

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

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## MINUTES FOR MANAGERS' MEETING

April 27, 2020

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held their regular meeting on Monday, April 27, 2020, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. Due to the Coronavirus protocols for public meetings, the Board held an electronic meeting in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Annotated (M.S.A.) Section 13D.021. BRRWD Managers present in the office were Jay A. Leitch, Mark T. Anderson, Peter V. Fjestad, Catherine L. Affield and on the conference line: John E. Hanson, Troy E. Larson, and Gerald L. Van Amburg. BRRWD staff attending in person: Kathleen K. Fenger, Assistant Administrator, Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI) and via conference line: Bruce E. Albright, Administrator, and Erik S. Jones, Engineer, HEI. Others attending via conference phone included Jenny Mongeau, Clay County Commissioner, and landowner Chuck Anderson.

BRRWD President Leitch called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and announced that the proceedings were being video recorded to aid in the preparation of the minutes. He announced the names of the persons in attendance in the office and asked all the online attendees to state their names for the record.

**Agenda.** Leitch asked for comments or additions to the meeting agenda. Jones wanted to add an update on the Wilkin County Ditch (C.D.) No. 27 retrofit. Leitch proposed adding discussion on a letter from the Clay County Commissioners regarding the Administrator position. With those additions, the agenda was approved on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Secretary's Report.** The Board reviewed draft minutes for the 3/23/20 regular meeting. Jones and Leitch noted corrections to the minutes. **Motion** by Affield to approve the minutes, subject to correction. **Seconded** by Anderson. **Approved** on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Treasurer's Report.** The Board reviewed the BRRWD's 4/13/20 financial statements, including the project account balance sheet, administrative disbursements, and summary of income. Cash on hand is \$2,172,724.47. Administrative disbursements since the 3/09/20 meeting equal \$41,601.18, and for the year, total \$116,809.01. 2020 Accounts Receivable balances remain unchanged at \$6,738,798. Albright noted that he didn't have time to update the Accounts Receivable report for tonight. Total income this year is \$289,930.28. Income received since the 3/09/20 meeting totaled \$12,303.18, including a payment from the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) for Mediation Project Team expenses (\$8,542.75). The remainder of the income came from Midwest Bank for March interest (\$3,535.43), and HEI for their monthly office rent (\$225). **Motion** by Van Amburg to approve the 4/13/20 Treasurer's Report. **Seconded** by Anderson. **Approved** on a unanimous roll call vote.

Fenger gave an update of the BRRWD's financial status as of 4/27/20. Cash on hand is \$2,154,663.62. Total income is \$290,039.19. Income since the 4/13/20 meeting totals \$108.91 from Otter Tail County for delinquent property taxes. Harold Rotunda is working on the 2019 audit and plans to forward the draft Audit for the 5/11/20 meeting. When the staff met with Rotunda, he suggested that the Board consider having the record reflect that the financial records are all up to date, and that Albright's responsibility for the financials ends as of the 4/27/20 meeting. **Motion** by Anderson to acknowledge that the financial accounts are balanced and approved, as referenced. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved** on a unanimous roll call vote.

**COVID-19 BRRWD Action Plan.** Leitch noted that the BRRWD can't schedule any public hearings until the Federal, State, and local emergency recommendations change. Fenger noted that when the Governor's

guidelines allow for relaxing office traffic, staff will consider rotating office time. Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) is hosting a teleconference on 5/5/20 regarding Watershed District protocols. The office will need to prepare, share, and implement a COVID-19 preparedness plan that sets forth the actions we will take to ensure social distancing, worker hygiene, and facility cleaning/disinfection necessary to keep workers safe, plus engaging in health screening of employees to ensure that sick employees stay home. Albright added that the MAWD meeting notice referenced Watershed Districts' concerns about funding. He thought that this issue shouldn't really affect the BRRWD to any extent, but staff will find out more when they participate in the teleconference next week.

