



1303 4<sup>TH</sup> Ave. NE  
Barnesville, MN 56514  
218-789-3100  
www.brrwd.org

## Board Meeting Minutes

Monday April 11, 2022

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

**Staff Present:** Kristine Altrichter, Administrator; Lee Olson, Watershed Specialist; Matthew Schlauderaff, Watershed Specialist.

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

**Others Attending:** Kim Melton, Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD); Craig Lingen, Wilkin SWCD; Chris Watterud; Jenny Mongeau, Clay County Commissioner (remote).

President Fjestad called meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda by J. Hanson, **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to approve March 14, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes with minor correction, March 28, 2022 Upper Buffalo River Restoration Informational Meeting Minutes, and April 5, 2022 Clay County Ditch No. 50 Hearing Minutes by Affield, **Seconded** by M. Hanson. **Approved.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Account balance was \$3,091,710.23. Income received since March 14, 2022, totals \$37,948.40, and for the year, totals \$778,019.62. \$36,876.19 was collected from account receivables this month. **Motion** to approve Treasurer's Report by J. Hanson, **Seconded** by Krabbenhoft. **Approved.**

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

**Kim Melton, Wilkin SWCD. Cover Crop Incentive Program Request.** Melton provided update on success of Cover Crop Incentive Program. BRRWD contributed \$25,000.00 to program in 2021. Melton requested an additional \$25,000.00 for 2022. **Motion** to contribute \$25,000.00 to Wilkin SWCD Cover Crop Incentive Program by Van Amburg, **Seconded** by Krabbenhoft. **Approved.**

**Craig Lingen, Wilkin SWCD. Technical Assistance and Conservation Marketing Request.** Lingen provided update on Conservation Marketing completed by Wilkin SWCD on behalf of BRRWD for Wolverton Creek Restoration, Whiskey Creek Restoration, Upper South Branch Buffalo River Restoration, and Lower Otter Tail River Restoration. BRRWD contributed \$22,000.00 to Wilkin SWCD Technical Assistance and Conservation Marketing in 2021. Lingen requested an additional \$25,000.00 for 2022. **Motion** to contribute \$25,000.00 to Wilkin SWCD Technical Assistance and Conservation Marketing Programs by Larson, **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

### **Permits:**

**Permit No. 22-012. Philip Rogers.** Applicant proposing to pattern tile west of Interstate 94 in Section 11, Barnesville Township, Clay County. Natural flow path of water remains unchanged. Proposed tile outlets into natural drainage on Pheasants Forever, Inc. land, which serves as an adequate outlet. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions.

**Permit No. 22-013. Daniel Froslic.** Applicant proposing to pattern tile NW ¼, Section 2, Tanberg Township, Wilkin County. Natural flow path of water remains unchanged. Proposed outlet is adequate. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions and approval from County to work within road right-of-way (ROW).

**Permit No. 22-014. Randy Beckett.** Applicant proposing to pattern tile SW ¼, Section 9, Elkton Township, Clay County. Natural flow path of water remains unchanged. Proposed outlet is adequate. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions and approval from Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to work within road ROW.

**Permit No. 22-018. Kevin Brenden.** Applicant proposing to pattern tile Section 17 and 19, Trondhjem Township, Otter Tail County. Natural flow path of water remains unchanged. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions.

**Permit No. 22-019. Stacy Salvevold, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).** Applicant proposing wetland restorations in Sections 5, 6, 7, and 8, Norwegian Grove Township, Otter Tail County. Wetland pools will not back water onto neighboring properties. Adjacent agricultural land is over 20 ft above wetland pool. All work is contained within applicant's property. Uhler recommended approval.

**Permit No. 22-021. Stacy Salvevold, USFWS.** Applicant proposing wetland restorations in Section 24, Oscar Township and Section 19, Elizabeth Township, Otter Tail County. Most of proposed work is outside BRRWD boundary. Wetland pools will not back into neighboring properties. All work is contained within applicant's property. Uhler recommended approval

**Permit No. 22-022. Stacy Salvevold, USFWS.** Applicant proposing wetland restorations in Sections 9, 16, and 21, Orwell Township, Otter Tail County. Wetland pools will not back water onto neighboring properties. All work is contained within applicant's property. Uhler recommended approval

**Permit No. 22-023. Chris Watterrud.** Applicant proposing to pattern tile SW ¼, Section 18, Trondhjem Township, Otter Tail County. Natural flow path of water remains unchanged. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions and approval from County to work within road ROW.

**Permit No. 22-024. Chris Watterrud.** Applicant proposing to pattern tile SE ¼, Section 18, Trondhjem Township, Otter Tail County. Natural flow path of water remains unchanged. Proposed outlet is adequate. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions and approval from Township to work within road ROW.

**Permit No. 22-025. Chris Watterrud.** Applicant proposing to pattern tile SW ¼, Section 17, Trondhjem Township, Otter Tail County. Natural flow path of water remains unchanged. Proposed outlet is adequate. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions and approval from Township to work within road ROW.

