



## Board Meeting Minutes

Monday September 27, 2021

**Managers Present:** Peter Fjestad, Catherine Affield, John Hanson, Gerald Van Amburg, Mark Hanson, Paul Krabbenhoft.

**Managers Absent:** Troy Larson.

**Staff Present:** Kristine Altrichter, Administrator.

**Consultants Present:** Erik Jones, Engineer, Bennett Uhler, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI).

**Others Attending:** Matt Conzemius, Greg Grommesh, Jim Haick, Lance Erikson (remote), Jenny Mongeau (remote).

President Fjestad called meeting to order at 6:58 PM.

**Agenda:** Additions to agenda: Clay County Ditch No. 3 Pay Request 2, Whisky Creek Bank Erosion Concern.

**Motion** to approve agenda with additions by Van Amburg, **Seconded** by J. Hanson. **Approved.**

**Secretary's Report: Motion** to approve September 13, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes by Affield, **Seconded** by Krabbenhoft. **Approved.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Account balance was \$3,847,259.70. Income received since September 13, 2021 totals \$9,518.00, and for the year, totals \$5,162,677.03. No account receivables were collected this month.

### **Citizens to be Heard:**

**Greg Grommesh.** Grommesh would like to install a field approach and culvert across Deerhorn Creek Section 22, Atherton Township, Wilkin County to access approximately 10 acres of land previously enrolled in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Grommesh requested BRRWD pay for culvert and installation. Grommesh applied to enroll land in CRP again, however, application was not accepted. Jones recommended contacting Craig Lingen, Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), to apply for Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP). If Grommesh decides to move forward with installing culvert crossing, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permit will be required. DNR permit will require hydraulic survey. Grommesh decided to contact Lingen and return with request at future meeting if unable to enroll land in MN CREP.

**Jim Haick.** Haick is concerned about impacts from tiling Permit No. 21-106, Ron Conzemius, Section 16, Manston Township, Wilkin County on flooding downstream along South Branch Buffalo River. Jones explained BRRWD is acquiring funding and completing permitting requirements for South Branch Buffalo River Restoration downstream of Highway 9. Haick requested if permit is approved to have condition that pump cannot be active when South Branch Buffalo River is flooding. Board of Managers confirmed this is a standard condition for all tiling permits. Haick requested BRRWD enforce condition.

**Lance Erikson, Next Age Ventures LLC.** Erikson owns land within levees of Oakport Flood Mitigation site, NW ¼, Section 19, Oakport Township, Clay County. Erikson requests BRRWD sign document for City of Moorhead to vacate 54<sup>th</sup> Ave NW. Board of Managers discussed initial request during April 26, 2021 Board Meeting. Erikson is working with City of Moorhead to combine nine lots and abandon cul-de-sac along 54<sup>th</sup> Ave to build single family dwelling. City of Moorhead requires 54<sup>th</sup> Ave. to be vacated or improved prior to issuing building permit. Board of Managers requested additional information from City of Moorhead regarding plans for properties within Oakport Flood Mitigation site.

**Permits:**

**Permit No. 21-112, Jesse Stuehrenberg.** Applicant proposing to install subsurface tile drainage in S ½ and NW ¼, Section 33, Manston Township, Wilkin County. Ditch on west side of section will be the outlet and is an adequate outlet. Drainage patterns will not be altered. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tiling conditions.

**Permit No. 21-123, Shelly Dillon, City of Callaway.** Applicant proposing development including infiltration pond for onsite stormwater treatment in W ½, Section 32, Callaway Township, Becker County. Plan allows for final flow path of water to remain unchanged. Uhler recommended approval subject to approval from Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) to work within right-of-way (ROW).

**Permit No. 21-124, Tyler Zimmerman, Pheasants Forever Inc.** Applicant proposing to restore one wetland basin in Section 22, Highland Grove Township, Clay County. Restoration will include sediment removal, ditch fill, and tile re-route. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tiling conditions.

**Permit No. 21-125, Terry Kohler.** Applicant proposing to install water and sediment control basin with surface intakes and underground outlet in S ½ S ¼, Section 28, Hamden Township, Becker County. Project designed to NRCS standards. Embankment does not back water onto adjacent land, natural flow path will remain unchanged, and tile outlets onto applicant's property. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tiling conditions and approval from Hamden Township to work within ROW.

**Motion** to approve Permit Nos. 21-112, 21-123, 21-124, 21-125 with conditions outlined above by J. Hanson, **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

**Permit 21-106, Ron Konzemius.** Applicant proposing to install subsurface tile drainage in E ½ of NW ¼ and S ½ of Section 16, Manston Township, Wilkin County. Neighboring landowners are concerned about increased flooding along South Branch Buffalo River. Permit **Tabled** to allow downstream landowner concerns to be reviewed.

