



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

Board Meeting Minutes

Monday July 13, 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: Adam Wiertzema; Caleb Otto; Moriya Rufer, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR); Paul Krabbenhof, Clay County Commission; Jon Braton, Wilkin County Commission. **Remote Attendance:** Olivia Morton, Brady Martz; Greg Masteller, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT); Kevin Lachowitzer, MnDOT; Jennifer Malloy, Apex Engineering; Bryce Mathison, Apex Engineering; Michael Miller.

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

Agenda: Additions to agenda:

Office Maintenance, Painting Quotes

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

Rules of Order:

Board of Managers discussed possible Rules of Order for public comment periods at Board Meetings and Hearings. In general, there was a desire to encourage thoughtful, respectful comments. Board of Managers also discussed providing opportunities for the public to ask questions before project Hearings. Board of Managers will review another draft of Rules of Order at a future Board Meeting.

Citizens to be Heard:

Moriya Rufer, BWSR. Rufer introduced herself as the new Board Conservationist for BRRWD.

Olivia Morton, Brady Martz. 2025 Audit. Morton provided an overview of the 2025 Audit. Brady Martz found a clean opinion of BRRWD's finances in 2025. Morton noted with a small staff BRRWD automatically receives a note of no segregation of duties for internal controls. **Motion** by Van Amburg to accept the 2025 Audit Report, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Apex Engineering Group, Clay County Ditch No. 41 – Lateral 2 Proposal. Malloy and Mathison provided an overview of proposed stormwater design for Highway 10 in Dilworth. Proposed plan includes installing a wet sedimentation basin that directs some water north of Highway 10 to Clay County Ditch No. 41 – Lateral 2. Construction is tentatively scheduled for 2032 and 2033, however, MnDOT wanted to ensure BRRWD supports the proposal. In general, Board of Managers supported MnDOT continuing with design presented. Staff will review legal proceeding required to redirect some water from Clay County Ditch No. 50 to Clay County Ditch No. 41 – Lateral 2.

Caleb Otto. Expressed concern about water flowing through property in Section 32, Elkton Township, Clay County where Stony Creek and Hay Creek meet. Otto stated water backs up due to beaver dams downstream of Stony Creek Project.

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

June 8, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Financial Report

Permit Nos.

26-019, Larry Morris – tiling, S ½ Section 33, Akron Township, Wilkin County with conditions

26-042, City of Breckenridge c/o Chris Loehr – land development, SW ¼ Section 34, Connelly Township, Wilkin County

26-044, Nathan Anderson – water and sediment control basin (WASCOB), NE ¼ Section 4, Hawley Township, Clay County with conditions

26-045, Grow Hawley, LLC c/o Austin Peterson – land development, SW ¼ Section 4, Hawley Township, Clay County with conditions

26-046, City of Moorhead c/o Clay Lexen – utility installation, City of Moorhead

Clay County Ditch No. 33 Outlet Repair, Pay Estimate No. 1 for \$138,709.50

Seconded by Affield. **Motion Carried.**

Permits for Discussion:

Permit No. 26-049. Marc Hasbargen. Applicant proposal to install culvert through Highway 210 in NW ¼, Section 1, Sunnyside Township, Wilkin County to allow for better drainage into Wilkin County Ditch No. 37. Board of Managers discussed need for applicant to work with MnDOT for authorization to work in right-of-way (ROW) and determine culvert size, type, and length. **Motion** by Stubstad to deny permit until applicant receives authorization from MnDOT, **Seconded** by Davis. **Motion Carried.** Once applicant receives authorization from MnDOT and there is more information on the culvert installation, they should reapply for a permit.

