



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

Board Meeting Minutes

Monday August 11, 2025

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

Managers Absent: Troy Larson.

Staff Present: Matthew Schlauderaff, Watershed Specialist.

Consultants Present: Bennett Uhler, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI); Bennett Johnson, Attorney, Vogel Law Firm (remote).

Others Attending: John D Peterson; Jon Braton, Wilkin County Commissioner.

President Fjestad called meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Agenda: Additions to Agenda:

Section 15, Nilsen Township, Drainage Concern

Project No. 81 – Whiskey Creek Enhancement, Closed Executive Session

Project No. 54 – Whiskey Creek East Tributary

Clay County Ditch No. 47

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

Budget Hearing:

President Fjestad called Budget Hearing to Order at 7:03PM.

Board set following 2025 Levies

	2026 Assessment		2026 Assessment
Administrative	\$350,000	Pj.24-Wilkin Co Ditch No. 44	\$20,000
MSA 466.06 Liability Insurance	\$22,000	Pj.25-Wilkin Co Ditch No. 42	\$5,000
Basic Water Management Fund #1	\$550,000	Pj.27-Clay Co Ditch No. 55	\$15,000
Basic Water Management Fund #2	\$700,000	Pj.28-Clay Co Ditch No. 2	\$20,000
Pj.01-Wilkin Co Ditch No. 22	\$50,000	Pj.32-Hawley Flood Contr	\$6,000
Pj.02-Wilkin Co Ditch No. 13	\$30,000	Pj.33-Clay Co Ditch No. 50	\$150,000
Pj.03-Clay Co Ditch No. 65	\$30,000	Pj.34-Clay Co No. 41/41-Lat 1	\$60,000
Pj.04-Clay Co Ditch No. 51-Lat	\$0.00	Pj.35-Clay Co Ditch No. 47	\$35,000
Pj.07-Clay Co Ditch No. 39	\$30,000	Pj.36-EDA Clay Co No. 41-Lat 2	\$5,000
Pj.14-Clay Co Ditch No. 10	\$100,000	Pj.38, Kragnes Ringdike	\$0.00
Pj. 16 - Stinking Lake Detention	\$20,000	Pj.38, Anderson Acres	\$0.00
Pj.19-Becker Co Ditch No. 21	\$10,000	Pj.39-Georgetown Levee	\$0.00
Pj.20-Clay Co Ditch No. 12	\$15,000	Pj.40-Clay Co No. 41-Outlet	\$25,000
Pj.21-Wilkin Co Ditch No. 13-Lat	\$30,000	Pj.42-Clay Co Ditch No. 67	\$5,000
Pj.23-Becker Co Ditch No. 15	\$5,000	Pj.43-Clay Co Ditch No. 30	\$10,000

