

BUFFALO-RED RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

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MINUTES FOR MANAGERS' MEETING

February 27, 2017

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held their regular meeting on Monday, February 27, 2017, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. BRRWD Managers present were Gerald L. Van Amburg, Jay A. Leitch, John E. Hanson, and Peter V. Fjestad. Others attending included: Bruce E. Albright, BRRWD Administrator, and Thomas Eskro, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI); Jeff Lewis, Executive Director, Red River Basin Commission (RRBC), Chuck Fritz, Director, International Water Institute (IWI); and landowner Chuck Anderson.

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 02/13/17 regular meeting. **Motion** by Fjestad to approve the minutes. **Seconded** by Leitch. **Approved.**

Treasurer's Report. The Board reviewed the BRRWD's financial status. Cash on hand is \$2,154,491.85. To date, 2017 income is \$329,572.63. Income since the 02/13/17 meeting is \$82,682.86. We received \$5,717.55 from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for the Otter Tail River Restoration 319 Grant and \$74,219.06 from the Wilkin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and their Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Grant for the same project. North Dakota State University (NDSU) sent a \$746.25 reimbursement for Project No. 7, Clay County Ditch No. 39, from their Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) refunded our \$2,000 security deposit for work on Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 75 in conjunction with Project No. 39, Georgetown Levee.

RRBC Long Term Flood Solution Study (LTFS). At the last meeting, the Board had a discussion regarding possible options for determining easement values for our upcoming Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) projects. At that meeting, Manager Leitch raised a concern about the RRBC's LTFS 20% reduction goals. Leitch is working on the benefit analysis for some of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) projects for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). He questioned the relevancy of this goal, given the changing conditions in the Red River Basin since the LTFS was completed. The Board directed Albright to invite Jeff Lewis, RRBC, to attend tonight's meeting to answer possible questions regarding the hydrologic efficacy and the economic efficiency of the LTFS and their 20% goal, using the 1997 spring flood as their benchmark. Chuck Fritz, IWI, who was involved with the development of the LTFS, was also in attendance to provide information regarding the Study. The BRRWD also developed "The Expanded Distribution Detention Study", based on the 20% modeling in the LTFS. Lewis forwarded a link to a Star Tribune article regarding regional detention. Albright also referenced an early McCombs Knutson Study (1976) that was used to determine the storage value for retention projects on a per acre-foot basis. To date, this study has never been updated.

Manager Leitch observed that the 20% goal is now 20 years old, and questioned if it could still be a reliable factor to use in determining cost/benefit ratios for current retention projects. Lewis discussed the history of the development of strategies to provide 10-year flood protection (distributive storage) for agricultural land, which resulted in the LTFS, incorporating the overall basin goal of 20% flow reduction for the main stem of the Red River of the North. Lewis agreed that flood damage reduction (fdr) conditions in the basin have improved in the last 20 years, noting that most of the communities on the Red River now have 100-year flood

protection. He feels that distributive storage projects should still be part of the fdr overall plan. Lewis said that it has been recognized that large detention projects like the North Ottawa project in the Bois de Sioux Watershed District have dramatic impacts on nutrient reduction/water quality improvement. Lewis distributed a handout regarding water quality benefits generated by the North Ottawa project. He noted that it appears about 80% of the nutrients coming off the 75 square miles (sq. mi.) watershed associated with the North Ottawa impoundment are filtered out by the project. Lewis also distributed a handout regarding water quality goals for the Canadian border, incorporating proposed nitrogen/phosphorus concentrations at the border and strategies to reduce the levels of these nutrients in the Red River. The International Joint Commission (IJC) has asked participating regulatory agencies to assist in realizing the objectives listed in the report: phosphorus-0.15 milligrams per liter and nitrogen-1.15 milligrams per liter. Lewis said that projects like the sediment control basins the Becker SWCD and local landowners have been installing for the last several years with the financial assistance of the BRRWD are some of the most cost effective means to reduce nutrient infiltration into the waterways, but he also maintained that distributive detention projects are also important factors for improving water quality. Lewis explained that by incorporating storage, fdr, natural resource enhancement (nre)/wildlife benefits, there are still funding sources available for detention projects. Regarding the 20% flow reduction goals, Lewis agreed that this goal is probably not as useful as it once was, given the advancements in fdr efforts over the last several years directly along the Red River.