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

**Permit No. 19-003, FM Diversion.** Leitch reported that the BRRWD permit denial appeal continues to progress. Regarding the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permit contest, Leitch emailed the Managers a status report that he received from BRRWD Attorney Brent Edison, Vogel Law Firm, which contained a timeline for events that will be taking place between now and the court hearing before the Administrative Law Judge on June 8, 2020. Albright and Leitch are slated to give their depositions on Wednesday, April 29, 2020, at the Vogel Law office in Fargo. He noted that Edison provided a running total of the cost of the lawsuit to date, and Leitch noted that the costs are high, but there's not much that can be done about that now.

The Minnesota-Clay County Joint Powers Agreement (MCCJPA) held a virtual meeting last week. Leitch noted that no substantial decisions were made. Following that meeting, landowner Tim Ness has sent Leitch several email messages regarding the voluntary right-of-entry forms. Leitch noted that he understood that the City of Moorhead planned to move forward using court action at their meeting tonight. Ness indicated that he will not sign the agreement to allow the MCCJPA access to his property. He sent a three-page letter to the City Council to be read at their meeting. Albright noted that the office received about four signed right-of-entry forms, and those forms were shared with Erik Dodds, Engineer, AE2S, and Joel Paulsen, Executive Director, FM Diversion Authority (DA) last week. He added that while we sent letters to the landowners encouraging them to work with the MCCJPA, we have no further role to play in the right-of-entry proceedings.

**Permit No. 20-015, City of Moorhead.** Applicant proposes the excavation and stabilization for a regional stormwater pond in the NE¼, Section 16, Moorhead Township, Clay County. Jones noted that the existing pond will not be changed significantly, and the work affects only the City's property. He recommended permit approval, subject to our standard utility disclaimer.

**Permit No. 20-016, Bruce Yaggie.** Applicant proposes to install 149 acres of pattern tile in Section 12, Nordick Township, Wilkin County, and an additional 153 acres of future pattern tile in Section 1, Nordick Township, with a tile main crossing 230<sup>th</sup> ST. The tile will outlet from Section 12 via a lift station to the east ditch of 210<sup>th</sup> AVE (County Road (C.R.) No. 11), then south to Wilkin C.D. No. 6A to which both Sections are assessed. The tile will cross property owned by Lowell Picotte, who has already signed the downstream landowner notification form. Jones recommended permit approval, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer.

**Permit No. 20-017, Aron Kassenborg.** Applicant proposes to install 103 acres of pattern tile in the E½, Section 6, Moland Township, Clay County, outletting to the Buffalo River. Jones recommended permit approval, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer.

**Permit No. 20-018, Lowell Seidler.** Applicant proposes to install pattern tile in parts of Sections 8 and 9, Meadows Township, Wilkin County, to gravity flow south to Wilkin C.D. No. 6A, to which it is assessed. Jones recommended permit approval, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer.

**Permit No. 20-019, Thomas Friederichs.** Applicant proposes to install an approach and 30" dia. culvert off C.R. No. 25 in the W½NW¼, Section 21, Humboldt Township, Clay County. Jones noted that the work will

require a Clay County Highway Department permit to work within their road right-of-way (R/W). Staff will assist Friederichs to file the County permit. Jones recommended permit approval, subject to County approval to work within their road R/W.

**Permit No. 20-021, Tom Jennen.** Applicant proposes to install side water inlets where open ditches now enter Wilkin/Otter Tail County Judicial Ditch (J.D.) No. 2 in the W½, Section 19, Carlisle Township, Otter Tail County. Jones recommended permit approval.

**Permit No. 20-022, Thomas Radig.** Applicant proposes to install pattern tile in the NW¼, Section 22, Nordick Township, Wilkin County. The main tile line will be installed in standing wheat. The tile pump will be installed at the same time, so Lake Region Electric can get power to the pump. After the wheat has been harvested, the contractor will install the tile and a proper spillway for the discharge. Water will drain west for two miles to Whiskey Creek, passed several properties. The landowners have all signed downstream landowner notification forms with various comments. Jones recommended permit approval, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer and noting that the downstream landowner forms are filed with the application.

**Permit No. 20-023, Farm in the Dell of the Red River Valley.** Applicant proposes to install 20 acres of pattern tile with a lift station outletting to the east C.R. No. 95 road ditch in the SW¼, Section 11, Oakport Township, Clay County. Jones noted that the project has an adequate outlet and recommended permit approval.

