



1303 4TH Ave. NE
Barnesville, MN 56514
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www.brrwd.org

Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 8, 2025

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

Managers Absent: Curtis Stubstad; Gerald Van Amburg

Staff Present: Matthew Schlauderaff, Watershed Specialist.

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

Others Attending: Gerald Van Amburg, as citizen (remote); Jon Braton, Wilkin County Commission; Paul Krabbenhoft, Clay County Commission.

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

Agenda: Additions to Agenda:

Drainage Repair Recommendations

Clay County Ditch No. 67, Review and Consider Petition and Set Hearing

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

Citizens to be Heard: None.

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

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Financial Report

Permit Nos.

25-071, Rob Jordahl – Drain Tile, N ½, Section 22, Moland Township, Clay County with conditions

25-076, Wilkin County Highway Department, c/o Troy Wright – Culvert Replacements, Sections 13 and 24, McCauleyville Township, Wilkin County with conditions

25-077, Kory Koester – Culvert Removal and Installation, SW ¼, Section 20, Moland Township, Clay County with conditions.

25-078, Turnkey Solutions and Development, c/o Jason Francis – Land Development, NW ¼, Section 3, Lake Park Township, Becker County

25-079, Wilkin County Highway Department, c/o Tim Christopher – Culvert Replacement, Sections 35 and 36, Meadows Township, Wilkin County with conditions

Project No. 81-Whiskey Creek Enhancement Project Phase 3, Pay Estimate No. 16.

Seconded by Steffl. **Motion Carried.**

Permits for Discussion:

Permit No. 25-061, Tom Deal. Applicant is proposing to install an 18” corrugated metal pipe (cmp) through an existing field approach and clean out the county road ditch in the SE ¼, Section 3, Andrea Township, Wilkin County. Downstream landowner notification received in support of application. Current approach does not have a culvert. Uhler recommended approval subject to approval from the County for work in road right-of-way (ROW), applicant must install an 18” cmp through approach, and applicant may not remove existing centerline culvert through County Road that was part of original permit.

Permit No. 25-069. Wilkin County Highway Department, c/o Tim Christopher. Applicant is proposing to replace existing 72” reinforced concrete pipe (rcp) that is failing through County Road 20 with a cmp sized by BRRWD between

Sections 15 and 22, Meadows Township, Wilkin County. Uhler mentioned a hydraulic analysis was conducted and was determined that a 78" cnp would be adequate. Uhler recommended approval subject to new culvert installed on grade with existing culvert.

Permit No. 25-081, Clay County Highway Department, c/o Alex Soyring . Applicant is proposing to replace existing timber slab span bridge with two lines of 12'x4' reinforced concrete box culverts (rcb) along County Road 51 between Sections 30 and 31, Barnesville Township, Clay County. Uhler recommended approval subject to approval from Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) for work in a Public Water.

Permit No. 25-082, West Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District, c/o Jacob Nelson. Applicant is proposing to install water and sediment control basins (WASCOBs) in the NW ¼, Section 33, Norwegian Grove Township, Otter Tail County. All work will be done on applicants' property and water will not pool on neighboring lands. Uhler recommend approval subject to standard tile conditions.

Permit No. 25-083, Robert Norby. Applicant is proposing to install 125 acres of drain tile in the NW ¼ and 55 acres of drain tile in the S ½ NE ¼, Section 22, Kragnes Township, Clay County. Tile lines will outlet directly into the Buffalo River, which is an adequate outlet. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions and approval from road authorities for work in ROW.

Permit No. 25-084, Robert Norby. Applicant is proposing to install 72 acres of drain tile in the NE ¼ east of Highway 75, Section 28, Kragnes Township, Clay County. Tile will outlet directly into Clay County Ditch No. 51, which is an adequate outlet. Property is in benefiting area for Clay County Ditch No. 51. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions and approval from road authority for work in ROW.

Permit No. 25-085, Duane Brendemuhl. Applicant is proposing to install 26 acres of drain tile in the E ½ SE ¼, Section 16, Kragnes Township, Clay County. Tile will outlet directly into Clay County Ditch No. 51, which is an adequate outlet. Property is also in the benefiting area for Clay County Ditch No. 51. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions.