Albright discussed the features of the Stony Creek Retention project and the various local and regional fdr and nre benefits the project could provide. Thomas Eskro, HEI, explained the process to document the problems within a drainage system that lead to the development of a project for this area. Landowner Chuck Anderson noted that a comprehensive project is what's needed for the area so the drainage problems just don't keep getting pushed downstream. Leitch noted that Lewis presented a new set of different goals (nutrients reduction/water quality), but offered the same solution, large retention projects. Albright noted that project benefits can be derived from a number of factors that include fdr, but this is not the only factor. Leitch noted that just because there is money available for retention at the state/federal level, doesn't mean we should spend it without close examination of cost/benefit ratios.

The group spent some time discussing the RCPP process. Lewis commented that initially, the RCPP was to be focused on water quality projects, but when the Red River Retention Authority (RRRA) went through the project selection process, they chose fdr projects, which is what caused so many of the projects to be rejected because of cost/benefit issues. Chuck Fritz, IWI, commented that most of the proposed detention projects he sees no longer have positive cost/benefit ratios because of the agricultural drainage improvements that have been installed over the past 20 years, leaving very little of intensively farmed agricultural land affected by a 10-year summer storm. He noted that "purpose and need" are extremely important factors when evaluating the value of a project. Eskro explained that the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Concurrence Points process requires establishing those criteria for a project. Fritz commented that a fdr project should also solve actual local problems. Albright noted that the Stony Creek project does solve a number of local problems without downstream impacts.

Chuck Anderson discussed the current local conditions on his property on Stony Creek. Albright observed that we don't necessarily have to use the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB), RRBC, or any other agency guidelines for project easement values and benefit ratios. The BRRWD can establish our own goals and make cost/benefit determinations for projects based on good business sense. Manager Leitch agreed that the Board should move forward with projects based on solid economic judgement. He asked Lewis if the RRBC could investigate how to quantify benefits provided by these new downstream problems, such as nutrient load/water quality that have apparently replaced, been supplemented by the fdr goals. Leitch felt that until the true downstream damages can be calculated, we won't be able to evaluate the benefits of any proposed upstream remedial projects. The group discussed downstream nutrient problems in Canadian waters, and past government expenditures on water quality programs. Lewis suggested that the BRRWD could also try to make their concerns known at the State level.

Other Business brought before the Board included:

Permit No. 16-110, Chad Nelson. At their 10/24/16 meeting, the Board approved this permit to install one 12" dia. tile line from the south quarterline of Section 34 in the NW¼, Norwegian Grove Township, Otter Tail County, on Wayne Paulson's property, running north through the center of the quarter to a natural waterway, eventually outletting into the T.H. No. 108 road ditch. The approval was subject to Manager field review regarding the adequacy of the T.H. No. 108 road ditch and contact with the neighboring landowner, John Boen, regarding the proposed project and its possible effects on the private drainage system in this area. Boen was in the office recently and indicated that the project was completed and should not be a problem. **Motion** by Hanson to release Permit No. 16-110. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.**

Permit No. 16-126, Eugene Kaiser. The Board is waiting for John Steffl to submit an after-the-fact permit application for the tiling project he installed a few years ago without a BRRWD permit that outlets via existing ditches to NRCS designated wetlands on Harlan Wentz's property in the SE¼, Section 3, Callaway Township, Becker County. The Board would like to resolve this issue with all the parties at the same time. Albright will contact Steffl again regarding his application. **Tabled.**

Haugrud Drainage Complaint. Albright noted when he visited with Jimmie Lindholm recently, Lindholm had photographs of water standing on their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage in Section 22, Prairie View Township, Wilkin County, and very little water on the upstream Haugrud field. Lindholm believes the water on their property is caused by plugged culverts to the west, and if too much water flows west, it could affect Lloyd Lindholm's farmstead. Lindholm still wants answers from the Haugruds about how they plan to keep sediment from washing out of their waterway onto the Lindholm CRP.

