

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

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## MINUTES FOR MANAGERS' MEETING

August 13, 2018

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held their regular meeting on Monday, August 13, 2018, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. BRRWD Managers present were Jay A. Leitch, Gerald L. Van Amburg, Mark T. Anderson, John E. Hanson, Catherine L. Affield, Troy E. Larson, and Peter V. Fjestad. Others attending included: Bruce E. Albright, BRRWD Administrator, Erik S. Jones, Engineer, and Kathleen K. Fenger, Administrative Assistant, Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI); Lyle Hovland, Wilkin County Commissioner; Wayne Lepper, Chair, Highland Grove Township; and landowners Charles Anderson and Jay Nord.

BRRWD President Leitch called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and announced that the proceedings were being video recorded to aid in the preparation of the minutes.

**Agenda.** President Leitch asked for comments or additions to the meeting agenda. Manager Fjestad asked to have the Clay Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) cost-share request for the Wyland Streambank Erosion Project added to the agenda for discussion. With the noted addition, the agenda was adopted.

**Secretary's Report.** The Board reviewed draft minutes for the 7/23/18 regular Board meeting. President Leitch and Manager Affield both noted minor corrections. **Motion** by Manager Anderson to approve the minutes, subject to correction. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

**Treasurer's Report.** The Board reviewed the BRRWD's monthly financial statements, including the project account balance sheet, administrative disbursements, summary of income, and the accounts receivable report. Cash on hand is \$2,376,195.45. Administrative disbursements for the month are \$34,182.87 and for the year total \$228,124.75. Current 2018 accounts receivable are \$4,409,684. Our total income for the year is \$1,872,908.79. Income since the 7/9/18 financial report was \$67,961.53. Receipts came primarily from Otter Tail County (\$396.26) for their 2018 first half tax proceeds, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for the Otter Tail River Planning 319 Grant (\$23,055.48), Wilkin County for the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Buffer Initiative Aid (\$41,603.50). The balance of the income came from bank account interest (\$2,366.69), Pitney Bowes sales tax reimbursement (\$9.51), and office rentals (\$525). **Motion** by Manager Larson to approve the Treasurer's Report. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.**

Albright has notified Midwest Bank that the BRRWD would like to renew our \$600,000 line-of-credit. He will follow up with the Midwest staff to sign the paperwork.

**Clay County Ditch (C.D.) No. 16.** Wayne Lepper, Highland Grove Township Chair, and downstream landowner, had questions associated with the current C.D. No. 16 redetermination of benefits proceedings. He noted that several years ago, the Township requested that the BRRWD clean the silt block on the south side of 43<sup>rd</sup> AVE where C.D. No. 16 crosses the road. To date, the work has not been completed.

Lepper also had concerns about the C.D. No. 16 natural outlet. He wanted to know if the Board planned to reevaluate the damages to his property created by C.D. No. 16. He claimed that the drainage area for C.D. No. 16 is almost 6,000 acres draining south and west into a natural waterway across his property in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$  and the E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ , Section 31, Highland Grove Township, and the N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 6, Eglon Township. Albright noted that the redetermined area include about 3,100 acres. The ditch legally ends at the line

between Sections 29 and 32 (28<sup>th</sup> AVE N). Lepper claims to have had up to 12' of water standing on his property caused by water coming from C.D. No. 16. In addition, this property is taxed as prime farmland, even though it's usually too wet to farm because of water from the ditch system. He claims that when the ditch was cleaned, he thought his waterway was going to be cleaned so the water would drain to the Buffalo River, but nothing was ever done. Lepper discussed the history of the ditch installation and operation, previously known as C.D. No. 64 (according to Lepper) before the BRRWD assumed jurisdiction. The ditch was built in about 1912, and the benefit area and outlet adequacy would have been determined at that time. Lepper discussed his opinions about the reasons why the ditch was constructed. He also claimed that after the BRRWD took control of C.D. No. 16 the 1980s (actual date 9/23/96), the ditch system was cleaned to grade, even though the downstream landowners were opposed to the project. He claims that there had been talk about extending the ditch across Sections 31 and 32, Highland Grove Township, and Section 6, Eglon Township, to the Buffalo River, but after the system was cleaned, nothing was ever done to extend the ditch. The natural waterway on Lepper's property is Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) protected waters, so any work in the channel would require a DNR permit. The group had an extended discussion about area culvert sizings and drainage patterns. Also, DNR protected waterways require a 50' buffer on each side.

