Board discussed culvert sizing for a new crossing. Nelson suggested that he would be satisfied with a lower approach perhaps 30' wide with smaller culverts that could overtop during high water events. Albright noted that there are two used pipes from the Manston project that might be available. Fjestad was concerned that a lower approach might be prone to washing out. Albright suggested that HEI could provide a few options for the approach to include the possible use of the Manston culverts. **Motion** by Fjestad to authorize Jones to investigate options for the referenced crossing with cost estimates. **Seconded** by Leitch. **Approved.**

Haugrud Drainage Complaint. Albright gave a brief history of the drainage issues in Section 22, Prairie View Township, Wilkin County, regarding the Haugrud's family request that the Lindholm family clean blockages immediately downstream of the culverts through County Road (C.R.) No. 19 on natural waterways through their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage. The Board offered to send a letter on 4/10/17 asking the Lindholms to conduct the cleanout. To date, they have not complied. Haugruds have offered to pay for the cleanout work. During a recent telephone conversation, Jimmie Lindholm told Albright that he is waiting for more information from the Wilkin County Farm Service Agency (FSA) office regarding their CRP maintenance regulations. He is reluctant to complete the repairs without some concessions from the Haugruds concerning their practice of farming through the upstream stretch of the natural waterway in Section 23, which the Lindholms feel are causing the blockages. Lindholm also pointed out that currently there is no water standing in the Haugrud's field. According to Bryant Haugrud, the FSA will not allow CRP

maintenance to take place between 6/01/17 and 8/29/17. Haugrud commented that last month, he worked with the FSA to clean the same waterway in Section 15, Prairie View Township, downstream of the Lindholm property and had no problem with understanding and complying with the FSA maintenance regulations. The Board discussed if the Lindholm's refusal to clean their waterway constituted a clear-cut Rule violation. After reviewing the letter sent to the Lindholms, Manager Anderson agreed to contact Jimmie Lindholm again regarding this issue.

Other business brought before the Board included:

Permit No. 17-026, Kevin Lunde. Applicant proposes to install Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) designed water and sediment control basins and underground tile outlets in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 5, Lake Park Township, Becker County. This work is sponsored by the Becker SWCD. Jones recommended permit approval.

Permit No. 17-027, Chad Oberg/Oberg Family Farms. Applicant proposes to install 430 acres of pattern tiling in the E $\frac{1}{2}$, Section 34, Georgetown Township, Clay County. The north half of the project would outlet via gravity flow to Clay C.D. No. 5 to which it is assessed, and the south half will gravity flow to the Buffalo River. Jones recommended permit approval, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer.

The Board had a brief discussion regarding our tile installation requirements on ditch right-of-way (R/W). Albright read the BRRWD's standard tiling disclaimer/requirements, which includes a provision that tile outlets should not be installed on ditch R/W. Jones noted that there is a height requirement below which a structure is not considered a safety hazard. Manager Anderson noted that Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) has strict rules about tile outlet/culvert placement on state highway road ditches.

Permit No. 17-028, Robert Yaggie. Applicant proposes to relocate the tile outlet, associated with Permit No. 12-165, to a farmstead along the east side of the township road (180th AVE) in Section 28, Mitchell Township, Wilkin County. The outlet pipe will pass through an existing driveway via a closed conduit to drain water to the northwest corner of the Section, outletting via a lift station north along 200th ST, eventually to Wolverton Creek. The current pump location on the east-west quarterline of Section 28 was not acceptable to the downstream landowners and was not in compliance with the applicant's approved Permit No. 12-165. **Tabled**, pending notifying the downstream landowners and extending an invitation to them to bring questions or concerns to our 6/12/17 Board meeting. Albright thought he would notify everyone downstream to C.R. No. 3 on Wolverton Creek.

Permit No. 17-029, Philip Rogers. Applicant proposes to install random tiling in the E $\frac{1}{2}$, Section 5, Humboldt Township, Clay County, to drain wet areas on his property. The tile will outlet into a Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) area in a pasture on his property in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 5, and one line of tile on the east side of the project will outlet to a gravel pit on his property. Albright noted the landowners are working together on the tile outlet location so there should be no problems with this project. Jones recommended permit approval.