Robert Yaggie Tiling Complaint. HEI has completed the Board authorized survey to determine what it would take to drain the tile outlet to the north. The drawings could be completed this week. Albright explained that once we have the survey, we will identify the landowners along the outlet routes and invite them to a morning meeting in the BRRWD office to discuss the outlet for Robert Yaggie's tiling project in Section 28, Mitchell Township, Wilkin County.

Project No. 77, Clay County Ditch (C.D.) No. 51-Lateral-Norby Lawsuit. Albright reported that the Summary Judgement court hearing for the Norby lawsuit is scheduled for Friday, March 10, 2017, 1:30 PM, at the Clay County Courthouse in Moorhead. BRRWD Attorney Charlotte Rusch, Vogel Law Firm, filed the motion for Summary Judgement with the Court.

Project No. 71, City of Moorhead 50th AVE S. The Operation and Maintenance (O&M) agreement with the City of Moorhead is ready for BRRWD signature. **Motion** by Fjestad to authorize Van Amburg to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. **Seconded** by Leitch. **Approved.** The O&M will be forwarded to the City for their review and signature. Albright noted that Mike Love, HEI, is working with the City of Moorhead on the levee certification process, and a small wetland credit was deducted from our wetland bank for this project. Both items will be project expenses.

Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration. Albright noted spring work will include installing spillways on the inlet channel by Arnhalt's property. We plan to keep the pool down as long as needed to allow the NRCS to continue with their site work.

Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation-Phase 4. Albright reported that he has not had a response from the Fischer family regarding their spoil pile lease. He will contact Leonard Nelson to discuss the Family's attitudes about the Board's settlement offer.

Albright noted that there is no news regarding the Kopperud lawsuit. To date, Kopperud's attorney, Stephen Welle, has not filed the case with the Courts.

Albright met the project engineer, Kris Carlson, UEI, regarding the R. J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc., claim for \$145,000 in liquidated damages based on alleged delays outside of their control. The majority of the lost construction time was caused when Century Link stopped work on their cable relocation due to the Kopperuds' trespass claim. Zavoral's claim also included delays related to unfinished easement acquisitions and the Andy Noah house move. Albright felt that the easements were not a factor, and questioned the amount of money Zavoral claimed for the house move delay because there were other project areas where their crew could have been working. Albright hoped that we should be able to negotiate a settlement with Zavoral.

The Board discussed a proposal from the Wetland Technical Panel to remove cattails in the wetlands associated with the Oakport project. According to a technical paper published by the University of Minnesota (U of M), the theory is to cut the vegetation, so that in the spring, the cattails would be drowned out before the growing season. Leitch questioned if this would work.

The Board needs to approve a resolution regarding the certification of the west part of the Oakport Levee. We have already approved a similar resolution for the east part of the levee. Carlson will provide the correspondence that needs to accompany the resolution, so Albright advised the Board to wait until we have the letters ready to send before we approve the resolution so all the paperwork has the same date.