Lepper stated that he wants the BRRWD to clean the natural waterway on his property all the way to the Buffalo River. Jones explained that according to Drainage Law, the BRRWD can only clean up to one mile downstream from the ditch outlet. Albright explained that the redetermination of benefits proceedings will not provide an opportunity to clean Lepper's natural waterway. The proceedings will redetermine who is included in the ditch benefit area to make ditch assessments fairer, according to who is actually using the ditch for drainage. The redetermination of benefits will not address Lepper's concerns about the ditch outlet.

In response to Lepper's township road/silt concern, Albright suggested that the road might have to be raised to prevent future washouts, since the culverts in the road can't be enlarged due to downstream landowners' drainage concerns. Albright commented that Lepper could petition to extend C.D. No. 16 to the Buffalo River.

Albright asked Lepper if Clay County had contacted him about the 2015 Buffer Law requirement that he install 50' buffers along his natural DNR protected waterway. Lepper said he had contacted Roger Hemphill, Area Hydrologist, DNR, who he claims, refused to meet with him. There was further discussion regarding this issue. Lepper claims there are areas along the waterway that don't drain directly into the waterway. Albright commented that Lepper and the Board could discuss a possible project and petition for a retention project in Section 31. He noted that the current redetermination of benefits proceedings isn't contingent on an analysis of the adequacy of the outlet.

Lepper pointed out that prior to the ditch cleanout, he only received the overflow from the upstream drainage, but after the ditch repair, there are no restrictions on water flows to the natural waterway on his property. Albright noted that the DNR and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) lands, comprised of native grasses/restored wetlands, etc., make up nearly 20% of the watershed area for C.D. No. 16, which theoretically, should have reduced flooding in Lepper's area.

To summarize, Albright explained that in order to address Lepper's request for the BRRWD to clean the natural waterway on his property to the Buffalo River, we would need a DNR permit to work in protected waters, and Drainage Law only allows the BRRWD to clean one mile downstream of the ditch to provide for an adequate outlet. In this case, we would only get about half way to the river on downstream property. Another problem could be agency concerns about wetland impacts. He added that Lepper and the Board can continue to discuss this issue with the hope of finding a solution to his drainage concerns.

The redetermination of benefits hearing for C.D. No. 16 is scheduled for 7:00 PM on Wednesday, August 15, 2018, in the Hawley Community Center.

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

**Permit No. 18-019, City of Barnesville.** Applicant proposes to construct a dike from the airport approach off County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 52 to the southeast for 140' then curving south 120' in the NE¼, Section 23, Barnesville Township, Clay County. Due to a number of factors, the City has decided to administratively withdraw the permit. **Withdrawn.**

**Permit No. 18-017, Merle Nelson.** The Board tabled action on this application at their 7/23/18 meeting, pending Manager field review. The proposed work is to install pattern tiling in the NE¼, Section 28, Atherton Township, Wilkin County, and to run a main west across the NW¼, outletting via gravity flow to the township ditch, then north for about 0.5 miles along Janice Cook's property to Deerhorn Creek. Cook was apprehensive that the rapid runoff of fertilizer and chemicals could do damage to her field. She also feared that the soil types and adjacent waterways would be subject to long term damage, and the tile could negatively impact long term land values.

Jones and Manager Larson conducted a field review on 7/25/18. Jones reported that given the 12" dia. tile outlet, they determined that the road ditch along 240<sup>th</sup> AVE would be an adequate outlet. There had been some question about the reason behind Nelson's decision to run the tile over a mile west and north when there was a direct route straight north to the river that was only about 0.5 miles. Albright explained that the topography to the north is too flat to drain the tile water to the Creek. Larson found no problems with the current proposal. Jones recommended permit approval, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer.

**Permit No. 18-067, Scot Manthe.** Applicant proposes to install a culvert/new approach off a township road to a storage unit facility in the NW¼, Section 7, Eglon Township, Clay County. The culvert size and elevation will match adjacent structures. Jones recommended permit approval, subject to township approval to work within their road right-of-way (R/W). The access is necessary because the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) won't allow him direct access to Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 10.