Permit No. 17-030, Kevin Fellbaum. Applicant proposes to replace an open cut channel in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 33, Oscar Township, Otter Tail County, with a 20" dia. smooth wall pipe in the excavated channel to Lake Oscar to be used as a future emergency outlet for Lein Lake. Fjestad has been working with the Township and County and recommended permit approval.

Permit No. 17-31, Kirby Hamre. Applicant proposes to install two approaches with 36" dia. x 50' long culverts in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 18, Riverton Township, Clay County, to access a new construction site. One pipe will be located approximately 425' east of 120th ST S along 28th AVE S (township road), and the other will be installed approximately 425' north of 28th AVE along 120th ST S (C.R. No. 72). Fitzgerald Construction is doing the work with Township and County approval. Albright recommended permit approval, subject to road authority approval to work within their R/W.

Permit No. 17-032, Troy Goltz. Applicant proposes to tile all areas in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 28, Prairie View Township, Wilkin County, that are not designated wetlands to outlet north to Deerhorn Creek. The shortest route for the tile outlet crosses Greg Odness's Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) easement. Goltz needs to obtain his neighbor's permission to cross their property with a closed conduit pipe. He will also have to check with the Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) regarding work on the RIM easement and the Wilkin County NRCS office regarding any wetland issues. Albright recommended permit approval, subject to downstream landowner approval. The office has already provided Goltz with our downstream landowner notification form.

Motion by Leitch to approve Permit Nos. 17-026, 17-027, 17-029, and 17-030, 17-031, and 17-032, subject to the referenced disclaimers. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

Mike Wagner Complaint. Manager Anderson noted that Clay County Commissioner Mongeau contacted him regarding Mike Wagner's concerns about drainage problems related to C.R. No. 52 in Baker and the railroad tracks in the Baker area. Anderson will follow up with Wagner.

Bryan and David Henderson Waterway Concern. The Board authorized HEI to conduct a wetland delineation in response to an issue from last year regarding Ron Conzemius' farming in the waterway in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 27, Manston Township, on the north side of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 26, which restricts the natural flow of water from the Henderson property on the south side of the road in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 34. Terry Nielsen, an out-of-area landowner, and David Abel, his renter, were also contacted about cleaning the natural waterway in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 27, to help drain area water west to the Manston Slough project. HEI conducted the drainage survey, and a landowner informational meeting was held on 1/22/16 to discuss the survey information. Bruce Poppel, Environmental Officer, Wilkin County Environmental Services, and Steve Hofstad, Water Plan Coordinator, determined that a wetland delineation should be conducted before the waterway could be cleaned in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$. The wetland investigation was completed last week, and Jones is working on analyzing the information.

Ed Haick Complaint. A few years ago, Mark Yaggie installed tiling and a lift station along Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 9 in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 4, Manston Township, Wilkin County (Permit No. 12-142). Currently, water from the lift station has created water problems on Haick's downstream property along T.H. No. 9. Jones is working on a drainage investigation, including a review of the MNDOT drainage plans for T.H. No. 9.

Bob Westfall Culvert Concern. Bob Westfall recently contacted Albright regarding old concerns about the culvert size in C.R. No. 167 on the west side of Section 5, Akron Township, Wilkin County. In 2010, the County resized a culvert, and at that time, Westfall and other landowners wanted larger downstream culverts. The BRRWD worked with them to address this issue, but nothing was ever finalized. The Board will take up this issue when Manager Larson, who is familiar with this area, is in attendance.