Water Quality Monitoring. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) stream gauge monitoring contract for the project expired on 01/31/17. Another three-year contract with the DNR will cost \$20,300/year. Payments are made semi-annually at \$10,500. Jones has advised that the BRRWD will need the flow data from the gauges to demonstrate future project water quality benefits. **Motion** by Fjestad to approve the referenced contract renewal. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

Project No. 39, Georgetown Levee. Albright reported that US Bank is nearing a settlement regarding the Greywind house condemnation. There is still some paperwork left for the Board to sign, giving Greywind title to the land where his new house is located. Albright reported that there has been no response regarding the F-M Diversion Authority providing funding for the permanent road levees. Albright noted that the Georgetown City Council has concerns about the Josh Wambach Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) application that their Mayor signed. Wade Opsahl, Technician, HEI, is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on disaster payments to the City for the 2011 Spring Flood. Some of this money will be applied to the project account balance (-\$115,450.06).

Project No. 30, Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch No. 1 (J.D. No. 1). Albright reported that Bryan Kritzberger picked up the revised outlet petition and is currently circulating it for new signatures.

Project No. 21, Wilkin C.D. No. 13-Lateral. Albright reported that the office has prepared a landowner mailing list, and a meeting has been scheduled on March 16, 2017, at 8:30 AM with landowners regarding the proposed repairs. The plan is to start the cleanout this spring when weather conditions allow. Several contractors will be hired.

FDR Projects:

Mediation Project Team (PT). The next PT meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 2017, in the Barnesville office at 1:30 PM.

Upper South Branch of the Buffalo River. Albright and Manager Fjestad will meet with the Rogelstad family regarding the project. BWSR has closed on the Deutsch Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) contract and would like to meet with the BRRWD regarding our proposed project. Eskro reported that we have submitted the project for FDR grant funding and the DNR's stream restoration project funding prioritization list. Eskro thought that this project should score well for the DNR funding, as it incorporates restoring the river channel that was straightened back in the early 1900s.

State FDR Funding. Representatives Marquardt, Lien, and Nolan have introduced House File (H.F.) No. 1582 relating to capital investment appropriating money for flood hazard mitigation projects in the BRRWD. The appropriation is for \$16.19 million. A similar bill is expected to be introduced in the Minnesota Senate. The three projects mentioned in the bill are Stony Creek Restoration, Upper South Branch of the Buffalo River, and Barnesville Township Area Retention. Pat Lynch, Financial Coordinator, DNR Waters, notified Albright that the BRRWD is officially on the DNR's 2017 project funding request list.

Barnesville Township. The next step in project development is to schedule a landowner informational meeting. The Board needs to determine the easement values before we bring in the landowners. The Board discussed current land values. Albright suggested that the Board consider using the County Crop Equivalency Rating (CER) formula or the Crop Productivity Index (CPI), which would provide the most current land values. He explained that the BRRWD typically takes a 3-year easement option (\$100) on land needed for a project, indicating to the landowner that we intend to build a project on his land in the next three years. Albright felt that the landowners in the Stony Creek project area are ready to sign the options. Cathee Pullman, NRCS State Conservationist, notified Albright that they have funding available in the Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) program that provides federal funding to cover 50% of the easement funding and for land that continues to be farmed. The Board had an extended discussion about easement values for all of our retention projects under development. Manager Leitch agreed to contact Steven J. Taff, Associate Professor Emeritus, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, regarding his thoughts about easement values. Taff has looked at benefits regarding water quality. The Board agreed to discuss this issue again at their next meeting when all the Managers are present.

Project No. 16, Stinking Lake. Albright mentioned that he attended a meeting recently regarding Project No. 16, Stinking Lake. He suggested that the BRRWD should meet with the current project landowners to discuss the project, which was built 27 years ago.

One Watershed One Plan (1W1P). Albright is working on a meeting agenda and drafting a meeting notice for the 1W1P kick-off meeting with BWSR, the SWCDs, Local Water Planning Action Committees (LWPAC), and the County Commissioners because we will need resolutions from each entity to commit to a 1W1P process. The 1W1P grant application deadline is in mid-April. Pete Waller, Board Conservationist, BWSR, has suggested that we filed the resolutions with the Northern Committee at their April meeting.