Permit No. 25-086, Dennis Butenhoff. Applicant is proposing to install 37 acres of drain tile to an existing pump and tile lines in the SE ¼, north of Highway 52, Section 8, Barnesville Township. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions.

Motion by Larson to approve Permit Nos. 25-061, 25-069, 25-081, 25-082, 25-083, 25-084, 25-085 and 25-086 with conditions outlined above, **Seconded** by Davis. **Motion Carried.**

Permit No. 25-033, Dale Pederson. Applicant applied for an after the fact permit after digging a new ditch on property in the NE ¼, Section 18, Cuba Township, Becker County. Applicant stated neighboring landowner in the SE ¼, Section 18, raised ditch bottom elevation, which has impacted drainage in the NE ¼. Applicant was unable to get support from landowner in the SE ¼ for the new ditch. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has gathered survey data between the quarters and can help set an elevation but is not able to mandate an elevation of the ditch bottom. Schlauderaff recommended Board deny the permit and require applicant to fill in ditch within seven days of crop coming off. Additionally, Schlauderaff recommended Board authorize Vogel Law Firm to send applicant letter if needed.

Motion by Steffl to deny Permit No. 25-033 and require landowner to fill in ditch as discussed, **Seconded** by Larson.

Motion Carried. **Motion** by Steffl to authorize Vogel Law Firm to send letter to applicant if ditch is not filled within timeline discussed, **Seconded** by Affield. **Motion Carried.**

Projects:

Project No. 85 – Upper South Branch Buffalo River, Construction Agreement. **Motion** by Larson to sign contract with Comstock Construction for Phase 2 of the Upper South Branch Buffalo River Project, **Seconded** by Affield. **Motion Carried.**

Ditches:

Drainage Repair Recommendations.

Drainage System	Township	Section	Problem/Proposed Work	Estimated Cost
Wilkin County Ditch No. 6A	Nordick	8	Brush mow dead trees on side slopes.	\$1,500

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

Clay County Ditch No. 67, Review and Consider Petition and Set Hearing. Loren Richards submitted a permit application to install a centerline culvert through County Road 91/57 Ave N between Sections 15 and 22, Oakport Township. Additionally, Loren plans to clean the east-west ditch and the north-south ditch in the SW ¼, Section 15, for better drainage. Currently, only the S ½ SW ¼, Section 15, Oakport Township is in the benefiting area for Clay County Ditch No. 67. Richards submitted a petition to use Clay County Ditch No. 67 as an outlet for the N ½ SW ¼, Section 15, Oakport Township. **Motion** by Davis to accept petition and set hearing for Monday, October 13, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the BRRWD Office, **Seconded** by Larson. **Motion Carried.**

Other:

Buffalo River Log Jam, Section 16, Glyndon Township. Davis discussed concerns with a log jam south of the 12th Ave S bridge along the South Branch Buffalo River in Section 16, Glyndon Township, Clay County. A large number of trees have been piled in along the south side of the bridge, Davis expressed concern that this blockage could be a flood hazard. Davis mentioned the County will be replacing this bridge next year and these trees should be removed by then. Larson recommended staff research how log jams have been removed in the past and if any funds are available for log jam removals. **Motion** by Larson to direct staff review past log jam removals and see if funding is available for log jam removal, **Seconded** by Davis. **Motion Carried.**

Drainage Concern, Section 20 & 21, Elkton Township. Davis discussed concerns with drainage on land in Section 20, Elkton Township, Clay County. Davis thought a centerline culvert to take water from the north side of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 10 to the south side into Clay County Ditch No. 55 could address drainage concern in his area. Staff will reach out to Clay County regarding concern. **Motion** by Davis to have staff reach out to Clay County, **Seconded** by Affield. **Motion Carried.**

Bills, Review and Consider. **Motion** by Affield to approve bills totaling \$332,313.14, along with manager vouchers, **Seconded** by Larson. **Motion Carried.**

Next Regular Meeting. Monday, October 13, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office.

President Fjestad adjourned meeting at 7:47 PM.

/s/ William Davis

Secretary