**Permit No. 18-068, Parke Township.** This permit was approved in June 2017, as Permit No. 17-039, but the work was not completed last year. The Township decided to go forward with their project this summer, so Bruce Bang, Parke Township Chair, contacted the BRRWD office, and he was advised to resubmit the application. They propose to install one 15" dia. x 45' centerline culvert in 86<sup>th</sup> AVE S and one 15" dia. x 20' culvert in the Palya driveway off 86<sup>th</sup> AVE S in the SE¼, Section 15. Albright explained the project. One of the neighboring homeowners has drainage concerns regarding the Palya driveway and the township road. Jones recommended permit approval.

**Permit No. 18-069, Terry Czichotzki.** Applicant proposes to clean and/or improve surface drainage in the E½SE¼, Section 28, Deerhorn Township, Wilkin County. The field ditches will drain northwest, outletting to an existing wetland area in the middle of the section. All the work will take place on Czichotzki's property. There was a discussion about the outlet. Albright recommended that the Board postpone action until the area landowners have been contacted about using the wetland as an outlet. **Action postponed,** pending neighboring landowner notification.

**Permit No. 18-070, Shane Thompson.** Applicant proposes to install random tiling with a lift station pump in the NW¼ and the SE¼, Section 8, Barnesville Township, Clay County. Thompson is working with his neighbor, Dennis Butenhoff, on this project. Thompson is tiling 28 acres and Butenhoff is tiling 10 acres in Section 8, outletting to the one pump in the northwest corner of the NW¼. Albright discussed the landowner meeting that was held last fall regarding Section 8 drainage and the plan the landowners had agreed to implement. He noted that nothing had been done regarding the plan. **Action postponed,** pending contact with the neighboring landowners to discuss this proposal and other area drainage concerns.

**Permit No. 18-071, Krystal Francis.** Applicant proposes to move the existing approach/18" dia. culvert on the property line in the SE¼, Section 9, Hawley Township, Clay County, north so that it can be widened and shared with both property owners. The existing approach was installed by the previous landowner (Permit No. 17-086). The Township has approved the proposal and provided the applicants with their requirements. The culvert size will not change. Jones recommended permit approval.

**Permit No. 18-072, Magellan Midstream Partners.** Applicant proposes to conduct pipeline maintenance (lowering) in the NE¼SE¼, Section 30, Prairie View Township, Wilkin County. The work area is close to Wilkin C.D. No. 43, and if it affects the ditch system, any disturbed areas should be restored. Jones recommended permit approval, subject to our standard utility disclaimer.

**Permit No. 18-073, Troy Larson.** Applicant proposes to install pattern tile on about 35 acres on the west side of a waterway in the NW¼, Section 35, Akron Township, Wilkin County, outletting via a 10" dia. tile line to the east ditch of County Road (C.R.) No. 19/320<sup>th</sup> AVE where it will travel south 0.5 miles, then enter a natural waterway. In addition, Larson plans to pattern tile another 10 acres in Section 35, outletting via a 6" dia. tile line to the creek on the east, traversing through the property. Jones recommended permit approval, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer.

**Permit No. 18-074, City of Moorhead.** Applicant proposes the mill and overlay of 15<sup>th</sup> AVE N, and the construction of a shared-use path and detention pond north of 15<sup>th</sup> AVE N. The pond will outlet to Clay C.D. No. 41 via a piped outlet with erosion control measures and an emergency spillway to the ditch system. Jones recommended permit approval with the provision that the pond berm and ditch berm elevations match. He provided the 100-year ditch elevations to the City for their reference and noted that he will verify the pond elevations with the City.

**Permit No. 18-024, Joel Simmer.** Larson asked about Simmer's application status. Albright noted that it is pending receipt of a downstream landowner notification form (Doug Etten). He will check on the status of the form. Larson volunteered to visit with the landowners to expedite permit approval.