Inez Johnson Complaint. Albright met with Frederick and Inez Johnson recently to discuss their drainage concerns in Sections 12 and 14, Elkton Township, Clay County. Albright gave the Board a brief overview of the Elkton Township drainage problems/litigation involving the Johnson family since the 1980s, which centered around two approaches/berms that were installed near the Johnson property in Section 14 to keep Hay Creek from breaking out across cropland: one approach installed by the BRRWD and the other used to by the Johnsons to access their cropland south of the creek. Inez Johnson sold the south 80 acres of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 14, to Gary Hoffman in 2012 and the north 80 acres to Adam Nystuen in 2017. There was a preexisting drainage ditch on the Hoffman acreage on the property line that was graded to flow north, plus an easement agreement to allow access to the Nystuen property via a preexisting approach/cartway from the Hoffman property. Hoffman's renters have now worked up the access easement area and eliminated access to the Nystuen property south of Hay Creek.

Frederick Johnson has suggested that the two existing dry approaches along 160th ST S could be replaced by a one new dry approach located further north closer to Hay Creek that could provide access to the landlocked

property and prevent Hay Creek from ever breaking out to the south. Albright explained that for this proposal to move forward, all the affected parties will need to agree on this solution. **Motion** by Anderson to authorize Jones to investigate Johnson's proposal to see if this idea is feasible. **Seconded** by Leitch. **Approved.**

Kraig Nelson Drainage Complaint. Albright will schedule a field meeting with Todd Boit after the Memorial Day holiday to discuss a complaint that Boit crushed a drain tile line on land Nelson rents from Greg Ronning and modified a culvert through the farmstead driveway in the W½NE¼, Section 13, Audubon Township, Becker County. Boit claims that the tile outlet in the southwest corner of his property is not part of the recorded drainage easement Ronning obtained from the former owner of the farmstead. Boit has a drainage proposal he wants to discuss with Albright. Manager Hanson will also attend the field meeting. Kraig Nelson repaired the field tile, but the driveway culvert is not functioning.

WBI Energy Transmission Line. WBI is working on a project to install a gas transmission line, partially within the BRRWD, located south of Georgetown in the Felton area. The company sent information regarding their project to the Board for their review. Albright has previously notified them that when they are ready, they should submit a BRRWD permit application for the project.

Project No. 77, Clay C.D. No. 51-Lateral-Norby Lawsuit. The jury trial is tentatively scheduled for June 12-16, 2017, with Judge Steven Cahill. We are still waiting for the judge to make a ruling on the Summary Judgement proceeding. Norby recently turned down the BRRWD's \$40,000 mediation settlement offer. A pretrial hearing is scheduled for Friday, May 26, 2017, at 3:30 PM, Courthouse, Moorhead.

Project No. 71, City of Moorhead 50th AVE S. HEI is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) for the 50th AVE Flood Control project. Mike Smith, Stantec, who is coordinating the LOMR review for FEMA, forwarded questions about the HEC-RAS models. Greg Thompson, HEI, who is working on this project for the BRRWD, will follow up with Stantec to answer their questions.

Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration. The NRCS is working on the WRP construction on their easements within the Manston project area. Ehlert Excavating, Inc., has been hired to construct the BRRWD spillways downstream of Arnhalt's property in the SW¼, Section 20, Manston Township, but to date, the work is not done.

Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation-Phase 4. Albright noted that the office is getting numerous complaints about the weed infestation on the Phase 4 seeding. The contractor, R. J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc., is responsible for the establishment of the grass cover. We also have a dandelion problem on the east dike where the grass is already established, and Wade Opsahl, Technician, HEI, has hired a lawn service to spray the dandelions.

Albright reported on the status of the wetland restoration work for the project. There are concerns about the cattail infestation in the wetland areas and the height of the native grass mowing. Albright also noted that the levee certification letters Ulteig Engineers, Inc. (UEI) distributed to the project landowners have generated numerous inquiries.

Albright talked to the Fischer family regarding their request for a buyout of the farmhouse on their property within the project area. During the initial buyout phase of the project, the Fischers refused an offer for their house, but now some of the family appear to be interested. Albright noted that when the entire Fischer family has agreed to ask for a buyout, he will contact the DNR to determine if buyout funding is still available, and then he'll prepare an offer for the Board's review.