Permit No. 26-050. Wilkin County Highway Department, c/o Tim Christopher. Applicant proposing to replace two driveway crossings along County Road 12 and modify culverts from 18 inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) to 18 inch reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) in NW ¼, Section 10, Breckenridge Township, Wilkin County. **Motion** by Stubstad to approve permit, **Seconded** by Steffl. **Motion Carried.**

Permit No. 26-0370. Larry Wiertzema. Applicant proposing to tile Section 27, Sunnyside Township, Wilkin County. Natural flow path of water remains unchanged. Tile outlets into road ditch on north side of property, which is an adequate outlet. Permit was discussed at the June 2026 Board Meeting, and adjacent landowner had concerns about water flowing through property. Staff worked with applicant and adjacent landowner and resolved concerns. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions and approval from road authority to work in road ROW. **Motion** by Larson to approve permit with conditions, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Projects:

Project No. 80 – Stony Creek Restoration. Easement Encroachment Follow-up. Staff met with landowners of parcel nos. 02.004.2000 and 02.011.4701. Both landowners thought they were outside the permanent easement boundary when they planted in 2026. In total, there are 2.14 acres that need to be reseeded. Estimated cost is \$5,000.00. **Motion** by Davis to reseed the permanent easement one time for these two parcels as a project expense, **Seconded** by Affield. **Motion Carried.**

Project No. 81 – Whiskey Creek Enhancement. Landowner Concern. Two producers planted wheat along Whiskey Creek project area and are experiencing crop damage near the permanent easements. Neither producer has sprayed their fields for weeds, BRRWD has not sprayed either. One field is in its third year of crop production since the project was completed and the other is in its second year of crop production. Board of Managers discussed concern.

Whisky Creek, Barnesville Township, Restoration. Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC). BRRWD could apply for an extension on funding if Board of Managers would like to work with landowners to construct the proposed Whisky Creek restoration. Staff would have to let the LSOHC staff know there could be an extension in August and an extension request could be brought to the Council in November. If the Council approved the request, it would go through the 2027 legislative session and approved July 1, 2027. **Motion** by Larson to authorize staff to meet with landowners to determine interest in moving forward with construction of the Whisky Creek Restoration, **Seconded** by Davis. **Abstained** – Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Ditches:**Ditch Spraying.**

Ditch	Miles of Spraying	Estimated Cost
Becker County Ditch No. 5	1	\$700.00
Becker County Ditch No. 6	0	\$0.00
Becker County Ditch No. 9	0	\$0.00
Becker County Ditch No. 10	0	\$0.00
Becker County Ditch No. 15	1.5	\$1,050.00
Becker County Ditch No. 19	0	\$0.00
Becker County Ditch No. 21	0.5	\$350.00
Clay County Ditch No. 2	2.25	\$1,575.00
Clay County Ditch No. 3	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 5	1	\$700.00
Clay County Ditch No. 9	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 10	4	\$2,800.00
Clay County Ditch No. 11	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 12	0.25	\$175.00
Clay County Ditch No. 16	2	\$1,400.00
Clay County Ditch No. 17	1	\$700.00
Clay County Ditch No. 20	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 21	1	\$700.00
Clay County Ditch No. 22	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 23	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 28	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 30	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 32	0.5	\$350.00
Clay County Ditch No. 33	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 34	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 35	1.5	\$1,050.00
Clay County Ditch No. 36	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 39	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 40	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 41	4	\$2,800.00
Clay County Ditch No. 41 L1	2	\$1,400.00
Clay County Ditch No. 41 L2	1	\$700.00
Clay County Ditch No. 47	2	\$1,400.00
Clay County Ditch No. 49	3.5	\$2,450.00
Clay County Ditch No. 50	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 51	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 53	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 54	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 55	4.5	\$3,150.00