**Motion** by Fjestad to approve Permit Nos. 18-017, 18-067, 18-068, 18-071 through 18-074, subject to the referenced standard disclaimers and conditions. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

**Scott McCaslin Wetland Concern.** Albright reported that at the 8/9/18 Mediation Project Team (PT) meeting, the PT reviewed the cross-section information and a timeline of the water elevations regarding an ongoing water problem on Scott McCaslin's rented property in Section 14, Hamden Township, Becker County. This issue is associated with a 2011 USFWS proposed tile installation to lower an area wetland pool 1' to alleviate a water problem on the neighboring cropland and restore a wetland on the Hamden National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Roger Hemphill, DNR, offered to review his project file and elevations regarding this issue since the area in question is DNR protected waters. The DNR also set an Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL) for the wetland. Albright noted that to date, Hemphill has not responded. Albright forwarded the maps that were reviewed by the PT to McCaslin and Ryan Frohling, Detroit Lakes USFWS. The Board had a brief discussion comparing the OHWL to the culvert, road, and telephone box elevations, all of which are currently underwater, showing that something must have happened between 2003-2006 on the USFWS easement. It is alleged that around 2005, a USFWS field crew broke a tile line that created the high water problems. President Leitch commented that given the OHWL information, McCaslin should be able to proceed with this problem on his own.

**Project No. 79, Wolverton Creek Restoration.** Jones presented the Phase 1 contract from Sellin Brothers, Inc. for the Board's signature. They plan to begin construction next week with a 0.5 mile excavation of the channel north of the Clay/Wilkin County line to establish a gradeline at the outlet to provide "positive" drainage to the north. Lyle Hovland, Wilkin County Commissioner, noted that he had been contacted by project landowner Donald Hoppe with concerns about the outlet cleanout. Jones assured Hovland that the

contractor will start at the necessary downstream end to provide adequate drainage to the north for Phase 1. Hovland also noted that Hoppe wants more side inlets for his property than what are shown on the plans. Jones said that we are going to work with landowners regarding their drainage needs. Albright explained that the sideslopes of the channel/soil placement locations are not designed to act as a dike, and the excavated material will be blended in so that adjacent land can still drain naturally to the creek. Staff will contact the Clay County downstream landowner adjacent to the cleanout to obtain permission to enter his property to clean the channel and place the spoil for this limited work.

Hovland mentioned that area landowners have contacted him regarding their concerns about the possible impact the F-M Diversion project will have on the Wolverton Creek project where the current plans show a dike crossing the Creek near the county line south of Comstock. Albright explained that the dike will only be approximately 18" high where it crosses Wolverton Creek and will only come into play for the 500-1,000-year flood event. Albright will provide Hovland with a copy of the presentation the Diversion Authority made to the BRRWD at our 7/09/18 meeting regarding their recent changes to the Plan B project design, which has been submitted to the DNR for permit review.

In regard to the Phase 1 contract, Jones noted that the excavation completion date is 12/31/18 with seeding to be completed by July 20, 2019. **Motion** by Anderson to sign the Phase 1 construction contract with Sellin Brothers, Inc. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.**

**Project No. 78, Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch (J.D.) No. 1 Improvement.** The Preliminary Hearing has been scheduled for August 30, 2018, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. Landowner notices will be mailed this week. The DNR is working on their comments for the project but weren't sure they'd have them completed by the hearing date.

**Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration.** In response to Manager Affield concerns about the cattail infestation along the Manston Slough project area in the MNDOT T.H. No. 9 road ditch, Jones noted that he contacted Greg Masteller, MNDOT, to discuss this issue and forwarded the photographs that Affield provided. He said it was along the last 0.5 miles north of Tower Road. MNDOT agreed to address the issue. Affield noted that when she drove by tonight on her way to the meeting, it appeared some work had been started on mowing the ditch.

**Project No. 54, Whisky Creek Tributaries.** The survey for 0.5 miles along 200<sup>th</sup> ST S in Section 28, Humboldt Township, Clay County, to address seepage and icing problems adjacent to a building site along C.R. No. 25 north of T.H. No. 34 downstream of the Nichols Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) site east of Barnesville was forwarded to the affected parties, including Humboldt Township and MNDOT. Albright reported that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently received funding to complete major maintenance work on the Nichols WRP site. Jones said NRCS plans to do mowing this fall, and then next spring, they plan to burn it. They also plan to address problems with the berm where there had been a muskrat infestation. The reconstruction will be comprised of a concrete slurry wall along the length of the embankment on the west side where the wetland pool is the deepest. Albright noted that cattle are currently grazing the site for the first time in a few years.

**Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation.** Jones reported that the remaining spoil material continues to be removed from the sites. He sent an information packet to about 25-30 local contractors to get quotes to finish removal of the spoil material at the Pierce site. He plans to have bids for the Board's review at their 9/10/18 meeting. Albright billed the DNR for the Gladen Construction, Inc., payment. He noted that the DNR Grant expires on 12/31/18, so we hope to have all work completed by that date.

**Hawley Flood Control.** The City of Hawley wrote a letter to the BRRWD with a request that we submit an Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Flood Risk Reduction Section 205 program application for the Hawley Phase 3 Buffalo River Flood Protection work, adjacent to T.H. No. 10 for the existing and future dikes. The

City is concerned that potential flooding in this area threatens eight residential homes, 40 trailer houses, and two businesses. Flooding could also shut down the T.H. No. 10 underpass, inundate the main city sanitary sewer lift station, and impact the City's sewer system. They also asked that the BRRWD conduct an inspection of the area near the sewer ponds where the Buffalo River has eroded into the banks. The Board discussed the City's request. Albright explained that the BRRWD would send a letter to the COE to request to consider a Section 205 program for the City of Hawley. Under this program, the COE pays 100% of costs up to \$100,000. **Motion** by Van Amburg to send a letter of interest to the COE on behalf of the City of Hawley regarding the Section 205 Program. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

**Clay C.D. No. 60 Repair.** The Board reviewed Jones' recommendations for the repair of C.D. No. 60. A copy of the survey was forwarded to landowner Darrin Brandt for his review and comment. Manager Anderson met with Brandt today to discuss the survey results. Albright suggested that the Board hold a landowner meeting to discuss a possible repair of the ditch. Jones estimated that a ditch repair could cost approximately \$15,000-\$20,000. Brandt plans to clean his ditch (NE¼, Section 14) to grade to address his immediate drainage concerns, which he can do without a BRRWD permit.

**BWSR MOU.** Jones proposed that the Board consider entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with BWSR to establish an agreement between the two entities in support of cooperation over the next several years to use the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to acquire easements for several future projects. He suggested that these MOU could be used to acquire funding commitments now for future projects such as Whiskey Creek near Kent, Whisky Creek near Barnesville, Stony Creek, the South Branch of the Buffalo River, and the Otter Tail River. He provided a draft MOU for the Board's review. This would be a way to acquire easements at a lower local cost for these restoration projects. **Motion** by Hanson to work with BWSR to develop a MOU to use CREP as means for easement acquisition for future restoration projects, starting with the proposed Whiskey Creek Restoration project. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.**

**Stony Creek Restoration.** Albright reported that the COE has requested that we complete a Section 106 archaeological investigation for the Stony Creek project. Albright suggested that the investigation could be postponed until we have the easement options in place.

**Becker C.D. No. 9 Redetermination of Benefits.** The Board discussed the 8/8/18 redetermination of benefits hearing held in Lake Park. Albright noted that the next step in the process is for the Board to make an Order for the redetermination of benefits for the ditch system, including payment of damages (R/W acquisition) in accordance with the Viewers' Report. A \$25,000 one-time fee would also be assessed to Project No. 64, LaBelle/Boyer Lakes, to pay for the use of C.D. No. 9 as the project outlet. This assessment was postponed in 2010 because Project No. 64 was developed as an emergency project. **Motion** by Hanson to adopt the Order for the redetermination of benefits for C.D. No. 9 and the one-time outlet fee for Project No. 64, subject to a 30-day appeal period. **Seconded** by Van Amburg. **Approved.**