Albright reported that there is a person who is interested in planting 10-15 acres of strawberries along the south side of Wall ST NW where the BRRWD has an Audubon contract for native grass seeding. The area

was acquired for the project with DNR funding, and according to our grant agreement, the land can't be used to generate income. The Board directed Albright to refuse the person's request.

Project No. 39, Georgetown Levee. Jones attended a meeting on 05/19/17 with the City of Georgetown and FEMA. FEMA conducted an audit of the City's floodplain administration and their basement exemption issues. Jones reported that FEMA found 20 potential floodplain violations within the City. FEMA has not decided how to handle the new houses with basements, but FEMA officials and the DNR do plan to work with the City of Georgetown regarding the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program. Because they weren't aware that they were the Floodplain Administrator, there were no floodplain permits issued for any new construction within the City for many years. At the meeting, Jones learned that incorporated Cities are their own floodplain administrators by default, and Georgetown would need a written agreement with Clay County to transfer that authority.

Project No. 30, Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch No. 1 (J.D. 1). The Board briefly discussed the petition signature process. Landowners having more than one tract of property listed on the petition had to sign their name more than once. The petition will be recirculated to correct the signature issue. Albright was uncertain about where they were in the process.

Project No. 02, Wilkin C.D. No. 13/Project No. 21, Wilkin C.D. No. 13-Lateral. Jones reported that William Nichol Excavating, Inc., is working on the repairs for Project No. 2, Wilkin C.D. No. 13 and Project No. 21, Wilkin C.D. No. 13-Lateral. Nichol submitted a billing for \$33,862.50, which is on tonight's bill list. Landowner John Thompson refused to accept his temporary easement payment and advised Albright that the contractor should stay off his land, as he feels the ditch doesn't need cleaning. Opsahl advised the contractor that we don't have permission to enter the Thompson property.

Mediation Project Team (PT). The next PT meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 20, 2017, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office.

Watershed District Enlargement/Revised Watershed Management Plan (RWMP). The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will make a decision regarding the BRRWD's One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) funding application by 6/28/17. The BWSR North Region Committee will not decide on our request for BWSR to waive the Plan Update Amendment requirements until their meeting on 9/13/17.

Fargo-Moorhead (FM) Diversion. Jones will prepare pay requests to the Diversion Authority for our three projects that they approved for funding: Upper South Branch of the Buffalo River, Barnesville Township, and Stony Creek. He will also submit a funding request to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for the Otter Tail River Restoration project.

The Board discussed the recent insert in the Fargo Forum listing potential North Dakota property assessments for the Diversion project.

Otter Tail/Buffalo/Upper Red Rivers Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)/Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS). Albright reported that the only study we're waiting for currently is the Upper Red River TMDL. Albright forwarded a corrected mailing list to Tim James, MPCA, for the Upper Red River TMDL.

M-Files Data Storage. Albright reported that the staff is working daily with M-Files. We had a document scanning session recently with Todd Ek, Marco, Inc. Our Adobe Acrobat Pro Version 8 is seriously outdated, and the staff is testing pdf software replacement products.

Wilkin C.D. No. 7 Repairs. Jones reported the contractor, States Border Construction, is checking the spoilbank elevations and leveling the spoil where needed to meet the County's road elevation rules.

Wilkin C.D. No. 15 Repairs. The BRRWD has scheduled a landowner informational meeting in Breckenridge on Thursday, May 25, 2017 at 7:30 AM at the Environmental Planning office, to discuss the proposed repairs. Jones explained that the repairs will consist of a series of rock drop structures along a three mile stretch near C.D. No. 3, east of C.R. No. 16 in Section 1, Nilsen Township, and Sections 5 and 6, Andrea Township. Albright noted that a landowner called with concerns about his assessment for the repairs and questioned the ditch system benefit area.

Wilkin C.D. No. 6A. The Highway Department has completed the channel repairs and the next step will be cleanup and seeding. Opsahl contacted Bob Bjerke, B&J Landscaping, to do the R/W seeding. MPCA contacted the BRRWD regarding the need for erosion control/bank stabilization on the exposed slopes of the repair sites. The Board discussed project exemptions in the MPCA Rules that might apply because of the amount of acreage disturbed by the repair project and that the project was for "erosion control".

