

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

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## MINUTES FOR MANAGERS' MEETING

March 13, 2017

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held their regular meeting on Monday, March 13, 2017, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. BRRWD Managers present were Gerald L. Van Amburg, Jay A. Leitch, John E. Hanson, Catherine L. Affield, Mark T. Anderson, Troy E. Larson, and Peter V. Fjestad. Others attending included: Bruce E. Albright, BRRWD Administrator, and Erik S. Jones, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI); Peter Karlsson; and Jeff Nichol, William Nichol Excavating, Inc.

Chair Van Amburg called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM and announced that the proceedings were being recorded to aid in the preparation of the minutes.

**Secretary's Report.** The Board reviewed draft minutes for the 02/27/17 regular meeting. Leitch noted a minor correction on Page 2. **Motion** by Leitch to approve the minutes with the noted correction. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.**

**Treasurer's Report.** The Board reviewed the BRRWD's monthly financial statements, including the project account balance sheet, administrative disbursements, summary of income, and the accounts receivable report. Cash on hand is \$2,119,242.90. Administrative disbursements for the month are \$43,830.11 and for the year total \$77,089.13. Current accounts receivable for 2017 totals \$5,949,683.55. Our total income for the year is \$330,310. Income since the 02/13/17 meeting is \$83,420.23, including a payment from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for the Otter Tail River Planning 319 Grant (\$5,717.55), the Wilkin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) from their Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Grant for the same project (\$74,219.06), North Dakota State University (NDSU) reimbursement for Project No. 7, Clay County Ditch No. 39, from their Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program (\$746.25), and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) security deposit refund for work on Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 75 in conjunction with Project No. 39, Georgetown Levee (\$2,000). Albright discussed our attempts to cash the refund cashier's check we received from MNDOT. To retrieve our funds from the State Commerce Department's Unclaimed Property Program, the Board will need to authorize Albright to sign the claim form on their behalf. **Motion** by Anderson to authorize Albright to sign the referenced form. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.** **Motion** by Affield to approve the Treasurer's Report. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.**

**Rain Berm Project.** Pete Karlsson, First Congregational Church, discussed the Church's parking lot and the water running off this area into the Red River via Moorhead's storm sewer system. The Church has started an effort to install alterations for their lot's outlet and add a rain berm with drought and flood resistant plants to filter the runoff before it reaches the river. Karlsson asked the Board if they would consider a contribution, as a water quality project. Van Amburg observed that the proposal is essentially the installation of a rain garden. Holland's Landscaping and Garden Center submitted a \$3,400 estimate for the demonstration project. Karlsson provided handouts for the Board's review. The group had an extended discussion regarding the benefits of this type of project. Albright noted that the BRRWD has contributed approximately 25% of the landowners' costs for water quality projects in rural areas within the Watershed District and thought that the BRRWD also needs to invest in water quality projects in our urban areas. With an educational sign and possible monitoring component, the project cost could increase to approximately \$5,000. Albright suggested that the Board could contribute \$1,250. Van Amburg questioned if they needed to do water quality sampling. He felt it would be difficult to accomplish and would yield data that has already been established. We know

that these types of installations improve water quality. Van Amburg agreed that a descriptive sign could be beneficial. Jones commented that instead of water quality monitoring, the project could be evaluated by measuring the volume of the runoff before and after an event to determine how much water the site retained. Albright suggested that he could send the project concept to our Metro partners, asking for advice. **Motion** by Anderson to contribute 25%, or \$1,250, to the Church's project. **Seconded** by Leitch. **Approved.** The Board suggested that Karlsson could also contact the Clay SWCD, the City of Moorhead, and River Keepers for possible additional funding/design assistance. Van Amburg thought that the City and River Keepers should consider applying for a BWSR grant to fund projects like the Church's rain garden. Karlsson will keep the BRRWD apprised of their project's status.

**William Nichol Excavating, Inc.** Jeff Nichol attended the meeting as an observer. The group discussed his work for the Board, starting in 1985. In 1999-2000, he was the contractor for Project No. 46, Turtle Lake Outlet, and several other BRRWD projects over the years.

