

Budget Hearing & Board Meeting Minutes

Monday August 10, 2026

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

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

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

Others Attending: Jerald Butenhoff; Derek Syverson; Amos Baer; Jenny Mongeau, Clay County Commission; Jon Braton, Wilkin County Commission; Paul Krabbenhoft; Clay County Commission; Michael Miller (remote).

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

Agenda: Motion by Davis to approve agenda, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Budget Hearing:

President Fjestad called Budget Hearing to Order at 7:00 PM.

Board set the following 2027 Levies:

	2027 Assessments
Administrative	\$ 385,000.00
MSA 466.06 Liability Insurance	\$ 22,000.00
Basic Water Management Fund #1	\$ 575,000.00
Basic Water Management Fund #2	\$ 400,000.00
Pj.01-Wilkin Co Ditch No. 22	\$ 40,000.00
Pj.02-Wilkin Co Ditch No. 13	\$ 20,000.00
Pj.03-Clay Co Ditch No. 65	\$ 20,000.00
Pj.04-Clay Co Ditch No. 51-Lat	\$ 0.00
Pj.07-Clay Co Ditch No. 39	\$ 20,000.00
Pj.14-Clay Co Ditch No. 10	\$100,000.00
Pj. 16 - Stinking Lake Detention	\$ 20,000.00
Pj.19-Becker Co Ditch No. 21	\$ 5,000.00
Pj.20-Clay Co Ditch No. 12	\$ 5,000.00
Pj.21-Wilkin Co Ditch No. 13-Lat	\$ 20,000.00
Pj.23-Becker Co Ditch No. 15	\$ 5,000.00
Pj.24-Wilkin Co Ditch No. 44	\$ 15,000.00
Pj.25-Wilkin Co Ditch No. 42	\$ 5,000.00
Pj.27-Clay Co Ditch No. 55	\$ 10,000.00
Pj.28-Clay Co Ditch No. 2	\$ 15,000.00
Pj.32-Hawley Flood Contr	\$ 6,000.00
Pj.33-Clay Co Ditch No. 50	\$175,000.00

	2027 Assessments
Pj.34-Clay Co No. 41/41-Lat 1	\$ 60,000.00
Pj.35-Clay Co Ditch No. 47	\$ 35,000.00
Pj.36-EDA Clay Co No. 41-Lat 2	\$ 5,000.00
Pj.38, Kragnes Ringdike	\$ 0.00
Pj.38, Anderson Acres	\$ 0.00
Pj.39-Georgetown Levee	\$ 2,500.00
Pj.40-Clay Co No. 41-Outlet	\$ 10,000.00
Pj.42-Clay Co Ditch No. 67	\$ 5,000.00
Pj.43-Clay Co Ditch No. 30	\$100,000.00
Pj.46-Turtle Lake Outlet	\$ 50,000.00
Pj.47-Clay Co Ditch No. 53	\$ 5,000.00
Pj.48-Clay Co Ditch No. 59	\$ 25,000.00
Pj.49-Oakport Township	\$ 70,000.00
Pj.50, Cromwell High Water	\$ 0.00
Pj.51, Clay Co Ditch No. 68	\$ 15,000.00
Pj.52, Clay Co Ditch No. 69	\$ 10,000.00
Pj.54, Whisky Creek	\$ 20,000.00
Pj.55, Clay Co Ditch No. 51-Imp	\$ 0.00
Pj.56, Manston Slough	\$ 30,000.00
Pj.57, Mhd I-94 Drainage	\$ 0.00
Pj.58, Riverton Storage Invest	\$ 0.00

	2027 Assessments
Pj.61, Clay Co Ditch No. 11	\$ 25,000.00
Pj.63, Grove Lake	\$ 0.00
Pj.64, LaBelle/Boyer Lakes	\$ 5,000.00
Pj.65, Clay/Wilkin Cty Line	\$ 5,000.00
Pj.67, Pete/Randkler/Helgeson	\$ 0.00
Pj.68, Lake Jacobs Outlet	\$ 5,000.00
Pj.70, Crystal Creek/Oakport	\$ 0.00
Pj.71, 50th AVE S	\$ 5,000.00
Pj.73, Country Heritage Ditch	\$ 0.00
Pj. 78, Clay-Wilkin J.D. No. 1	\$ 0.00
Pj.79, Wolverton Crk Rest	\$ 0.00
Pj. 80-Stony Creek Restoration	\$ 0.00
Pj. 81 Whiskey Crk Enhancement	\$149,916.38
Pj. 82, Glyndon East Tributary	\$ 40,000.00
Becker Co Ditch No. 05	\$ 15,000.00
Becker Co Ditch No. 06	\$ 0.00
Becker Co Ditch No. 09	\$ 20,000.00
Becker Co Ditch No. 10	\$ 3,000.00
Becker Co Ditch No. 19	\$ 5,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 03	\$ 35,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 05	\$ 20,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 09	\$ 10,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 16	\$ 20,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 17	\$ 10,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 20	\$ 25,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 21	\$ 25,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 22	\$ 15,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 23	\$ 20,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 28	\$ 5,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 32	\$ 20,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 33	\$ 10,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 34	\$ 10,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 35	\$ 10,000.00