2015 Buffer Law. Albright noted that it appears that the Minnesota Legislature has no new legislation to overturn or drastically change the existing Buffer Law. Chairman Van Amburg reported there might be a compromise on the timing of the Buffer Law implementation.

Elkton Wetland Restorations. The Board discussed the violations committed on the Poehls and Lamb easement by their renter, Tom Friedrich, who rents the land adjacent to our wetland restoration sites in Elkton Township, Clay County. The renter allegedly worked up part of the easement area, removed trees on the property line and pushed the debris onto the easement area. Vogel Law Firm prepared some possible enforcement options to have the damages repaired for the Board's review. Albright plans to conduct a field review of the sites to document the damages. Albright said the easement landowners had nothing to do with the violation.

Wolverton Creek Restoration. Albright noted that the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) Conservation Partners Legacy Grants (CPLG) Program 2017 budget includes our \$1.877 million for this project.

Otter Tail River Restoration. Jones met with the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) and the DNR on 5/18/17 to discuss project alternatives.

BRRWD Rules. Albright distributed the last copy of the draft Rules for the Board's review back on 2/27/17. Manager Leitch has provided some useful comments that Albright has not had time to incorporate. There is also more work to do on the buffer law and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) sections. The Board would like to get this process finished.

Whiskey Creek Restoration. Albright noted that the Board will need to schedule a landowner informational meeting in the near future regarding the proposed Creek repairs. Jones and Bruce Poppel, Environmental Officer, Wilkin County Environmental Services, met with a representative from Riley Brothers Construction, Inc., regarding possible solutions to address the water standing in a large borrow pit that MNDOT created along T.H. No. 75 north of Whiskey Creek near Kent, MN. The contractor proposed the installation of an 18" dia. pipe set 3' below the current borrow pit runoff elevation to meter the flow out of the pit via an existing waterway to the Creek and rock riprap at the pit inlet to prevent back cutting near the newly built T.H. No. 75 road bed. Jones will check with the contractor regarding the submission of a BRRWD permit application for the pipe installation.

MAWD Summer Tour. The Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) will hold their 2017 Summer Tour on June 21-23 in Bemidji. The office has made the tour registrations for Albright and Managers Fjestad, Van Amburg, and Hanson. Albright will make room reservations for Managers Van Amburg, Hanson, and himself by the 6/7/17 deadline. The Association will be holding a special meeting to vote on their By-Laws, specifically to look at their dues structures. The MAWD Board is hoping that each District will send two delegates with voting authority and an alternate to the meeting to be sure there is a

quorum of the member Watershed Districts present to be able to hold the vote. The Board briefly discussed the proposed dues structure/increase. **Motion** by Anderson to appoint Van Amburg and Hanson as the BRRWD's delegates to the MAWD special meeting with Manager Fjestad as the alternate. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.** Albright provided a handout of the special meeting agenda for the Board to review. The Board can discuss the BRRWD's position on these issues at the 6/12/17 meeting.

Viewer Retirement. Albright noted that at the last Viewers' meeting, Lauren Peterson announced that at age 97, he has decided to retire as a BRRWD Viewer. The Board discussed a replacement Viewer for Peterson. Albright suggested that the Board could present Peterson with a plaque to recognize his 28 years of service. Peterson was also instrumental in organizing the South Buffalo Watershed District in the late 1950s. Van Amburg suggested that the Board could recognize Peterson's contributions during our Fall Tour. **Motion** by Anderson to purchase a recognition plaque for Peterson. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

LSOHC Funding. The Board discussed funding opportunities from the LSOHC Program for Whisky Creek/South Branch of the Buffalo River near Barnesville. The application is due 5/31/17, and the funding would be used for engineering and construction costs for the stream restoration projects. Jones noted that we will try to utilize the existing Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and RIM program to fund the project easements costs. The project would restore 4.6 miles of South Branch of the Buffalo River channel with 100 acres of associated riparian habitat corridor and additional stream restoration of the straightened stream/river channel along the South Branch. If approved, any excess funding would be applied to Whisky Creek. The total funding request is \$1.7 million. The LSOHC will review the applications and select projects to move on to the next level of interviews. Clay and Wilkin County SWCDs have provided letters of recommendations for our application. **Motion** by Anderson to authorize Jones to submit the referenced project funding application. **Seconded** by Leitch. **Approved.** Jones noted that the DNR has indicated that our Stony Creek Restoration project is at the top of their list for funding this year.