Ditch	Miles of Spraying	Estimated Cost
Clay County Ditch No. 57	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 58	1	\$700.00
Clay County Ditch No. 59	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 60	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 63	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 65	3	\$2,100.00
Clay County Ditch No. 67	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 68	0	\$0.00
Clay County Ditch No. 69	0.5	\$350.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 1A	2	\$1,400.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 1B	2	\$1,400.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 1C	0	\$0.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 2	2	\$1,400.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 3	5.5	\$3,850.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 4	6.5	\$4,550.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 5	0	\$0.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 6A	3	\$2,100.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 7	3.5	\$2,450.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 12	1.25	\$875.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 13	2.5	\$6,750.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 13 L1	0	\$0.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 15	0	\$0.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 22	6	\$4,200.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 23	6.5	\$4,550.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 26	2.5	\$1,750.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 27	2	\$1,400.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 28	0.5	\$350.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 29	4.5	\$3,150.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 31	5	\$3,500.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 34	0	\$0.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 37	1	\$700.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 40	0	\$0.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 41	1	\$700.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 42	1	\$700.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 43	1.5	\$1,050.00
Wilkin County Ditch No. 44	1	\$700.00
Clay-Wilkin Judicial Ditch No. 1	3	\$2,100.00
Wilkin-Otter Tail Judicial Ditch No. 2	1	\$700.00

Ditch	Miles of Spraying	Estimated Cost
Pj. 54, Whisky Creek Tributaries	1.5	\$1,050.00
Pj. 79, Wolverton Creek	5	\$3,500.00
Pj. 81, Whiskey Creek Enhancement	3	\$2,100.00

112.25 total miles of ditch spraying is proposed and estimated cost is \$83,575.00. **Motion** by Davis to complete spraying as proposed, **Seconded** by Steffl. **Motion Carried.**

Drainage Repair Recommendations

Drainage	Township	Section	Problem/Proposed Work	Estimated Cost
Becker County Ditch No. 9	Cuba/Hamden	25/30	Sediment in channel. One mile cleanout needed. Seed spoil material after spreading out along buffer.	\$13,000-\$16,000
Clay County Ditch No. 34	Barnesville	19	Spoilbank blowout. Haul out sandy material and haul in 200 yards of clay. Scrap existing 24"x40' cmp and replace with new cmp and remount old flapgate. Seed and cover with erosion control blanket.	\$22,000-\$25,000
Clay County Ditch No. 35	Moland	31	Failing and undersized culverts. Install two new 18"x50' cmp with safety aprons and haul in 160 yards of clay.	\$10,000-\$12,000
Wilkin County Ditch No. 6A	Tanberg	21, 28, 33	Sediment in channel. One and a half mile cleanout needed. Seed spoil material after spreading out along buffer.	\$20,000-24,000
Pj. 56, Manston Slough	Manston	19	Removing sediment and debris surrounding water control structure.	\$2,500-\$3,500

Motion by Larson to approve repairs as presented, **Seconded** by Affield. **Abstained** – Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Other:

Wetland Credit. Purchase Request. Metro Flood Diversion Authority (MFDA) requested to purchase up to 0.2 wetland credits from BRRWD's wetland bank. **Motion** by Van Ambury to authorize the sale of up to 0.2 credit to MFDA for \$70,000.00 per credit, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Budget Hearing. Board of Managers reviewed draft budget documents. **Motion** by Affield to set the 2027 Budget Hearing for 7:00 PM on Monday August 10, 2026 at the BRRWD office in Barnesville, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Salary Program. Human Resources (HR) Committee presented proposed update to Salary Program. **Motion** by Davis to approve updated Salary Program as presented, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Minnesota Watersheds. Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions. Appoint Delegates. Board of Managers Appointed Davis and Affield as Delegates and Van Amburg as an alternate.

Minnesota Watersheds. Summer Tour. Tour Stop at Stinking Lake. **Motion** by Affield to mow Stinking Lake to allow Minnesota Watersheds' Summer Tour to stop at Stinking Lake, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Minnesota Watersheds. Summer Tour. Fjestad, Affield, Steffl, and Davis plan to attend.

Office Maintenance. Painting Quotes. Four quotes were submitted for painting the BRRWD office. **Motion** by Davis to hire lowest bidder, Tri-State Specialties, to paint BRRWD office for \$10,900.00, **Seconded** by Affield. **Motion Carried.**

Bills. **Motion** by Stubstad to approve bills totaling \$388,403.41, **Seconded** by Larson. **Motion Carried.**

Next Regular Meeting. Monday August 10, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office.

President Fjestad adjourned meeting at 9:40 PM.

/s/ William Davis
Secretary