**Permit No. 20-024, Brent Halverson.** Applicant proposes to move the dry approach in the southeast corner of their property to the west about 50'-100' in the E½, Section 26, Barnesville Township, off C.R. No. 51, to provide access to a new home construction site. The approach is currently in close proximity to a line of shrubs and trees, which create significant egress issues during the winter. Albright noted that the adjacent approaches along C.R. No. 51 don't have culverts. Jones recommended permit approval, subject to County approval to work within their road R/W.

**Permit No. 20-025, Wilkin County Highway Department.** Applicant proposes to remove the existing 30" dia. centerline corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culvert/flaggate into Wilkin C.D. No. 1B in the NW¼, Section 4, Nilsen Township, in County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 18 and to replace it with a same sized reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) with a gate on the north end. The road is washed out and the old CMP is separated and has failed. Jones recommended permit approval.

**Motion** by Anderson to approve Permit Nos. 20-015 through 20-025, with the exception of 20-020, which was a duplicate, subject to the referenced disclaimers and conditions. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved** on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Project No 79, Wolverton Creek Restoration.** Jones submitted Change Order No. 4 in the amount of \$180,494.19 to extend the Phase 1 work for one mile downstream through Section 22, Holy Cross Township. He thought that the final cost could be slightly more or less when the work is completed. Jones recommended that the Board move forward with the work associated with the change order, subject to the acquisition of a temporary easement from landowner Ed Askegaard. Jones has discussed the work with the landowner, and he thought he would be willing to sign the temporary easement. **Motion** by Van Amburg to approve Change Order No. 4, subject to working with Ed Askegaard to obtain a temporary easement. **Seconded** by Anderson. **Approved** on a unanimous roll call vote.

Jones explained that the Phase 2 landowners have been working with Craig Lingen, Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), to sign up for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Two landowners don't qualify for CREP because their land along Wolverton Creek is already enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Lingen contacted Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to find out if there would be Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) funds that could be used instead of CREP to defray the local costs. BWSR determined that the RIM program could cover up to \$168,251.87 for these

easement options. The easement option agreements for these two landowners total \$215,617.59, so in order to get enough funding to cover the rates in the easement options, the BRRWD would have to come up with \$45,355.72. **Motion** by Van Amburg to approve paying the difference between the RIM funding and the agreed upon easement payments for two Phase 2 landowners that don't qualify for CREP. **Seconded** by Anderson. **Approved** on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Lower Otter Tail River (LOTR) Revised Project Management Plan.** Jones discussed a proposal for the BRRWD to work with the Wilkin SWCD and BWSR to obtain conservation easements along the Otter Tail River to establish a corridor for a future river restoration project on the Otter Tail River using Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) funding. He explained that the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Section 1135 channel restoration funding doesn't cover land acquisition. The LSOHC funding could potentially cover those costs. In tonight's meeting materials, Jones included a draft LSOHC funding application for the furthest downstream stretch of the channel that the COE straightened in the 1950s (Reach A) for the Board's consideration. Jones explained that if we want to engage BWSR to participate in the project in the acquisition of easements, we need to forward a request for their involvement to the BWSR Easement Section for their review before it is submitted to LSOHC. **Motion** by Hanson to authorize the BRRWD Office to send a formal letter to the RIM easement department (Sharon Doucette) requesting to partner with them regarding the use of the RIM reserve outside request easement policy. **Seconded** by Larson. **Approved** on a unanimous roll call vote.

Jones explained that the voluntary conservation easement rates for cropland amount to approximately \$3,700-\$4,000/acre. In a similar project in the Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD), the District paid an additional 20% over the RIM rates for the easements to try to get closer to the current rates for cropland. Jones suggested that the Board could consider contributing this funding. Albright asked if the 20% incentive payment from the BRRWD was something that needed to be included in the application, or if the Board could decide later. Jones explained that if the BRRWD included a funding match it would improve the application's chances for funding. He plans to work with John Voz, BWSR Easement Specialist, to determine the easement rates for this project. **Motion** by Van Amburg to add a possible incentive payment up to 20% to match actual land values for the conservation easement acquisitions, subject to future adjustment based on actual funding allocation with the local cost share source yet to be identified. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved** on a unanimous roll call vote. The Board had a brief conversation regarding possible RIM easement rates for crop and non-cropland. Of the 3,300 acres (18 miles) within the habitat corridor, there is 62% cropland and 38% non-cropland. Lingen is checking with landowners regarding land value rates.