**Ditches:**

**Clay County Ditch No. 3 Pay Request 2.** Motion to approve Pay Request 2 from Northern States Excavating Inc. for \$33,062.38 by J. Hanson, **Seconded** by Van Amburg. **Approved.**

**Projects:**

**Whisky Creek Bank Erosion Concern.** Tim Thompson contacted BRRWD regarding sediment build up in Whisky Creek at bridge between Sections 12 and 13, Alliance Township, Clay County. Thompson requested BRRWD assist in permitting and sediment removal due to concern that sediment affect flow during heavy runoff events. Jones reviewed aerial imagery and it appeared sediment amount had not increased in last 20 years. Clay County Highway Department did not think sediment impacted integrity of bridge. Board of Managers determined benefit would not outweigh cost and would therefore not coordinate sediment removal.

**Stony Creek Water Resource Management Project (WRMP) Update.** Jones provided update on Stony Creek WRMP in Sections 2, 3, 4, 9, 11, Barnesville Township, Clay County. Stony Creek WRMP involves restoration of channel including adding meanders and off channel storage site. DNR granted approximately \$1.5 million to channel restoration. Easement options were sent to affected landowners, two options have been signed and returned. Staff will work on engaging remaining landowners to acquire easement options. David Leach, Section 2, has expressed interest in selling parcel to BRRWD for project. Jones presented five options for Board of Managers to consider acquiring land for project: 1) utilize MN CREP; 2) enter discussions with Pheasants Forever Inc., who own 400 acres adjacent to project area in Section 10, Barnesville Township, to form partnership to develop project; 3) work with Pat Lynch, DNR Flood Hazard Mitigation Program (FHM) coordinator, to acquire approximately \$320,000.00 of state bonding funds at a 50 percent local match; 4) local funding; 5) enter discussions with Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) regarding wetland bank potential for off channel storage. **Motion** to accept \$320,000.00 with 50 percent match from DNR FHM and authorize exploration of five options outlined above to acquire land for Stony Creek channel restoration by Van Amburg, **Seconded** by Krabbenhoft. **Approved.**

**Barnesville Township Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.**

Barnesville Township submitted grant application and listed BRRWD as fiscal agent. Uhler is working with FEMA contact to make Barnesville Township fiscal agent. Uhler asked Board of Managers if they would be agreeable to being fiscal agent if FEMA is unable to make the change. Board of Managers agreed BRRWD could be fiscal agent for portion of project they agreed to help with.

**Whiskey Creek Enhancement Project Phase 1 Pay Estimate No. 1. Motion** to approve Pay Estimate 1 from Ehlert Excavating Inc. for \$311,504.05 for 30 percent completion of the work by J. Hanson, **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

**South Branch Buffalo River Restoration Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). Motion** to approve EAW for the portion of South Branch Buffalo River Restoration from Section 9, Manston Township, Wilkin County to Section 2, Deerhorn Township, Wilkin County by Van Amburg, **Seconded** by M. Hanson. **Approved.**

**Upper Buffalo River Restoration EAW. Motion** to approve EAW from Upper Buffalo River Restoration by Krabbenhoft, **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

**Project 73, Country Heritage/Project 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation Transfer to City of Moorhead.** Attorney Tami Norgard is drafting documents to transfer BRRWD land within Oakport Flood Mitigation site to City of Moorhead. Project 73. Country Heritage was associated with Project 49. Oakport Flood Mitigation. Due to the close association with Oakport Flood Mitigation project, Jones recommended transferring Project 73. Country Heritage to City of Moorhead with transfer of Project 49. Oakport Flood Mitigation. **Motion** to include Project 73. Country Heritage with Project 49. Oakport Flood Mitigation in the transfer to City of Moorhead by J. Hanson, **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

**Other:**

**Staff Transition Update.** Altrichter informed Board of Managers that manager vouchers will be paid via direct deposit on Friday October 1, 2021. BRRWD and HEI are working together to develop processes to continue to move forward with staff transition. Altrichter is working with HighRoad Partners to develop job description and advertisement for Watershed Specialist position.

**Bills. Motion** to approve bills totaling \$380,195.41 by Affield, **Seconded** by Krabbenhoft. **Approved.**

**Next Regular Meeting.** Monday October 11, 2021, at 7:00 PM in Barnesville office. Agenda will be posted on BRRWD's website prior to meeting.

President Fjestad adjourned meeting at 9:24 PM.

/s/ John Hanson

Secretary