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

**Permit No. 16-126, Eugene Kaiser.** The Board is waiting for John Steffl to submit an after-the-fact permit application for the tiling project he installed a few years ago without a BRRWD permit that outlets via existing ditches to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) designated wetlands on Harlan Wentz's property in the SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 3, Callaway Township, Becker County. Albright sent Steffl a permit application last week. The Board would like to resolve this issue with all the parties at the same time. Albright suggested the Board wait until our next meeting on 03/27/17 to see if Steffl returns the application. **Tabled.**

**Permit No. 16-098, Deal Brothers.** Jones forwarded the HEI plans to the Wilkin County Highway Department for the Deal Brothers project to fill in a natural waterway through the center of Section 10, Andrea Township, Wilkin County, and to install a ditch along the east (Wilkin County Road (C.R.) No. 19) and south lines of the NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, outletting to Wilkin County Ditch (C.D.) No. 31, as assessed. The County is still reviewing the plans, so Jones recommended the Board take no action until we hear from Brian Noetzelman, the new Wilkin County Engineer. Jones noted that additional right-of-way (R/W) will need to be acquired along C.R. No. 19 to accommodate the proposed ditch section and future road improvements. **Tabled.**

**Permit No. 17-002, Moorhead Park Department.** Applicant proposes to install a bike bridge across the Clay C.D. No. 41 outlet to provide access to M.B. Johnson Park in the SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 29, Oakport Township. To date, no plans have been submitted for this project. Wade Opsahl, Technician, HEI, contacted them regarding our need to review their plans. **Tabled.**

**Permit No. 17-003, Steve Mohs.** Applicant proposes to install spot tiling in the N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, Section 32, Norwegian Grove Township, Otter Tail County, outletting in four locations to natural waterways: three to the north and one to the south through 110<sup>th</sup> AVE in a natural waterway across land owned by Todd Sorum. The office provided a downstream landowner notification form to the contractor, Jeff Lavigne, Lavigne Farm Drainage, for Sorum's signature. Previously, Aaron Larson, West Otter Tail SWCD, was working with landowner Steve Mohs to develop several sediment control systems on his property, estimated to cost \$174,279. Larson contacted Jones to ask if the BRRWD would consider sharing the costs with the SWCD and landowner. Apparently, Mohs decided to undertake the private tile drainage project instead, as it would be considerably cheaper to just tile the low areas. **Tabled.**

**Permit No. 17-004, Marita Palya.** Applicant proposes to install an approach/culvert in the SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 15, Parke Township, Clay County, to provide access to their property where they are building a house. Clay County approved a permit for a driveway off from C.R. No. 37 from the east, as the Palyas must build a road to their building site. The County has requested that the BRRWD put conditions on the Palyas' new and existing driveways requiring them to use Best Management Practices (bmps) to stabilize the soil on the hillside where the driveways are located to minimize erosion and runoff. One of the downstream neighbors

removed a culvert in the township road (86<sup>th</sup> AVE S) and filled in the ditch that previously carried area water to Lake Fifteen, so there is currently no outlet for the runoff from the existing west driveway. Albright noted that this was a Township issue. **Motion** by Anderson to approve Permit No. 17-004, subject to the referenced bmps provisions. **Seconded** by Leitch. **Approved.**

**Haugrud Drainage Complaint.** Bryant Haugrud contacted Albright regarding their request that the Lindholms clean the ditch through their Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage in Section 22, Prairie View Township, Wilkin County. Albright asked Haugrud if they had considered installing erosion control on the upstream waterway/cropland, as the Lindholms have requested. Haugrud said that they are willing to pay for the current channel cleanout and any future repairs to the Lindholms' waterway because of their farming practices. Albright forwarded that response to the Lindholms, and to date, he has heard nothing more from them.

**Robert Yaggie Tiling Complaint.** The office sent out notices to the affected landowners regarding a meeting to discuss the outlet for Robert Yaggie's tiling project in Section 28, Mitchell Township, Wilkin County, and HEI's survey results. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, at 8:30 PM in the BRRWD office. Albright noted that another landowner (Gary Nordick) called today with the suggestion that the water should go straight west along C.R. No. 26. Using the LiDAR map, the Board reviewed that proposal. The office has received calls from area landowners regarding both the north and south proposed outlets.

**City of Glyndon.** A developer is planning a new subdivision for approximately 80 homes in the NE¼, Section 14, Glyndon Township, on the south and east sides of town. During the 1997 spring flood, water broke out of Clay C.D. No. 12 to the south and flowed into this area. Since then, the BRRWD has done several projects in and around the Glyndon area, including establishment of Clay C.D. No. 68 and the upstream Riverton Township Retention Project. A bigger project may be needed to flood proof this area if additional homes are built. The City of Glyndon also has a waterway on the east side of town which is a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) protected waters. This waterway is also full of sediment caused by agricultural land erosion that occurred during the 1997 and 2009 spring floods and needs to be reviewed/repared. An informational meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 20, 2017, at 1:00 P.M. in the Glyndon City Hall to continue these discussions.