**Motion** to approve Permit Nos. 22-012, 22-013, 22-014, 22-018, 22-019, 22-021, 22-022, 22-023, 22-024, and 22-025 with conditions outlined above by J. Hanson, **Seconded** by Larson. **Approved.**

#### **Ditches:**

**Clay County Ditch No. 41. Award Contract for Slope Repair.** Bid opening held on April 5, 2022. Engineer's estimate was \$24,000.00. Lowest bid was \$19,975.00 submitted by Hough Inc. **Motion** to accept bid from Hough Inc. by Krabbenhoft, **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

**Clay County Ditch No. 50. Partial Abandonment / 7<sup>th</sup> Street Improvement. Findings and Order.** **Motion** to accept Findings and Order by Van Amburg, **Seconded** by M. Hanson. **Approved.**

**Wilkin County Ditch No. 13. Use as an Outlet Findings and Order.** **Motion** to accept Findings and Order by Larson, **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

#### **Projects:**

**Project 46 – Turtle Lake Outlet Modification. Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) Grant Application.** **Motion** to authorize BRRWD staff and HEI to submit LCCMR grant application to address zebra mussels in Turtle Lake by Larson, **Seconded** by M. Hanson. **Approved.**

**Glyndon East Tributary Restoration. Postpone Hearing. Motion** to reschedule hearing for May 23, 2022 at 7:00 PM in Barnesville by J. Hanson, **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

**Other:**

**Stream Restoration Program. Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund (LSOHF) Grant.** Jones recommended submitting application to Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) to fund restoration implementation and easement acquisition for stream restorations in BRRWD. Jones will provide draft application at May 9, 2022 Board Meeting. **Motion** to authorize BRRWD staff and HEI to submit LSOHF Grant application for restoration implementation and easement acquisition for stream restoration projects by Van Amburg, **Seconded** by Krabbenhoft. **Approved.**

**Flood Damage Reduction Workgroup (FDRWG). LCCMR Grant Application for Water Monitoring.** FDRWG is considering submitting LCCMR grant application to fund project assessment monitoring for projects developed under 1998 Mediation Agreement. Four BRRWD projects have been identified as potential projects to monitor. More information will be provided if FDRWG moves forward with application submittal.

**International Water Institute (IWI). Letter of Agreement for Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting.** IWI submitted proposed costs for water quality monitoring for 2022. Costs are projected to be \$24,520 but shall not exceed \$26,175. **Motion** to authorize Altrichter to sign agreement with IWI for 2022 water quality monitoring by Affield, **Seconded** by J. Hanson. **Approved.**

**Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). Wilkin SWCD Opening.** Don Bajumpaa, representative for Wilkin County, left his position with Wilkin SWCD. As such, there is an opening on CAC for Wilkin County. Altrichter recommended appointing Kim Melton to CAC. Board of Managers discussed developing policy for identifying individuals appointed to CAC. **Motion** to appoint Kim Melton to CAC by Van Amburg, **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

**Beaver Management Policy.** Altrichter recommended beaver management policy outlining BRRWD responsibility for managing beavers. BRRWD will be responsible for beaver management on all jurisdictional legal ditch systems and projects with benefiting areas within their jurisdiction. BRRWD will manage beavers if they are a nuisance to legal ditch systems, restored stream channels with benefiting areas, or other project features. If landowners manage beavers in these areas, without prior authorization from BRRWD Board, it will be at their own expense. Prior authorization requires total estimated costs, actual costs billed to BRRWD may not to exceed limit approved by Board of Managers. Board of Managers requested Altrichter determine set cost per beaver to add to policy. Altrichter will follow-up at May 9, 2022 Board Meeting. **Motion** to accept Beaver Management Policy as presented by Larson, **Seconded** by J. Hanson. **Approved.**

**County Riparian Aid for Buffer Establishment.** Since 2017, BRRWD has received funds from Becker, Clay, and Wilkin Counties for the establishment of buffers along ditch systems. To date, BRRWD has received a total of \$599,011.00. With the deduction of program related expenses, the account has \$560,377.83 remaining. During buffer establishment hearings in 2020, Board of Managers discussed using these funds to establish buffers. Altrichter recommended allocating funds to ditch systems based on county contribution and miles of ditch. Becker County has contributed \$78,903.00, Clay County has contributed \$171,381.00, and Wilkin County has contributed \$348,727.00 to the account. **Motion** to allocate County Riparian Aid funds to ditch accounts based on county contribution and miles per ditch by M. Hanson, **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

**Bills. Motion** to approve bills totaling \$302,672.22 by Larson, **Seconded** by Van Amburg. **Approved.**

**Next Regular Meeting.** Monday May 9, 2022, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. Agenda will be posted on BRRWD's website prior to meeting.

President Fjestad adjourned meeting at 8:43 PM.

/s/ John Hanson  
Secretary