	2027 Assessments
Clay Co Ditch No. 36	\$ 15,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 40	\$ 20,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 49	\$ 5,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 51	\$ 10,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 54	\$ 10,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 57	\$ 5,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 58	\$ 40,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 60	\$ 15,000.00
Clay Co Ditch No. 63	\$ 5,000.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 01A	\$ 5,000.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 01B	\$ 5,000.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 01C	\$ 5,000.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 02	\$ 10,000.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 03	\$ 0.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 04	\$ 20,000.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 05A	\$ 0.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 06A	\$ 60,000.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 07	\$ 0.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 12	\$ 20,000.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 15	\$ 10,000.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 23	\$ 20,000.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 26	\$ 5,000.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 27	\$ 10,000.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 28	\$ 5,000.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 29	\$ 10,000.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 31	\$ 5,000.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 34	\$ 5,000.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 37	\$ 5,000.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 40	\$ 5,000.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 41	\$ 5,000.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 43	\$ 0.00
Wilkin/Otter Tail JD No. 2	\$ 30,000.00

Administrative expenses over the \$385,000.00 will be assessed to projects and ditches based on their annual expenditures as approved at the December 13, 2021 Board Meeting.

Public Comment: None.

Motion by Davis to approve the 2027 Budget and Assessments as proposed and authorize Fjestad to sign resolutions as presented including the resolutions for the 2027 Staff Compensation, Administrative, Liability Insurance, Basic Water Management 1 and 2, and resolutions for each project and drainage system, **Seconded** by Affield. **Motion Carried.**

President Fjestad adjourned the Budget Hearing at 7:24 PM.

Citizens to be Heard:

Jerald Butenhoff. Whisky Creek, Barnesville Township, Restoration. Butenhoff asked about plans for proposed Whisky Creek project. Goeden provided update on proposed project. At the July 2026 Board Meeting, Board of Managers authorized staff to meet with landowners along Whisky Creek that expressed concern during the project hearing to determine if it was worth asking the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) for an extension on funding. Uhler and Goeden met with Roy and Teresa Gilbertson. They stated they would be interested in working with BRRWD if BRRWD would purchase the property. They would like a fair price determined by an appraiser and they would like Roy's mother to be able to continue to live at the property until she is no longer able. If BRRWD purchased the property, BRRWD could use this land to expand the floodplain along the channel which would create additional storage. This could help alleviate some concerns discussed at the hearing. Uhler and Goeden also met with Gary Smith. He would like BRRWD to address the outlet of the ditch and possibly expand the proposed project downstream. Smith noted he also may be interested in using some of his land for an expanded floodplain to add storage to the system. Smith also stated other landowners may be interested in using their land for storage. Uhler noted before making a funding extension request to LSOHC additional engineering would be required to determine if storage in these locations is feasible. Goeden noted BRRWD has Watershed-based Implementation Funds (WBIF) through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) that could be used to fund additional engineering. Butenhoff asked about proposed South Tributary project. Uhler stated retention would likely need to be part of the proposed project. **Motion** by Stubstad to authorize staff to continue to investigate project feasibility and complete engineering needed to do so, **Seconded** by Larson. **Motion Carried.**

Paul Krabbenhoft and Jenny Mongeau. Clay County Commissioners recognized and thanked Van Amburg for 40 years of service on the BRRWD Board of Managers. Clay County Commissioners also introduced new Clay County appointed Manager Amos Baer who will replace Van Amburg.