**Project No. 77, Clay C.D. No. 51-Lateral-Norby Lawsuit.** Albright reported that the Summary Judgement hearing for the Norby lawsuit was held on 03/10/17 before Judge Steven Cahill in Clay County District Court. A decision could be handed down within a month or two. If the case goes a jury trial, it will be scheduled sometime in June. There will also be an attempt at mediation prior to the trial.

**Project No. 71, City of Moorhead 50<sup>th</sup> AVE S.** The City of Moorhead has the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) agreement on an upcoming meeting agenda for approval and signature. The BRRWD has already signed the agreement. Albright noted that Mike Love, HEI, is working with the City of Moorhead on the levee certification process.

**Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration.** Albright noted spring work will include installing spillways on the inlet channel by Arnhalt's property. We plan to keep the pool down as long as needed to allow the NRCS to continue with their site work. The Board discussed plans to address several road soft spots associated with the project. Equipment has been hired to grade out the ruts and to try to put a crown on the road so that it sheds water. The road embankment may have to be opened this summer and some additional compaction work conducted. The Board also discussed maintenance on two miles of township road located on 230th AVE between Sections 19, 20, 29, and 30, Manston Township. The office will arrange a meeting with the Manston Township Board of Supervisors to discuss future maintenance of this area. The DNR has suggested that the road be abandoned and converted to a minimum maintenance trail that we would use for mowing and spraying and site access only.

**Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation-Phase 4.** The contractor, R. J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc., plans to return as soon as conditions permit to start on the final cleanup items. Leonard Nelson contacted Albright regarding the Fischer family's spoil pile lease. The Board discussed our settlement offer and agreed to a final offer of \$30,000 to the Fischer family for the spoil lease settlement. If the Fischers refuse this new amount, the Board agreed to go to condemnation. **Motion** by Anderson to offer the Fischer family \$30,000 as a final amount with the understanding that this is the last offer before the BRRWD goes to condemnation for the lease. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.**

Kopperud's attorney, Stephen Welle, has asked Vogel Law for an extension, but to date, Welle has not filed the lawsuit with the court.

The Board discussed a proposal from the Wetland Technical Panel to mow the cattails in the wetlands associated with the Oakport project. According to a technical paper published by the University of Minnesota (U of M), the theory is to cut the vegetation, so that in the spring, the cattails would be drowned out before the growing season. Albright said that no work has been done in this regard. He noted that BWSR is sponsoring a cattail workshop in April.

Albright is working on plans for an Open House to be held later this spring once the project is completed. Oakport Township gave him a video tape of the 1997 flood in Oakport. He had the cassette tape transferred to a CD and offered to share it with any Board members who were interested in viewing it. Van Amburg noted that he will try to find his recording of the 1997 flood from an aerial perspective.

The office prepared landowner notices regarding the status of the levee certification process for the west part of the Oakport Levee and a certification resolution with a cover letter to be forwarded to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) along with certification documents prepared by Kris Carlson, Ulteig Engineers, Inc. (UEI). **Motion** by Fjestad to authorize Van Amburg to sign the documents and letters on behalf of the Board. Carlson will forward the documents to FEMA, and the BRRWD will mail the landowners' letters. **Seconded** by Leitch. **Approved.**

Albright and the project engineer, Kris Carlson, UEI, had a conference about the R. J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc., claim for liquidated damages based on alleged delays outside of their control. Zavoral is using their proposed work schedule as a measure for their delays. Albright felt the accuracy of Zavoral's schedule could be in question. Other factors include weather conditions, delays caused by Century Link's work stoppage for approximately two months due to the Kopperuds' trespass claim, unfinished easement acquisitions, and the Andy Noah house move. Albright felt that the easement acquisitions was not a factor, and questioned the amount of money Zavoral claimed for the house move delay because their crew could have been working in other areas. The Managers questioned if the Kopperuds or Century Link could have some liability for Zavoral's claim. The Board authorized Albright to work with Carlson to come up with a final settlement offer. The Board will discuss this offer at their next meeting.