F-M Diversion Project. The City of Comstock has requested a meeting to discuss a potential ring dike for the community in the event the Diversion project upstream of the staging area is built, and they invited the BRRWD to attend. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2017, at 11:00 AM, at the Clay County Highway Department. In regards to the Federal lawsuit, the Federal Judge ruled that the DNR has now joined the Upstream Coalition's lawsuit and that the COE will need to return to Court to address the lawsuit. Albright noted that the Judge did not halt project construction.

Otter Tail/Buffalo/Upper Red Rivers Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)/Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS). Albright noted there has been no new developments regarding the status of these projects. Currently, the Buffalo River WRAPS is the only one of the four MPCA work products that has been completed.

Lowell Deedee, a retired United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge worker, set a goal of walking all the county roads in Becker County. He also documented his water quality observations. Deedee compiled a report of his findings and provided a copy for the Board's review. The study can also be found on the BRRWD's Website at www.brrwd.org.

Our water quality partners, IWI, River Watch, DNR, MPCA, plan to start the 2017 sampling season in the near future. The BRRWD will schedule a meeting with this group soon to identify sampling sites. Albright suggested that the Stinking Lake drainage area could be added to the monitoring list this year.

Data Management System. Albright provided information to the Managers regarding his recommendation for the company he feels would be the best fit for the BRRWD's data retention needs. After a great deal of investigation, Albright and the staff feel that the Marco, Inc., product, M-Files, is the best choice for the BRRWD efforts to digitize our filing system. The cost for the entire system, including a public portal to allow anyone with a computer to access our public files online, is \$24,199, plus \$2,728.56 for a dedicated scanner. It will also be necessary to update the office server, which HEI estimates will cost approximately \$5,200. The staff at the Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD), who have been using M-Files for a few years, wholeheartedly recommended the product. **Motion** by Leitch to approve the purchase of the M-Files product, the scanner, and the server update. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.**

Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP). The office and Managers have fulfilled all the tasks we needed to complete for the Level II PRAP. BWSR representatives plan to attend the 03/27/17 meeting to present their preliminary report to the Board. Albright noted that he would like to be able to present the BWSR report to the Advisory Committee at their annual meeting, scheduled for 03/31/17 in our office.

Wilkin C.D. No. 7 Repairs. Eskro reported that States Border Construction has their equipment on site and is ready to start work this week. Cody Zarak, Technician, HEI, installed a number of control points and minimum staking to facilitate the GPS guided equipment. There is still some snow in the north-south portion of the ditch, but the east-west channel was clear. The contractor plans to start on the east-west slopes, then move to the north-south portion as the weather improves. Hopes are to finish the repair before spring planting.

Wilkin C.D. No. 40 Partial Abandonment. Dave Yaggie is interested in the partial abandonment of C.D. No. 40. Albright contacted Luther Aadland, DNR, who designed the Trout Stream Restoration project, to get his input about the capacity of the restored stream channel. To date, he has not responded. A ditch system petition and landowner hearing would be required before the ditch could be abandoned.

Wilkin C.D. No. 6A Repairs. The Wilkin County Highway Department plans to start work this week on the installation of the rock drop structures. Wade Opsahl, Technician, HEI, is working on the redetermination of benefits maps.

Clay C.D. No. 3 Slope Repair. Eskro talked about the repair plans for approximately 0.25 miles of C.D. No. 3 outlet east of County Road (C.R.) No. 11 in Section 8, Moland Township, near Glyndon, as described by Erik Jones, Engineer, HEI, at the 02/13/17 BRRWD meeting. Eskro recommended that the Board move forward with the first alternative that will require 1.59 acres of additional right-of-way (R/W) to provide for the one-rod (16.5') grassed bufferstrip. The repair will include the regrading of the ditch with a 4H:1V vertical sideslopes with two rock riprap drop structures and filling in the ditch bottom to the proposed grade at all three sloughing locations. The ditch will transition back to the existing 3:1 sideslopes for the remaining portion. Two rock riprap drop structures will be installed to fix downcutting and other damages to the ditch that started during the 2006 spring flood. The estimated cost for Alternative 1 is \$85,000-\$95,000. Albright suggested that he send the two affected landowners a copy of the plans for their review with the proposed R/W acreage for their respective properties and then wait for their response before moving forward with the work.

