



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

Board Meeting Minutes

Monday February 9, 2026

Managers Present: Peter Fjestad; Catherine Affield; William Davis; Curtis Stubstad; Troy Larson; William Steffl.

Managers Absent: Gerald Van Amburg.

Staff Present: Kristine Goeden, Administrator; Matthew Schlauderaff, Watershed Specialist.

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

Others Attending: Bethany Bethke, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) Flood Damage Reduction Workgroup (FDRWG) Coordinator; Paul Krabbenhoft, Clay County Commission; Jon Braton, Wilkin County Commission.

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

Agenda: Additions to agenda:

Easement Acquisition Education

Human Resources (HR) Update

Motion by Stubstad to approve agenda with additions, **Seconded** by Affield. **Motion Carried.**

Citizens to be Heard:

None.

Presentation of Award:

Fjestad presented award from American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Minnesota to BRRWD and HEI for Whiskey Creek Enhancement Project.

Consent Agenda: **Motion** by Affield to approve consent agenda items:

January 12, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Financial Report

Permit Nos.

25-100, David Heng – tiling, S ½ SW ¼, Section 21, Elkton Township, Clay County with conditions

26-004, Rodney Ramacher – tiling, SE ¼, Section 31, Humboldt Township, Clay County with conditions

26-005, Larry Heng – tiling, E ½ SE ¼, Section 35, Elkton Township, Clay County with conditions

26-006, Kasin Farms – water and sediment control basin (WASCOB), NE ¼, Section 25, Hawley Township, Clay County with conditions

Seconded by Davis. **Motion Carried.**

Projects:

Project No. 81 – Whiskey Creek Enhancement. Water Quality Monitoring. Board of Managers discussed funding from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) through the Section 319 grant program at the January Board Meeting. Board of Managers discussed HEI completing water quality monitoring under this program. MPCA requested Board of Managers consider using International Water Institute (IWI) staff for monitoring due to expected costs. Goeden is working with MPCA on finalizing work plan. It is anticipated that a work plan will be available for review and consideration at the March 2026 Board Meeting.

Whisky Creek & South Tributary. Land Acquisition Rates. Natwick Appraisals completed appraisal reports for Phase 1 of the proposed Whisky Creek project. Board of Managers reviewed appraisal rates. **Motion** by Davis to offer landowners appraised values for cropped land and \$2,410.00 for non-cropped land, **Seconded** by Larson. Manager Stubstad noted conflict of interest and abstained. **Motion Carried.**

Other:

Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB). Floodplain Mapping Grant Application. Board of Managers previously approved paying up to 25 percent match to map the floodplain of the South Branch Buffalo River watershed as part of a grant RRWMB received from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In 2025, the funding was cut as part of the larger cuts from the federal government. RRWMB is now applying for a Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) grant. The total funding request will be for \$1,000,000.00. Mapping the South Branch Buffalo River Watershed accounts for approximately 10 percent of proposed work in the grant application. BRRWD would be expected to pay up to 10 percent match. **Motion** by Davis, to support grant application to LCCMR to help fund floodplain mapping of the South Branch Buffalo River watershed with BRRWD contributing up to 10 percent match, **Seconded** by Affield. **Motion Carried.**

Easement Acquisition Education. Goeden provided overview of the easement acquisition process for projects.

HR Update. The HR Committee is still looking to fill the Administrative Assistant – Accounting Specialist position.

Bills. **Motion** by Affield to approve bills totaling \$222,508.81, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Next Regular Meeting. Monday March 9, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office.

President Fjestad adjourned meeting at 7:40 PM.

/s/ William Davis
Secretary