**Project No. 39, Georgetown Levee.** Wade Opsahl, Technician, HEI, is working with FEMA on disaster payments to the City for the 2011 Spring Flood. This money will be applied to the project account balance (-\$115,450.06). The City is anxious to get this resolved.

FEMA denied Wambach's LOMR because the City of Georgetown is their own floodplain administrator. Currently, homeowners in Georgetown are not allowed to have basements. Clay County's blanket exception for basements doesn't apply to properties within Georgetown. The DNR has suggested that if Georgetown adopted the FEMA floodproof basement guidelines, the DNR could probably grant a variance for the Wambach property. Jones is working with DNR officials on this issue.

**Project No. 30, Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch (J.D.) No. 1.** Albright reported that Bryan Kritzberger picked up the revised outlet petition in January and is still working on obtaining the necessary signatures. Some of the previous signers might have gone south for the winter.

**Project No. 26, Buffalo River Streambank Erosion.** The Board discussed an erosion control project along the Buffalo River on the Rodney Wyland property in the NE¼, Section 1, Glyndon Township, and the NW¼, Section 6, Riverton Township. The Clay SWCD has designed a project for Wyland that would either install rip rap or stream barbs along the Buffalo River. This proposal will be submitted to the DNR for permit approval to work on protected waters. The estimated project cost is \$25,000. Of that amount, the SWCD would contribute \$4,000, the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) would contribute \$7,396, leaving \$13,700 unfunded. Albright noted that the BRRWD has typically split the landowner's share for similar projects. There is still \$10,056.63 in the project account. The earliest date the project could be built is 2018 when the EQIP funding becomes available. The Board discussed a possible channel restoration project for the stretch of the Buffalo River from T.H. No. 9 to C.R. No. 19 where the soils are sandy and very erosive. Albright pointed out that the BRRWD's contribution would be paid as a Project No. 26 expense. Leitch added that this proposal could address mitigating factors, including a chance for river breakouts. **Motion** by Larson to contribute 50% (approximately \$7,000) of the landowner costs for the proposed project. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.** The landowner will be required to put in CRP buffers in several areas along the river on his property.

**Project No. 21, Wilkin C.D. No. 13-Lateral.** A landowner/operator informational meeting has been scheduled on March 16, 2017, at 8:30 AM regarding the proposed repairs. Permission to deposit spoil releases have been prepared for the landowners to sign at the meeting. The plan is to hire at least two contractors to do the work this spring as soon as weather permits.

#### **FDR Projects:**

**Mediation Project Team (PT).** The next PT meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 2017, in the Barnesville office at 1:30 PM.

**Upper South Branch of the Buffalo River.** Albright and Manager Fjestad plan to meet with the Rogelstad family regarding the project on their property.

**Barnesville Township.** Jones will be sending the draft Concurrence Point No. 2 report to the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) for review. Albright noted that a building site in SE¼, Section 22, Barnesville Township, associated with the proposed project, is going to be sold, and the current owners want to know the amount of the potential project easement acreage.

Manager Leitch contacted Steven J. Taff, Associate Professor Emeritus, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, regarding a possible study to look at the value of easements on flood damage reduction (fdr) and natural resource enhancement (nre) projects. Leitch presented a draft proposal for Taff's consulting services for the Board's review. The charge for his work would be \$5,500, plus \$500 for travel. For that fee, Taff will estimate financial costs and sketch administrative procedures to acquire easements and given enough data, he could also possibly provide a summary tracking framework to understand the economic costs/benefits of a proposed project based on water quality factors. The Board discussed the possibility that other districts/organizations might find Taff's results useful for their project development efforts and might be interested in contributing to the study costs.

**Stony Creek Retention.** An informational meeting to update landowners regarding the project development has been scheduled for March 28, 2017, at 8:30 AM in the BRRWD office. A conference call is scheduled with representatives from MNDOT regarding the installation of a new diversion culvert on Stony Creek and Interstate-94.

**Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP).** BWSR representatives plan to attend the 03/27/17 meeting to present their Level II PRAP preliminary report to the Board. Albright has a meeting scheduled with BWSR representatives on 03/16/17 to discuss the draft report.

**One Watershed One Plan (1W1P).** Albright is working on setting up a meeting for a 1W1P with area agencies and the Clay County Commissioners. We will need resolutions from each entity to commit to a 1W1P process. He would like to take these resolutions to the BWSR in mid-April. The 1W1P grant application deadline is 04/19/17. A memorandum of agreement will need to be developed and put in place with these other entities when the project starts.