MPCA MS4. The MPCA Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) regulations have been incorporated into the revised BRRWD draft Rules for the applicable areas. Ted Rud, Civil Engineer, HEI, who is handling this work for the BRRWD, is working on Part II of the MS4 application, which will be submitted by the 04/19/17 deadline.

2015 Buffer Law. Albright is working with Clay County to schedule a meeting to discuss jurisdictional and Administrative Penalty Order (APO) authority. The Board reviewed a list HEI prepared of all the legal buffers, totaled by miles per County. Albright noted that with this information, division of the future funding for buffer installation/enforcement will be easier to allocate between the Counties and BRRWD. The Board felt that, as drainage authority, the BRRWD should be in charge of buffer enforcement for the legal ditch systems.

Elkton Township Wetland Restoration. BWSR has forwarded a transaction form to deposit wetland credits into the Minnesota Wetland Bank for the Elkton Wetland Banking Project, developed by the BRRWD. The total anticipated credits per the approved bank plan is 88.7 acres. At the present time, the BRRWD qualifies for 35.48 acres. The filing fee is \$1,000. **Motion** by Hanson to authorize the fee payment and filing of the noted paperwork. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.**

Wolverton Creek Restoration. NRCS has not yet provided a decision about the project's eligibility for the Wetlands Reserve Enhancement (WRE) program. The Board has the information regarding the proposed water management district (wmd) fees, which were broken down into four categories per acre: production agricultural land (\$1.40 to \$1.60), farmsteads (\$1.20-\$1.40), natural areas (less than \$1.00), and developed areas (\$1.00-\$1.20). The office will work on assembling a landowner mailing list for the hearing notice.

Otter Tail River Restoration. Albright reported that the COE's proposed Section 1135 Study cost estimate is down to \$343,505 from \$400,000. They would pay the first \$100,000 and split the remainder 50/50 with the BRRWD, so our cost would be approximately \$120,000. Albright will participate in a webinar at the HEI Fargo office on 03/01/17 at 9:00 AM to go through possible budget reductions and also to kick off the COE's 1135 study and workplan for the 11-mile stretch of the Otter Tail River that the COE straightened in the 1950s. Eskro explained that HEI is working with COE to insure they don't duplicate any of HEI's work products that have already been completed in conjunction with our 319 grant for the entire channel starting at the Orwell Dam westward to the Red River at Breckenridge. The Board discussed the scope of the COE's proposed project. If the COE's study confirms that a restoration project should be done, approximately \$11 million in federal funding could become available for the project. The Board briefly discussed landowner interest and the amount of sediment in the channel.

BRRWD Rules Update. The Board reviewed the process for the adoption of the Rules, according to Minnesota Statutes. They also had an extended discussion about the proposed language for tile regulation and Rules enforcement. Once a final draft is approved, the next step is for the BRRWD to forward it to BWSR, Counties, Cities, and other agencies for a 45-day review and comment period. At the end of the comment period, the BRRWD will schedule a public hearing to adopt the new Rules. Albright expects to have a final draft ready for the Board's approval at our 03/13/17 meeting.

Whiskey Creek Restoration. Eskro is working on a landowner mailing list so we can hold a landowner meeting in the near future to review the survey and study. The Board discussed easement options for this proposed project. Albright noted that agency funding could cover approximately 90% of the easement costs. He added that the NRCS has provided a chart/map regarding the 2017 Geographical Area Rate Caps (GARC) rates for land acquisition in Minnesota that the Board could consider when setting easement values/rates.