**Whiskey Creek Restoration.** Jones submitted a proposal from George Holley, Moorhead State University-Moorhead (MSUM) Archeological Department, for a Whiskey Creek channel cultural review cost estimate for \$22,000. Albright explained that the cultural review is a requirement for both the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) and the DNR permit application process. Leitch asked if there would be any institutional overhead in the contract price. Jones wasn't sure about the contract breakdown. Leitch suggested that the institutional overhead could be a significant portion of the quote. The BRRWD could ask for the fee to be waived if it is more than a small amount. Albright suggested that Jones could ask about overhead fees, but he didn't think we should hold up the contract approval. **Motion** by Fjestad to accept MSUM's estimate to complete the review, subject to review of the contract for overhead fees. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved** on a unanimous roll call vote.

Jones forwarded a copy of the Whiskey Creek EAW for the Board's review in tonight's meeting packet. He asked if the Board would consider authorizing signature of the completed EAW document so we can proceed with distribution. Completion of the Environmental Assessment Worksheet process was approved at the 1/27/20 Board meeting. Leitch noted that this item should be delayed until the next meeting since the meeting materials didn't arrive soon enough for him to read the EAW.

**BWSR Wetland Credits.** Jones explained that BWSR is looking for wetland mitigation credits for a road replacement project in Otter Tail County. The BRRWD has about 58 acres of credits in our wetland bank

that are the right type for the County's project. The average credit price for Bank Service Area 4 where the work is planned was approximately \$32,000 in 2019. The credit values vary by the different types of wetlands they represent. Jones prepared a four-tiered purchase offer to sell up to 20 acres of credits to BWSR: 10 acres at \$36,714/acre and 10 at \$41,714/acre. He explained that the revenue from the sales would just about cover the costs the BRRWD incurred when developing the Elkton Wetland banking site. Leitch asked if there are other individuals with credits to sell. Jones said that there are credits for sale, but at this time, BRRWD is the only one who has a significant amount of credits currently available. Other individuals could apply to partner with BWSR to create wetland banking sites. Albright discussed the development process for the Elkton banking site. BWSR might need credits again in 2021. Leitch commented that the question before the Board is if we want to sell up to \$784,280 worth of wetland credits to BWSR. **Motion** by Fjestad to approve the sale of up to 20 wetland credits. **Seconded** by Anderson. **Approved** on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Ditch Buffer Hearings.** On 3/9/20, the Board approved an order to acquire ditch R/W for Clay C.D. Nos. 20, 22, 23, 28, and 51 in accordance with the 2015 State Buffer Rule, which was subject to a 30-day appeal period. Two landowners have filed appeals regarding their easement values: Morton Brendemuhl and Robert Norby. They are both basing their appeals on the value that was used to determine the easement payment for the ditch R/W on their properties in Kragnes Township on C.D. No. 51, not the other aspects of the proposed project. They point out that for recent public sales in their area, the values were higher than the County's assessed value. Albright suggested that the Board form a committee to meet with the landowners to discuss their concerns and reach a settlement. He pointed out the 2015 Buffer Rule states that the landowners are responsible for the installation of the buffers. The BRRWD only agreed to assist with the buffer establishment and the ditch R/W payments were not required. Albright added that because the acreage is small, the Board could negotiate with the landowners to reach an agreement, depending on what they think is a fair value. Leitch appointed Hanson and Anderson to work with Fenger to meet with Brendemuhl and Norby. Albright didn't expect that these appeals will impact the buffer seeding. The landowners were most concerned with the R/W rate.