**F-M Diversion Project.** The Clay County Highway Department has scheduled a meeting on Wednesday, March 15, 2017, at 11:00 AM to discuss a potential ring dike for the City of Comstock in the event the Diversion project upstream staging area is built. The BRRWD was invited to attend.

In regards to the Federal lawsuit, the Federal Judge ruled that the DNR has now joined the Upstream Coalition's lawsuit and that the COE will need to return to Court to address the lawsuit. Albright noted that the Judge did not halt project construction.

**Otter Tail/Buffalo/Upper Red Rivers Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)/Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS).** Albright reported that after being told by MPCA that the BRRWD would be eligible for 2017 319 grants, Jones and Peter Mead, Becker SWCD, prepared and submitted a grant application totaling approximately \$840,000 including matching funds, titled "Upper Buffalo River Sedimentation Reduction". Subsequently, MPCA informed the BRRWD that we are not eligible for the grant program after all because our TMDL is not done. Albright contacted Jim Courneya, MPCA-Detroit Lakes, who assured Albright he would check on the status of our application and get back to Albright, which so far, he has not done. Tim James, MPCA, recently told both Van Amburg and Albright that the BRRWD was eligible for the 319 grant, and that's why the Board authorized Jones to go forward with the application. The Board had an extended discussion regarding the length of time (since 2008) it has taken the MPCA Detroit Lakes office to process our TMDL. Manager Leitch suggested three solutions: put together a taskforce that would start with Tim James, Watershed Coordinator, MPCA-Detroit Lakes, and work up the chain of command until they get to source of the delay, get one of our legislators involved, or contact the Governor's office. Fjestad suggested that we could discuss this with our legislators at the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Day at the Capitol at the end of the month.

**Data Management System.** The server upgrade is scheduled for next week. The M-files contract has been signed and mailed back to Marco. The M-files install is about 2 weeks out.

**Wilkin C.D. No. 7 Repairs.** Landowner letters were mailed last week regarding the project status and inlet location information. The contractor, States Border Construction, has their equipment on site and will start work when weather conditions permit.

**BRRWD Advisory Committee Meeting.** The annual Advisory Committee meeting has been scheduled for Friday, March 31, 2017, at 1:30 PM in our Barnesville office. Notices have been sent. Post card reminders will be sent next week. Albright noted that the City of Breckenridge elected a new Mayor, Russ Wilson, who will replace the former Mayor, Cliff Barth, on the Advisory Committee.

**Drainage Water Management (DWM).** Landowner Ross Aigner is considering a project in the SW¼, Section 1, Mitchell Township, Wilkin County, to convert a 9-acre wetland into a treatment wetland for a tile system. Albright noted that Wilkin County has an excess of nearly \$200,000 in DWM funding that they must return because they can't use it. BWSR has decided that the County's DWM funds can't be used to assist with Aigner's proposed project. Jones suggested that the Wilkin SWCD might be able to apply for a 2018 BWSR Clean Water Fund (CWF) grant for the project.

**Wilkin C.D. No. 40 Partial Abandonment.** Dave Yaggie is still interested in the partial abandonment of C.D. No. 40. A ditch system petition and landowner hearing would be required before the ditch can be abandoned. The Board briefly discussed potential area impacts if the ditch is abandoned.

**Clay C.D. No. 3 Slope Repair.** Albright will send the affected landowners a copy of the repair plans for approximately 0.25 miles of C.D. No. 3 outlet east of C.R. No. 11 in Section 8, Moland Township, near Glyndon, for their review, including the proposed additional R/W acreage for their respective properties.

**MPCA MS4.** The MPCA Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) regulations have been incorporated into the revised BRRWD draft Rules for the applicable areas. Ted Rud, Civil Engineer, HEI, who is handling this work for the BRRWD, is working on Part II of the MS4 application, which will be submitted by the 04/19/17 deadline. MPCA recently returned Part I of our MS4 application, which they had under review for five months, noting several questions, and advising Albright that we had seven days to respond or we would be in violation of the MS4 regulations. The Board was surprised by the short response time, given that MPCA took over 5 months to review our application.