MAWD Day at the Capitol. The Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) will hold their annual Day at the Capitol on March 29-30, 2017. The Managers discussed travel options. Albright has already made the hotel reservations, and the office will handle the event registrations. Van Amburg, Fjestad, Hanson, and Albright plan to attend.

Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (RRBFDRWG)/RRWMB March Conference. The March Conference will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead on March 22-23, 2017. Workshops will be held the morning of March 22, including a drainage seminar and orientation for Watershed

District Managers and SWCD Supervisors. Albright will make a hotel reservation for Fjestad. Albright forwarded conference information to the County Commissioners and SWCDs.

Hough Diversion. The Board discussed a proposed clean water diversion structure for Hough Farms in Section 25, Humboldt Township, Clay County. The water from the area drains directly into Whisky Creek. The project will divert overland water from flowing through their cattle yard and buildings. The project cost estimate is approximately \$23,011.23 and will also qualify for state and federal funding. The BRRWD's cost share policy is that we would provide the balance of the funding, capped at 75% of the project costs. **Motion** by Fjestad to provide funding for the Hough project, as referenced, with the understanding that the actual cost could vary from the current estimate. **Seconded** by Leitch. **Approved.**

MPCA WRAPS/TMDL. The MPCA interviewed several watershed districts regarding their WRAPS/TMDL process and prepared a summary of the comments for distribution. Albright and Jones met with Jim Courneya and Reed Larson, MPCA, in conjunction with this survey.

Kobiela Retirement. Retired Manager Breanna Kobiela sent the Board a thank you note for her retirement party and baby gift.

West Otter Tail SWCD Sediment Control Basins. At the last meeting, the Board discussed a project to develop five sediment control systems in Section 32, Norwegian Grove Township, Otter Tail County. Aaron Larson, West Otter Tail SWCD, who is working with landowner Steve Mohs on this project, contacted Jones to ask if the BRRWD would consider splitting the project costs for this project with the SWCD and landowner. The cost estimate is \$174,279. The Board felt that Larson should explore other funding sources, in addition to the BRRWD, including the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), before we could consider the request. Jones reported that Larson is in the process of looking for other funding. Jeff Lavigne, Lavigne Farm Drainage, will design the project.

Public Official Recertification. Most the Managers have submitted their recertification information to the State Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board. Manager Anderson will complete his form when he returns from Texas at the end of the month.

The following bills were presented for approval:

Accounts Payable	Description	Account	Amount
Bruce E. Albright	02/21/17 Area I SWCD registration	Admin.	\$ 18.00
Carmen Pattengale	February cleaning (2)	Admin.	\$ 130.00
Joel Carlson, Inc.	March Lobbyist Billing	Admin.	\$ 850.00
Kletsch Photography	#100, Leitch photograph	Admin.	\$ 76.95
MAWD	Legislative reception (4)	Admin.	\$ 400.00
Minnesota BWSR	WCA deposit fees	Elkton Wetlands	\$ 1,000.00
UEI	#62871, thru 01/31/17, Phase 4	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 21,806.25
UEI	#62877, thru 01/31/17, levee cert.	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 6,372.50
UEI	#62873, thru 01/31/17 wetlands	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 1,359.50
Vogel Law Firm	#191431, January billing	Admin.	\$ 496.00
Vogel Law Firm	#191433, January billing	COE Diversion	\$ 115.00
Vogel Law Firm	#191434, January billing	Pj. 54, WCT	\$ 69.00
Vogel Law Firm	#191435, January billing, Kopperud	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 3,190.50
Xcel Energy	01/25/17-02/03/17 service (1)	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 98.62
			\$ 35,982.32

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

Next Meeting. The Board will hold their next regular meeting on Monday, March 13, 2017, at 7:00 PM in our Barnesville office.

Adjournment. Chairman Van Amburg adjourned the meeting at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hanson, Secretary