Area I Envirothon. The Area I Envirothon was held on 5/3/17 at the Prairie Wetland Learning Center, Fergus Falls. Albright served as a judge for the oral presentations. The Board received a thank you note from the Envirothon Committee for their contribution and support. The Junior Envirothon is scheduled for October 3, 2017.

Ditch Spraying. Gene Berger, Ditch Maintenance Service LLC, forwarded information regarding his cattail control services. The Board reviewed the information. Currently, LM Road Services LLC handles our ditch weed/cattail spraying, which they do by walking the ditches and spraying by hand. Albright noted that we are satisfied with their work and rates.

Clay C.D. No. 53/J.D. No. 1 Repairs. At their 4/10/17 meeting, the Board authorized HEI to advertise for bids for erosion control outlet repairs on Clay C.D. No. 53 and Clay/Wilkin J.D. No. 1, which outlet to Wolverton Creek. A bid opening for this work is scheduled for 6/7/17 at 10:00 AM in the Fargo HEI office. Jones will bring a contractor recommendation for the Board's review at their 6/12/17 meeting. The Wilkin SWCD received BWSR funding for erosion control work along the Red River, including the installation of side inlets or grade control structures. The grant would cover 75% of the repair costs, and the remaining 25% of the costs would be paid as ditch system expenses. The repair plans for these two ditches are part of the Wolverton Creek channel restoration project design.

Heartland Trail. Albright distributed information to the Managers regarding the status of the Heartland Trail effort and discussed proposed legislation to provide funding to start the design of this project. In response to Manager Leitch's question about how the Northland Trail is related to the Heartland Trail, Albright explained that where the Northland Trail is basically a hiking path, the Heartland Trail is a hard surface multipurpose trail. Currently, the Heartland Trail effort is focused on linking Maplewood State Park with Fort Abercrombie.

MPCA Project Termination Notices. Jones had several MPCA Construction Stormwater Notices of Termination forms for the Board's signature to close out various projects. **Motion** by Fjestad to authorize Van Amburg to sign the Notices on behalf of the Board. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

City of Moorhead Pedestrian Facilities. Moorhead is working with KLJ Engineering to construct a roadway project along 15th AVE N and 28th ST N to the Red River. The project consists of mill and overlay, sidewalk/shared use path, construction of turn lanes, detention ponds, box culvert extensions, and signal installations. Albright advised KLJ that because the project would cross Project No. 37, Clay C.D. No. 41-Lateral No. 1, and Clay C.D. No. 50, a BRRWD permit would be required.

Farmstead Ringdikes. Ron Harnack, Project Coordinator, Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB), is updating their 2017 farmstead and rural ring dike program allocations. He asked that the BRRWD provide an expenditure estimate for 2017 so the RRWMB can allocate the remaining DNR funding. Currently, the BRRWD has two ring dikes requests: Robert Nord and Jerry Butenhoff, both qualify for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) through the NRCS with the balance split between the landowner and the State of Minnesota. We originally submitted four dikes for funding, so Jones will contact Harnack with our funding changes.

Project No. 16, Stinking Lake Detention. The DNR issued a permit for the drawdown of Stinking Lake. The gates are open, and the lake will be drained nearly dry to facilitate vegetative growth.