Elroy Murdoff. Murdoff stated he owns land in Section 30, Nordick Township, Wilkin County along Whiskey Creek. Murdoff's wheat field had crop damage along channel. Murdoff requested Board of Manager compensate him for crop damage. Board of Managers previously discussed concern with crop damage at their July 2026 Board Meeting. Neighboring landowner with similar crop damage submitted samples to North Dakota State University (NDSU) Plant Diagnostic Lab. The report stated sample was positive for wheat streak mosaic virus (WSMV) which is transmitted by wheat curl mite. Board of Managers discussed that wheat curl mite travels by wind and there are too many variables to know if crop damage was a result of project and there is no evidence either way that crop damage was caused by project. In addition, Board of Managers discussed that the Minnesota Buffer Law required BRRWD to plant a buffer in that area. Board of Managers denied request to pay for crop damage.

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

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Financial Report

Permit Nos.

- 26-052, Eldora Schreiber – tiling, W ½, Section 23, Foxhome Township, Wilkin County with conditions
- 26-053, Eldora Schreiber – tiling, NW ¼, and N ½ of the NE ¼, Section 27, Foxhome Township, Wilkin County with conditions
- 26-054, Eldora Schreiber – tiling, N ½, Section 36, Foxhome Township, Wilkin County with conditions
- 26-055, Jeff Nord – tiling, NW ¼, Section 33, Deerhorn Township, Wilkin County with conditions
- 26-056, Troy Larson – tiling, SE ¼, Section 1, Andrea Township, Wilkin County with conditions
- 26-057, Red River Valley Cooperative, c/o Jon Kuehn – utility installation, NE ¼, Section 6, Elkton Township, Clay County with conditions
- 26-058, Red River Valley Cooperative, c/o Jon Kuehn – utility installation, NE ¼, Section 18, Elkton Township, Clay County with conditions
- 26-059, Rob Jordahl – tiling, SW ¼, and W ½ of the SE ¼ Section 13, Oakport Township, Clay County with Conditions
- 26-060, Dean Braton – culvert installation, SE ¼, Section 6, Prairie View Township, Wilkin County with Conditions

26-061, Randy Johnk – tiling, NW ¼, Section 18, Elkton Township, Clay County with conditions
26-062, Rick Mattson – tiling, NW ¼, Section 5, Cuba Township, Becker County with conditions
26-064, Wilkin County Highway Department, c/o Tim Christopher – culvert modification, SW ¼, Section 26, Akron Township, Wilkin County

Pj. No. 85 – Upper South Branch Buffalo River Restoration, Phase 2 Pay Estimate No. 2 for \$179,685.28

Seconded by Davis. Motion Carried.

Permits for Discussion:

Permit No. 26-066. Andrew Maier. Applicant proposing to tile SW ¼, Section 1, Deerhorn Township, Wilkin County. Natural flow path of water remains unchanged. Proposed tile outlets into South Branch Buffalo River, which is an adequate outlet. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions and approval from road authority for work within road right-of-way (ROW).

Permit No. 26-067. Brent Torkelson. Applicant proposing to tile SW ¼, Section 11, Nilsen Township, Wilkin County. Natural flow path of water remains unchanged. Proposed tile outlets into Wilkin County Ditch No. 3, which is an adequate outlet. Land is included in benefit area. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions and approval from road authority for work within road ROW.

Permit No. 26-068. Riley Miller. Applicant proposing to tile Section 4 and 9, Roberts Township, Wilkin County. Natural flow path of water remains unchanged. Proposed tile outlets into Red River, which is an adequate outlet. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions and approval from road authority for work within road ROW.

Permit No. 26-069. Jay Nord. Applicant proposing to install culvert in NE ¼, Section 15, Deerhorn Township, Wilkin County. Uhler recommended approval subject to installation of 18" culvert and approval from road authority for work within road ROW.

Permit No. 26-070. Tim Thompson. Applicant proposing to relocate culvert in NE ¼, Section 26, Alliance Township, Clay County. Uhler recommended approval subject to installation of 18" culvert and approval from road authority for work within road ROW.

Motion by Larson to approve Permit Nos. 26-066, 26-067, 26-068, 26-069, 26-070 with conditions outlined above, Seconded by Stubstad. Motion Carried.

Projects:

Project No. 82 – Glyndon East Tributary Restoration. Easement Encroachment. During the spring 2026 inspection, there were four landowners along the project corridor that had encroached on the project easement. In total 2.63 acres will need to be reseeded. Estimated cost \$5,000.00. **Motion** by Davis to reseed easement area as project cost and send letters to landowners notifying them that they may be responsible to reseed easement area if encroachment occurs in the future, **Seconded by Affield. Motion Carried.**

Lower Otter Tail River Restoration. Mussel Survey. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) requires BRRWD to complete a mussel survey in project area in Otter Tail River before construction. Board of Managers reviewed proposal submitted by Daguna Consulting, LLC. **Motion** by Van Amburg to accept proposal by Daguna Consulting, LLC to complete mussel survey and move mussels out of project area as required for \$58,600.00, **Seconded by Stubstad. Motion Carried.**

Whisky Creek, Barnesville Township, Restoration. Project Discussion. Davis asked who would hold insurance on property if Gilbertson's mother continued living in the home. Goeden noted this would need to be discussed before BRRWD purchased the property. Mongeau stated Metro Flood Diversion Authority (MFDA) may have a template for this type of agreement.