	2026 Assessment		2026 Assessment
Pj.46-Turtle Lake Outlet	\$75,000	Wilkin Co Ditch No. 27	\$20,000
Pj.47-Clay Co Ditch No. 53	\$5,000	Wilkin Co Ditch No. 28	\$10,000
Pj.48-Clay Co Ditch No. 59	\$25,000	Wilkin Co Ditch No. 29	\$20,000
Pj.49-Oakport Township	\$75,000	Wilkin Co Ditch No. 31	\$10,000
Pj.50, Cromwell High Water	\$0.00	Wilkin Co Ditch No. 34	\$5,000
Pj.51, Clay Co Ditch No. 68	\$15,000	Wilkin Co Ditch No. 37	\$10,000
Pj.52,Clay Co Ditch No. 69	\$10,000	Wilkin Co Ditch No. 40	\$10,000
Pj.54, Whisky Creek	\$30,000	Wilkin Co Ditch No. 41	\$15,000
Pj.55, Clay Co Ditch No. 51-Imp	\$0.00	Wilkin Co Ditch No. 43	\$5,000
Pj.56, Manston Slough	\$65,000	Wilkin/Otter Tail JD No. 2	\$75,000
Pj.57, Mhd I-94 Drainage	\$0.00	Clay Co Ditch No. 03	\$60,000
Pj.58, Riverton Storage Invest	\$0.00	Clay Co Ditch No. 05	\$25,000
Pj.61, Clay Co Ditch No. 11	\$35,000	Clay Co Ditch No. 09	\$10,000
Pj.63, Grove Lake	\$0.00	Clay Co Ditch No. 16	\$20,000
Pj.64, LaBelle/Boyer Lakes	\$5,000	Clay Co Ditch No. 17	\$10,000
Pj.65, Clay/Wilkin Cty Line	\$5,000	Clay Co Ditch No. 20	\$30,000
Pj.67, Pete/Randkler/Helgeson	\$0.00	Clay Co Ditch No. 21	\$30,000
Pj.68, Lake Jacobs Outlet	\$5,000	Clay Co Ditch No. 22	\$15,000
Pj.70, Crystal Creek/Oakport	\$0.00	Clay Co Ditch No. 23	\$25,000
Pj.71, 50th AVE S	\$10,000	Clay Co Ditch No. 28	\$10,000
Pj.73, Country Heritage Ditch	\$0.00	Clay Co Ditch No. 32	\$20,000
Pj. 78, Clay-Wilkin J.D. No. 1	\$0.00	Clay Co Ditch No. 33	\$10,000
Pj.79, Wolverton Crk Rest	\$0.00	Clay Co Ditch No. 34	\$10,000
Pj. 80-Stony Creek Restoration	\$50,000	Clay Co Ditch No. 35	\$10,000
Pj. 81 Whiskey Crk Enhancement	\$149,916.38	Clay Co Ditch No. 36	\$15,000
Pj. 82, Glyndon East Tributary	\$40,000	Clay Co Ditch No. 40	\$10,000
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 01A	\$5,000	Clay Co Ditch No. 49	\$5,000
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 01B	\$5,000	Clay Co Ditch No. 51	\$10,000
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 01C	\$15,000	Clay Co Ditch No. 54	\$10,000
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 02	\$10,000	Clay Co Ditch No. 57	\$5,000
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 03	\$30,000	Clay Co Ditch No. 58	\$40,000
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 04	\$20,000	Clay Co Ditch No. 60	\$15,000
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 05A	\$5,000	Clay Co Ditch No. 63	\$5,000
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 06A	\$100,000	Becker Co Ditch No. 05	\$15,000
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 07	\$5,000	Becker Co Ditch No. 06	\$0.00
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 12	\$20,000	Becker Co Ditch No. 09	\$25,000
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 15	\$10,000	Becker Co Ditch No. 10	\$3,000
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 23	\$20,000	Becker Co Ditch No. 19	\$5,000
Wilkin Co Ditch No. 26	\$10,000		

Citizens to be Heard:

None.

Administrative expenses over the \$350,000.00 will be assessed to projects and ditches based on their annual expenditures as approved at the December 13, 2021 Board Meeting. 2026 Budget includes a 3.0 percent salary increase for staff.

Motion to approve 2026 Budget and Assessments as presented and authorize Fjestad to sign Assessment Resolutions as presented, by Affield, **Seconded** by Davis. **Motion Carried.**

President Fjestad adjourned Budget Hearing at 7:32PM.

Citizens to be Heard:

John D. Peterson. Peterson discussed concerns with recent inundation of property in Section 32, Elkton Township, downstream of Project No. 80 – Stony Creek Enhancement Project. Schlauderaff mentioned discussions with several other landowners along Stony Creek and their concerns with the 5+ inches of rain Barnesville recently received. Schlauderaff noted landowners have continued to express interest in storage along Stony Creek, but funding needs to become available to help lower local costs. Schlauderaff will continue to monitor project and local rainfall.

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

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Financial Report

Permit Nos.

25-022, Tim Buth – Culvert removal and installation, Sections 15 and 22, Mitchell Township, Wilkin County with conditions.

25-051, Matthew Hasbargen – Tiling, E ½, Section 17, Andrea Township, Wilkin County with conditions.

25-052, Mark Peterson – Tiling, NE ¼, Section 33, Nilsen Township, Wilkin County with conditions.

25-053, Minkota Power Cooperative c/o Rebecca Maszk– Culvert relocation, NE ¼, Section 33, Glyndon Township, Clay County, with conditions.