**Wilkin C.D. No. 27 Repairs.** The group discussed the proposed alternative repair proposal to clean both branches of C.D. No. 27 (310<sup>th</sup> AVE and 320<sup>th</sup> AVE) and to establish the buffers, as mandated by the 2015 State Buffer Rule. After two informational meetings, it became apparent that the ditch system landowners were not in favor of a more extensive ditch retrofit for the east branch along CSAH No. 19. This alternative will still allow the use of some of the Wilkin and Otter Tail County SWCDs' grant funding to reduce the local share. The R/W is staked, and the County plans to start the work in July. **Motion** by Anderson to approve the repair alternative to clean the two C.D. No. 27 branches and install the buffers and field inlet pipes where the landowners allow. **Seconded** by Larson. **Approved** on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Clay County Commissioners Letter.** The Commissioners sent a letter to the Board requesting a seat on the new BRRWD Administrator screening and hiring committee. Commissioner Jenny Mongeau discussed the County's request with the Board, adding that Clay County thought that the other Counties' Commissioners and the BRRWD's Advisory Committee should also have a voice in this important process. Leitch called for Manager volunteers to serve on the Human Resource (HR) Committee to bring recommendations to the full Board at their 5/11/20 meeting regarding a response to the Clay County Commission's letter, the transition of the Administrator's position from Albright to Fenger, and the potential transition from the current HEI employed staff to BRRWD staff. Van Amburg commented that he wasn't aware that the decision to move away from a HEI employed staff had already been made. Leitch explained that the decision has not yet been made, but the Committee would be preparing recommendations about this item. Affield, Van Amburg, and Leitch agreed to serve on the HR Committee. Van Amburg noted that when Wilkin County was considering joining the BRRWD, they had expectations about how the Watershed District was being operated at that time. He suggested that perhaps Wilkin County Commissioner Lyle Hovland would be interested in serving on the Committee. Leitch agreed and charged the HR Committee to bring recommendations for the noted items to the 5/11/20 meeting for public comment and review.

**Water Quality Monitoring.** The Board reviewed the monitoring contract submitted by the International Water Institute (IWI) for their work at various monitoring sites within the BRRWD, as designated in our current Revised Watershed Management Plan (RWMP) and also for the Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) that the BRRWD has with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Albright explained that the SWAG grant is a contract that requires the water quality monitoring work be completed. Monitoring has been placed on hold while the Governor's COVID-19 order is in place. Albright noted that IWI would like to have the BRRWD sign the contract, so that when the monitoring work can start, we will have all the paperwork processed. Albright expects some adjustments will need to be made to the contract duration and costs (\$26,000) due to the COVID-19 emergency. **Motion** by Hanson to approve the IWI contract for water quality monitoring, subject to the noted considerations. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved** on a unanimous roll call vote. Leitch and Van Amburg abstained as they serve on the IWI Board.

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

<b>Accounts Payable</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Account</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Alexander P. Swanson	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20	\$ 2,929.93
Alfred L. Marks	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20	\$ 1,577.76
Arthur & Charles Swanson	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20	\$ 22,294.54
Arthur & Joann E. Swanson	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20	\$ 5,482.39
Brian L. & Darcy R. Thomas	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 23	\$ 6,432.86
Carmen Pattengale	April Cleaning (2)	Admin.	\$ 130.00
Clay County Auditor-Treasurer	2020 Assessment	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 1,642.39
Clay County Auditor-Treasurer	2020 Property Taxes	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 2,058.00
Clay County Auditor-Treasurer	2020 Property Taxes	Pj. 39, Georgetown	\$ 30.00
Clay County Auditor-Treasurer	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 23	\$ 56.54
Dan Oberg	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 23	\$ 5,111.23
David E. & Cynthia Swanson	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20 & 22	\$ 10,166.41
Dirk Swanson	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20	\$ 7,510.44
Dirk Swanson RLT	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 22	\$ 2,771.16
Donald Monroe	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20	\$ 1,637.92
Ehlert Excavating	#721, Install Culverts	Wilkin-OT J. D. No. 2	\$ 2,425.00
Fremstad Law	#22927, March Billing	COE	\$ 13,944.15
Greg T. & Dawn M. Iverson	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20	\$ 4,191.81
H Dennis & Marva D. Odegard RLT	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 23 & 28	\$ 14,158.63
Harlan H. Sauter	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 22	\$ 1,796.88
HEI	April Billing	Varies-See attached	\$ 220,378.71
HEI	#0047983, Drainage Rec.	Drainage Records	\$ 9,562.19
James W. Powers	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 23	\$ 6,572.36
Jason & Lynn Kotrba	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20	\$ 2,918.11
Jeremy & Dana Clark	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 22	\$ 1,903.88
Jerry L. & Peggy A. Monroe	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20	\$ 5,987.30
Joel Carlson	May Lobbyist Billing	Admin	\$ 850.00
Larry D. & Teresa L. Ferrie	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20	\$ 1,600.67
Leland D. & Noreen J. Thomas	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 23	\$ 1,254.38
Lowell Picotte	Easement Option Payment	Pj. 79, Wolverton Creek	\$ 469.00
Lyle & Lois Picotte	Easement Option Payment	Pj. 79, Wolverton Creek	\$ 1,853.75
Mark Fossum	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20	\$ 4,453.93
Mark J. & Karman R. Rheault	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20	\$ 747.18
Marvin E. & Julie L. Hartke	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20	\$ 3,656.43
Michael Borgen	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 23	\$ 2,909.31
Nancy Wambach	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20	\$ 2,706.37
Oak Mound Cemetery Assoc.	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20	\$ 154.28
Patricia L. Fossum	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 28	\$ 14,565.58
Paul & Sherri Fossum	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20 & 28	\$ 2,749.47
Phyllis Nelson	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20	\$ 5,567.76
Richard Townsend Anderson Living Trust	Easement Option Payment	Pj. 80, Stony Creek	\$ 500.00
Robert J. Olson	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20	\$ 20,722.34
Ryan Beattie	#600, Beaver Control	Varies	\$ 1,354.79
Sandra Olson	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20	\$ 37.66
Scott R. Olson	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20	\$ 380.33
Sherri Fossum	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 28	\$ 3,176.83