BWSR AIG Grant. The BRRWD received \$168,000 from the 2017 BWSR Clean Water Fund Accelerated Implementation Grant (AIG) program for Prioritizing Targeting Marketing Application (PTMApp), and the Streambank Geomorphic Assessment to target bank erosion to determine how to manage hydrology for water quality benefits. HEI has a contract with the Minnesota Soy Bean Growers to do similar hydrologic calculations in three other watershed districts. HEI would like to leverage the Soy Bean Growers contract to include the work being done in the BRRWD to provide more resources for our study. The Growers would expect acknowledgement of participation in return for their collaboration in the study. The Managers agreed to partner with the Soy Bean Growers in this regard.

Becker C.D. No. 19. Wade Opsahl, Technician, HEI, has been working with a group of cabin owners on Buffalo and Rice Lakes, who have finally obtained a DNR permit to conduct aquatic management between the two lakes. Opsahl received an estimate for the cattail removal of \$600-\$1,500 to be paid as a ditch system expense. Albright noted that the cabin owners on both lakes were all included in the current benefit area. **Motion** by Hanson to approve the proposed cattail removal on the channel between Buffalo and Rice Lakes in 2017 on a trial basis as a ditch system expense. **Seconded** by Anderson. **Approved.**

BRRWD Goals. Albright provided the Board with their goal list for review and discussion at the next meeting. The last time this list was updated was 7/11/16.

Easement Consultant. At their 3/27/17 meeting, the Board agreed to hire Steven J. Taff, Associate Professor Emeritus, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, to provide consulting services to look at the value of easements on flood damage reduction (fdr) and natural resource enhancement (nre) projects. Taff will estimate financial costs and sketch administrative procedures to acquire easements, and given enough data, he could also possibly provide a summary tracking framework to understand the economic costs/benefits of a proposed project based on water quality factors. Manager Leitch noted that Taff is waiting for an official response to his proposal and a contract for his services. Taff could start work for the BRRWD next month.

The following bills were presented for approval:

| Accounts Payable | Description | Account | Amount |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Arvid Thompson | #17-24,08/25/16-05/10/17 Viewing | Varies | \$ 300.00 |
| Bruce E. Albright | 05/10/17 Viewers' dinner-Eagle | Clay 16/Wilkin 6A/Becker 9 | \$ 44.29 |

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| Clay Co. Auditor-Treasurer | Tax statement & Delinquents | Pj. 49, Oakport | \$ 43.68 |
| Eddie Bernhardson | #17-22, 04/20/16-05/10/17 PT/Viewing | Varies | \$ 1,109.55 |
| Joel Carlson | June lobbyist fees | Admin. | \$ 850.00 |
| Lauren Peterson | #17-23, 12/29/16-05/10/17 Viewing | C16/B9/W6A | \$ 150.00 |
| MPS | 04/14/17-05/03/17 service (1) | Pj. 49, Oakport | \$ 38.50 |
| National Flood Insurance Program | #17-05-3618P extra fee | Pj. 49, Oakport | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Quill | #6644196, office supplies | Admin. | \$ 79.21 |
| Roger Lundberg | 05/13/17 beaver billing | Becker C.D. Nos. 10/18 | \$ 622.93 |
| Roger Lundberg | Section 8, Skree Township | Pj. 13, Hay Creek | \$ 861.51 |
| Roger Lundberg | Buffalo Lake road level gravel | Becker C.D. No. 19 | \$ 50.00 |
| RRVCPA | 04/01/17-05/01/17 Service (1) | Pj. 49, Oakport | \$ 84.09 |
| UEI | #64557, thru 04/30/17, Phase 4 | Pj. 49, Oakport | \$ 1,969.20 |
| UEI | #64558, thru 04/30/17, levee cert. | Pj. 49, Oakport | \$ 317.28 |
| UEI | #64559, thru 04/30/17, wetlands | Pj. 49, Oakport | \$ 2,423.66 |
| Wm. Nichol Excavating | #224, ditch repairs | Pj. 02, Wilkin C.D. No. 13 | \$ 33,862.50 |
| | | | \$ 43,806.40 |

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

Next Meeting. The Board will hold their next regular meeting on Monday, June 12, 2017, at 7:00 PM in our Barnesville office.

Adjournment. Chairman Van Amburg adjourned the meeting at 9:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hanson, Secretary