25-054, Clay County Highway Department c/o Matthew Neudecker – Ditch realignment, culvert installation and removal, NE ¼, Section 1, Kurtz Township, Clay County with conditions.

25-055, Trevor Sorby – Tiling, W ½, Section 3, Oakport Township, Clay County with conditions.

25-056, Trevor Sorby – Tiling, SW ¼, Section 35, Glyndon Township, Clay County with conditions.

25-058, Tom Deal – Culvert Installation, NE ¼, Section 24, Nordick Township, Wilkin County with conditions.

25-059, Tom Deal – Culvert Installation, NE ¼, Section 10, Andrea Township, Wilkin County with conditions.

25-062, Doug Nordick – Tiling, S ½, Section 29, Nordick Township, Wilkin County with conditions.

25-063, Nathan Braseth – Water and sediment control basins, SE ¼, Section 34, Lake Park Township, Becker County with conditions.

Seconded by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Permits for Discussion:

Permit No. 25-064, Dennis Mitchell. Applicant is proposing to install fiber optic cable at numerous locations in Cromwell Township, Hawley Township, and Highland Grove Township in Clay County. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard utility disclaimer and approval from road authorities to work within road right-of-way (ROW).

Permit No. 25-065, Allen Yaggie. Applicant is proposing to install drain tile in the SE ¼, Section 20, Nilsen Township, Wilkin County. Water will outlet into road ditch on south side of property near centerline culvert which will take water underneath road into Wilkin County Ditch No. 28, which is an adequate outlet. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions and approval from road authority to work within road ROW.

Permit No. 25-066, Allen Yaggie. Applicant is proposing to install drain tile in the E ½, Section 9, Foxhome Township, Wilkin County. Tile lines will connect with existing tile and pump, which outlets water directly into Wilkin County Ditch No. 4, which is an adequate outlet. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions and approval from road authority to work within road ROW.

Permit No. 25-068, Wilkin County Highway Department c/o Tim Christopher. Applicant is proposing to remove failing 24” reinforced concrete pipe and replace with 30” corrugated metal pipe (cmp) through 240th Ave in the north road ditch between Sections 8 and 9, Sunnyside Township, Wilkin County. Uhler recommended approval subject to the installation of a 30” cmp and installation of culvert at the same gradeline as existing culvert.

Permit No. 25-070, Wilkin County Highway Department c/o Tim Christopher. Applicant is proposing to line failing 30" cmp with 24" culvert liner through Wilkin County State Aid Highway 30 between Sections 26 and 35, Atherton Township, Wilkin County. Uhler recommended approval subject to submitting plan to adequately seal void space between 30" culvert and 24" liner.

Permit No. 25-072, Rob Jordahl. Applicant is proposing to install 283 acres of pattern tile in the E ½, Section 14, Moland Township, Clay County. Water will outlet directly into Clay County Ditch No. 3, which is an adequate outlet. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions and approval from road authority for work in road ROW.

Permit No. 25-073, Rob Jordahl. Applicant is proposing to install 284 acres of pattern tile in the W ½, Section 1, Moland Township, Clay County. Water will outlet directly into Clay County Ditch No. 65, which is an adequate outlet. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions and approval from road authority for work in road ROW.

Permit No. 25-074, Rob Jordahl. Applicant is proposing to install 591 acres of pattern tile in Section 13, Moland Township, Clay County. Water will outlet directly into Clay County Ditch No. 3, which is an adequate outlet. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions and approval from road authority for work in road ROW.

Permit No. 25-075, Matthew Conzemius. Applicant is proposing to abandon existing gravity outlet in SE ¼, Section 31, Alliance Township, Clay County which outlets directly into Clay-Wilkin Judicial Ditch No. 1. Applicant is proposing new pumped outlet location which will pump water underneath 180th Ave S and will outlet into County road ditch, which is an adequate outlet. Uhler recommended approval subject to approval from road authority for work in road ROW.