**Wyland Streambank Erosion Project.** Kevin Kassenborg, Clay SWCD, recently forwarded a cost-share request for this project in the NE¼, Section 1, Glyndon Township. The NRCS funding for this project through the 2018 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was not approved. The EQIP payment for the project would have been approximately \$7,396. At their meeting on 8/9/18, the SWCD approved an amendment to their cost-share agreement with Rodney/Gary Wyland to cover half of the EQIP shortfall, and Kassenborg is asking the BRRWD to cover the balance of the EQIP share or \$3,698. The Board discussed the proposed cost-share request and our agreement last year to contribute \$7,000 to this project through our M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3, account. Albright noted that there is still a \$9,874.43 balance in the Project No. 26, Buffalo River Streambank Erosion, account to cover this shortfall funding request. **Motion** by Anderson to approve the request for the additional \$3,698 for the Wyland Streambank Erosion project. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.**

**FY 2019 Clean Water Fund (CWF) Competitive Grants.** Jones reported that he is working with the Wilkin SWCD on the CWF funding application for Whiskey Creek near Kent. Since this area doesn't have an approved Comprehensive Plan, either the Wilkin SWCD or the County will submit the application. BWSR's Competitive Grant application period is open until 8/31/18 for local government funding through the 2018 Clean Water, Land & Legacy legislation to protect and improve water quality in Minnesota. The West Otter Tail County SWCD will be asked to submit the application for the J.D. No. 2 outlet repairs.

**Engineering Outsourcing.** President Leitch discussed the BRRWD's practice of contracting for staff and engineering services from HEI. He compared our current engineering outsourcing with the Red Lake Watershed District's (RLWD) "in-house" hiring practice. Leitch estimates that if the Board hired seven full-time employees at the rates that RLWD pays, it would cost us approximately \$750,000, compared to \$1.8 million that he estimates we paid HEI between July 2017 and June 2018 for our HEI staff, which he estimates at about 9.3 full-time employees. His calculations show that the BRRWD could save approximately \$450,000 by hiring in-house staff. Leitch added that we would still outsource the two remaining full-time engineering positions and equipment. He suggested that the Board hire an accounting firm to look into the outsourcing issue to provide a comparison of HEI costs to in-house staff hiring costs.

Van Amburg provided information showing a breakdown of grant funding the BRRWD has been awarded from various agencies and programs from 2013 to 2018, totaling \$18,155,304. He advised the Board that when we consider changing hiring practices and staff, we should be sure we can maintain our apparent advantage of securing project funding because of our staff's ability to deliver successful grant applications/programs. Van Amburg and Leitch had a brief discussion about the potential expertise of in-house staffing compared to our current outsourced staff. Leitch disagreed that potential in-house staff would be less competent than the current staff. Van Amburg felt it would be difficult to find employees who are as qualified and knowledgeable about the BRRWD as our current staff. Manager Anderson suggested that the BRRWD might be able to negotiate with HEI for a lower overhead charge and questioned what a fair overhead rate would be. Leitch commented that he had brought up the issue because he feels the Board will have to make a decision regarding the HEI contract at our annual meeting in January, or sooner, depending on Albright's retirement plans. He stressed that his questioning the HEI contract was not a criticism of the current staff performance. He just wanted the Managers to start thinking about ways to save money for the District's taxpayers. Leitch said he would provide a summary of his computations for the next meeting.

Albright said this same issue was discussed earlier this year in April when the Board voted not to change anything until there is a "major" change in staffing, such as a Jerger or Albright retirement. Albright said that any such evaluation of costs has to include an "apples to apples" comparison and not just Leitch's opinions.

Van Amburg mentioned that the BRRWD's application was selected to participate in the MPCA Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319 Small Watershed Focus Program interviews. We were one of 19 Watershed Districts that were chosen to interview for the program. Jones noted that Whiskey Creek near Kent is the proposed project, and the interview/project site visit has been scheduled for 9/27/18.

**Manager Oaths of Office.** The four current Managers with terms expiring on August 31 have been reappointed by their respective counties: Jay Leitch-Clay County, Troy Larson-Wilkin County, John Hanson-Becker County, and Peter Fjestad-Otter Tail County. Albright administered the Oath of Office, and the Managers signed documentation certifying their Oath, which will be filed with the State of Minnesota, as required by law.