Stanley & Margaret Olson	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 28	\$ 6,190.22
Thomas J. & Nicole L. Odegaard	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 23	\$ 2,611.25
Thomas Odegard	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 23	\$ 921.38
Timothy Brendemuhl	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20	\$ 886.44
TrueNorth Steel	#FP16622, Culverts	Wilkin-OT J. D. No. 2	\$ 2,720.40
Vogel Law Firm	#253445, March Billing	Pj. 79, Wolverton Creek	\$ 1,256.00
Vogel Law Firm	#253822, March billing	COE	\$ 36,671.61
Warren Brendemuhl	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 51	\$ 7,458.08
Wayne & Diane C. Brendemuhl	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 28	\$ 1,818.94
Wilkin County Auditor	2020 Property Taxes	Pj. 79, Wolverton Creek	\$ 352.00
Will & Jaclyn Petik	2020 R/W Payment	Clay C.D. No. 20	\$ 266.00
			<b>\$ 484,532.97</b>

**Motion** by Anderson to approve payment of the bills. **Seconded** by Van Amburg. **Approved** on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Comments and Announcements.** Leitch commented that this is a "monumental" BRRWD meeting in respect to our long time "best in the state" Administrator Bruce Albright, who is retiring as of 5/1/20. He said that it was unfortunate that his retirement happened during the emergency conditions, but once the COVID-19 closures are suspended, the Board will endeavor to make it right, and we can congratulate him. Albright thanked the Board and wished them the best. He will still be seeing the Managers given his role as an expert witness in the Diversion Authority lawsuits.

Fjestad suggested that the Board officially recognize Fenger as the interim BRRWD Administrator. **Motion** by Fjestad that Fenger be recognized as the Interim Administrator of the BRRWD, starting 5/1/20. **Seconded** by Anderson. Anderson asked about adding staff to fill in as Fenger moves up to the Administrator position. Fenger explained that she plans to train our current Administrative Assistant, RaeAnn Berg, to take on more of the financial records responsibilities to free her up to assume the Administrator's duties. **Approved** on a unanimous roll call vote.

**Next Meeting.** The next regular BRRWD meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2020, at 7:00 PM in our Barnesville office via teleconferencing, depending on the COVID-19 meeting restrictions.

**Upcoming Meeting Agenda Items.** Leitch added the HR Committee report to the next meeting agenda. Jones noted that HEI advertised for construction bids for Phase 2 of the Wolverton Creek Restoration project, and he will present his recommendation at the 5/11/20 meeting.

**Adjournment.** President Leitch adjourned the meeting at 8:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hanson, Secretary