Whisky Creek, Barnesville Township, Restoration. Temporary Easement Request. Landowners that did not plant easement area for proposed Whisky Creek, Barnesville Township, project requested to be compensated for crop loss due to proposed project not proceeding to construction. There were five parcels where some or all of the proposed easement area was not planted. In total 20.06 acres were not planted, estimated cost if paid \$250.00 per acre is \$5,015.00. **Motion** by Davis to pay landowners who did not plant easement area and submit payment information to BRRWD \$250.00 per acre for land not planted in 2026, **Seconded** by Steffl. **Motion Carried.**

Ditches:

Clay County Ditch No. 33. Outlet Repair. Change Order No. 1. **Motion** by Larson to accept Change Order No. 1 for \$2,257.50 for outlet repair, **Seconded** by Affield. **Motion Carried.**

Clay County Ditch No. 33. Outlet Repair. Pay Estimate No. 2. **Motion** by Van Amburg to approve Pay Estimate No. 2 to KCI Construction, LLC for \$43,060.90, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Clay County Ditch No. 50. Concrete Liner Repair. Award Contract. **Motion** by Larson to award contract to and sign agreement with lowest bidder Key Contracting Inc., for \$245,286.00, **Seconded** by Steffl. **Motion Carried.**

Clay County Ditch No. 30. Repair Recommendation. Approximately 1,000 feet of concrete channel liner has failed on Clay County Ditch No. 30. Estimated cost for repair is \$350,000.00 to \$400,000.00. **Motion** by Stubstad to authorize Uhler to develop plans for repair, **Seconded** by Affield. **Motion Carried.**

Clay County Ditch No. 11. Kurtz Township Cost Share Request. Kurtz Township replaced a centerline culvert into Clay County Ditch No. 11 North in Section 4, Kurtz Township. Shortly after culvert was replaced, a portion of the in-slope failed. Kurtz Township requested Board of Managers consider cost sharing on slope repair. Board of Managers denied request.

Wilkin County Ditch No. 40. Petition to Outlet into Ditch. **Motion** by Larson to accept Petition submitted by Jeri Yaggie of D & J Yaggie, LLP to outlet the N ½, Section 2, Manston Township, Wilkin County into Wilkin County Ditch No. 40, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Wilkin County Ditch No. 40. Set Time and Date for Hearing. **Motion** by Davis to set Hearing for Petition submitted by Jeri Yaggie of D & J Yaggie, LLP to outlet the N ½, Section 2, Manston Township, Wilkin County into Wilkin County Ditch No. 40 at the beginning of the regular Board Meeting on Monday September 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM, **Seconded** by Affield. **Motion Carried.**

Drainage Repair Recommendations

Drainage	Township	Section	Problem/Proposed Work	Estimated Cost
Clay County Ditch No. 40	Kurtz	20, 21, and 28	Disc and reseed buffer.	\$3,000 - \$4,000
Clay-Wilkin Judicial Ditch No. 1	Deerhorn	18	Failing approach culvert. Install new 36"x50' corrugated metal pipe (cmp). Additional 10 yards of clay fill needed to cover culvert.	\$6,000 - \$7,000
Pj. 16, Stinking Lake	Highland Grove	33	Spray willows along channel	\$1,000
Pj. 79, Wolverton Creek	Clay and Wilkin Counties		Spray thistles along easement areas.	\$6,000 - \$8,000
Pj. 85, Upper South Branch Buffalo River	Manston	10 and 11	Spray willows along channel	\$2,500

Motion by Steffl to approve repairs as presented, **Seconded** by Affield. **Motion Carried.**

Other:

Rules of Order. Board of Managers discussed proposed Rules of Order for public comment periods. It was determined Board of Managers would discuss further at the September Board Meeting.

Bills. **Motion** by Affield to approve bills totaling \$587,049.47, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Next Regular Meeting. Monday September 14, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office.

President Fjestad adjourned meeting at 9:00 PM.

/s/ William Davis
Secretary