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

<b>Accounts Payable</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Account</b>	<b>Amount</b>
AmeriPride	#160473036, July Rug Billing	Admin.	\$ 66.40
Arvid Thompson	V#18-03, 08/10/17-09/26/17	Varies	\$ 150.00
Bruce E. Albright	Viewer's Meals	Clay C.D. No. 16	\$ 54.82
Carmen Pattengale	June & July Office Cleaning (4)	Admin.	\$ 260.00
Chris Hoppe Lawn Care Service, LLC	June & July Mowing	Admin.	\$ 1,207.97
Chuck Anderson Custom Farms	Dike Mowing	Elkton Wetlands	\$ 2,550.00
City of Barnesville	#10018956, July Billing	Admin.	\$ 720.80
City of Hawley	Community Center Rental Fee	Clay C.D. No. 16	\$ 15.00
Eddie Bernhardson	Voucher #18-02, 6/20/17-7-23/18	Varies	\$ 1,329.50
Forum Communications Co.	Hearing Notice (3)	Becker C.D. No. 9	\$ 1,836.00
HEI	August billing	Varies-See Attached	\$ 144,928.95
Larson Helicopters LLC	#1486, Cattail Spraying	Pj. 79, Wolverton Crk	\$ 3,580.00
LM Road Service	#916, Cattail Spraying	Varies	\$ 25,768.25
MPS	06/18/18-07/20/18 Service	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 34.35
Pitney Bowes	#3102326778, Postage Meter Lease	Admin.	\$ 129.00
Premium Waters, Inc.	366590-07-18, July office water	Admin.	\$ 41.49
Purchase Power	July Postage	Admin.	\$ 201.00
RMB Environmental Labs	#406209, WQ Analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Sub3	\$ 522.00
RMB Environmental Labs	#414097, WQ Analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Sub3	\$ 184.00
RMB Environmental Labs	#414481, WQ Analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Sub3	\$ 474.00
RMB Environmental Labs	#414387, WQ Analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Sub3	\$ 552.00
RMB Environmental Labs	#403578, WQ Analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Sub3	\$ 410.00
RMB Environmental Labs	#415406, WQ Analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Sub3	\$ 632.00
Roger Lundberg	Beaver Control - July Billing	Varies	\$ 1,028.41
RRVCPA	07/01/18-08/01/18 Service	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 78.72
Stephen King	#464953, Weed Harvesting	Becker C.D. No. 19	\$ 1,500.00
The Hawley Herald, Inc.	#3811, Hearing Notice (3)	Clay C.D. No. 16	\$ 1,453.20
U.S. Postal Service	Annual PO Box Rental Fee	Admin.	\$ 54.00
Vogel Law Firm	#219759, July Billing	Pj. 79, Wolverton Crk	\$ 2,522.00
Vogel Law Firm	#219758, July Billing	Pj. 39, Georgetown	\$ 928.00
Wilkin County Highway Dept.	Clean/Repair Culverts	Wilkin C.D. No. 15	\$ 20,517.34
Wilkin County Highway Dept.	Culvert Installation	Wilkin C.D. No. 12	\$ 7,499.49
William Austin	V#18-01, 08/10/17-07/23/18	Varies	\$ 229.25
WREC	06/18/18-07/18/18 Service (2)	Pj. 46, Turtle Lake	\$ 73.18
Xcel Energy	06/25/18-07/25/18 Service	Admin.	\$ 67.63
			<b>\$ 221,598.75</b>

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

**Comments/Announcements:**

Manager Larson explained the plan for his tiling project (Permit No. 18-073), which was approved earlier in the meeting. The Board agreed to consider his presentation as technical training on tile installation.

Manager Van Amburg commented on the City of Barnesville's proposed solar garden. Albright will find information regarding potential participation and forward it to the Managers for discussion at the next meeting.

President Leitch discussed water clarity he noticed while fishing on the Red River.



Manager Hanson brought water samples taken in July from the Little Missouri River (Medora, ND), the Red River, Becker C.D. No. 15, and tile water. The Board had a brief discussion about the samples and sources of turbidity.

**Next Meeting.** The next regular meeting and annual budget hearing will be held on Monday, August 27, 2018, at 7:00 PM in our Barnesville office.

**Adjournment.** **Motion** by Anderson to adjourn the meeting. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.** President Leitch adjourned the meeting at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hanson, Secretary