Motion by Stubstad to approve Permit Nos. 25-064, 25-065, 25-066, 25-068, 25-070, 25-072, 25-073, 25-074 and 25-075 with conditions outlined above, **Seconded** by Steffl. **Motion Carried.**

Projects:

Project No. 31 – Deerhorn Creek Basin, Landowner Request. Greg Grommesh requested BRRWD reinstall a culvert that washed out along Deerhorn Creek in Section 22, Atherton Township, Wilkin County. Upon request, Schlauderaff reviewed and found a 30" cmp downstream from the crossing that is no longer useable. Schlauderaff reviewed easement document which stated maintenance could be done by the grantor (Watershed) but flood damage should be done by the grantee (landowner). Schlauderaff noted the crossing was likely undersized and a larger culvert would likely be needed. Uhler stated a hydraulic study would be needed and staff could work with Minnesota DNR to get a permit for work within a Minnesota Public Water. **Motion** by Stubstad to authorize staff to assist Grommesh with hydraulic study and Minnesota DNR permitting, as BRRWD has done with similar requests, but culvert cost and installation to be paid for by landowner. **Seconded** by Steffl. **Motion Carried.**

Whisky Creek & South Tributaries, Archeological Survey Proposal. Uhler presented proposed archeological survey from In Situ Archeological Consulting for the main channel restoration of Whisky Creek. Survey will take place along the channel in Sections 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23, Barnesville Township. **Motion** by Van Amburg to authorize In Situ to complete the archeological survey as proposed for \$58,426.00, **Seconded** by Davis. **Motion Carried.**

Project No. 54 – Whisky Creek East Tributary. Uhler presented final pay estimate for repair work completed in 2024 by ACM along channel. **Motion** by Stubstad to approve final pay estimate for \$9,641.34 as presented, **Seconded** by Davis. **Motion Carried.**

Ditches:

Clay County Ditch No. 68, Request from City of Glyndon. Schlauderaff presented request from the Glyndon City Administrator, Justin Vogel, for mowing and reimbursement for mowing along Clay County Ditch No. 68 within Glyndon city limits. Mowing rates would be set at \$75/hour for the 1.5 miles of ditch in city limits. Schlauderaff stated BRRWD has approved similar requests from the City of Moorhead for BRRWD ditches in city limits. **Motion** by Stubstad to approve allowing the City of Glyndon to mow Clay County Ditch No. 68 within city limits and receive reimbursement three times a year as presented, **Seconded** by Davis. **Motion Carried.**

Drainage Repair Recommendations.

Drainage System	Township	Section	Problem/Proposed Work	Estimated Cost
Becker County Ditch No. 9	Cuba	9	Brushmow trees and willows on sideslopes.	\$3,000 - \$4,000
Clay County Ditch No. 60	Holy Cross	14 and 15	Sediment in channel. Channel cleanout of 0.75 miles.	\$8,000 - \$10,000

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

Clay County Ditch No. 47 Channel Liner Repair. Uhler presented channel liner quotes for 150' of channel liner that has failed near the intersection of Main Ave and 24th Ave in Section 15, Moorhead Township. **Motion** by Affield to approve awarding contract to the low bidder, Key Contracting, for concrete channel liner repair for \$67,704.00 as presented, **Seconded** by Davis. **Motion Carried.**

Other:

Bills, Review and Consider. **Motion** by Stubstad to approve bills totaling \$208,068.20. **Seconded** by Davis. **Motion Carried.**

Section 15, Nilsen Township, Drainage Concern. Schlauderaff discussed recent meeting with Tim Christopher, maintenance supervisor, Wilkin County Highway Department, regarding drainage concerns at the intersection of Wilkin County Ditch No. 3 and Wilkin County Ditch No. 31 in the SW ¼, Section 15, Nilsen Township. Christopher stated this area has drained slow historically and is looking for solutions. Uhler recommended holding a landowner meeting this winter with landowners along the two ditch systems.

*Board of Managers went into Closed Executive Session at 8:36 PM under MN Statute 13D.05 Subdivision 3b for **Project No. 81, Whisky Creek Enhancement Project.** Board discussed active litigation with attorney. Executive Session ended at 9:24 PM.*

Next Regular Meeting. Monday, September 8, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office.

President Fjestad adjourned meeting at 9:25PM.

/s/ William Davis

William Davis

Secretary