**2015 Buffer Law.** The BRRWD is on the Clay County Commissioners' 03/14/17 meeting agenda at 8:35 AM (tomorrow morning) in the County Courthouse to discuss jurisdictional and Administrative Penalty Order (APO) authority for the buffer strip enforcement. Albright noted that some watershed districts in the northern part of the state are planning to assume jurisdiction over the legal ditch systems where they are already the drainage authority and to use Minnesota Drainage Law (Minnesota Statutes Annotated (M.S.A.) 103E) to enforce the buffer regulations. The Board had an extended discussion about how the Buffer Law enforcement funding should be allocated.

**Wolverton Creek Restoration.** Albright plans to draft a notice/ mailing for a hearing to address the project development and the proposed water management district (wmd) process. NRCS has not yet provided a decision about the project's eligibility for the Wetlands Reserve Enhancement (WRE) program.

**Otter Tail River Restoration.** The COE has scheduled agency meetings regarding their Section 1135 Project on the Lower Otter Tail River in the afternoon of April 11 and the morning of April 12, 2017, in our Barnesville office. A landowner informational meeting will also be held on 04/11/17 at 7:00 PM in the Breckenridge City Hall. The office will mail notices to the affected landowners.

**BRRWD Rules Update.** Albright noted that Manager Leitch provided some useful edits to the Rules document. The Wetland/ Buffers section could be modified to fit in with how the BRRWD wants to address this issue. Currently, the section is copied verbatim from the BWSR suggested regulations.

**Whiskey Creek Restoration.** Thomas Eskro, HEI, forwarded the project plans. The next step will be to schedule a landowner informational meeting to review the survey and study.

**Legislative Update.** BRRWD Lobbyist Joel Carlson forwarded his update for the Board's review.

**DNR Permit Comments.** The BRRWD was notified that the DNR issued a permit to the City of Moorhead for golf course irrigation.

**Wilkin County Hazard Mitigation.** Albright attended the Wilkin County Hazard Mitigation Planning meeting on 03/09/17 in Breckenridge. He noted that the BRRWD is mentioned several times in their master mitigation action chart. Jones noted that since the BRRWD is involved with this effort, it will make us eligible for FEMA federal disaster funding for possible projects. Albright advised the City to include a Master Plan regarding future urban developments to comply with the BRRWD Rules regarding urban development.

**Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (RRBFDRWG)/Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) March Conference.** The March Conference will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead on March 22-23, 2017. Workshops will be held the morning of March 22, including a drainage seminar and orientation for Watershed District Managers and SWCD Supervisors. Albright has

all the Managers registered for the Conference, except Affield, who is unable to attend. Fjestad also has a hotel reservation. Albright will make a presentation at the Conference regarding our Mediation PT activities.

**RRWMB Strategic Planning.** Manager Leitch will be facilitating a strategic planning session for the RRWMB on the afternoon of March 21, 2017.

**IWI Survey.** The International Water Institute (IWI) sent out a brief survey regarding the RRWMB. Manager Leitch is tabulating the responses for the IWI. The Managers discussed their concerns regarding RRWMB membership.

**River Keepers.** Albright and Manager Van Amburg attended a strategic planning session for River Keepers last week. Albright summarized the discussion topics.

**MAWD Day at the Capitol.** MAWD will hold their annual Day at the Capitol on March 29-30, 2017. The Managers discussed travel options. Albright has already made the hotel reservations, and the office has made the event registrations. Van Amburg, Fjestad, Hanson, and Albright plan to attend.

**River Watch.** Albright noted that a meeting will be held with the River Watch partners to discuss the 2017 sampling season on Friday, March 31, 2017, at 9:00 AM in the BRRWD office.

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

Accounts Payable	Description	Account	Amount
AmeriPride	February billing rugs (2)	Admin.	\$ 64.14
Barnesville Phone Co.	02/25/17 billings	Admin.	\$ 288.97
Bruce E. Albright	2017 Watershed Summit Registration	Admin.	\$ 30.00
Bruce E. Albright	03/07/17 Perkins/MNDOT (2)	Admin.	\$ 31.95
Bruce E. Albright	Muscha funeral flowers	Admin.	\$ 94.90
Bruce E. Albright	Fjestad funeral flowers	Admin.	\$ 53.69
Bruce E. Albright	TK Designs/Oakport 1997 tape	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 16.13
City of Barnesville	01/02/17-02/14/17 utilities	Admin.	\$ 720.96
Ever Bank Commercial Finance, Inc.	Copier lease 12/22/16-03/22/17	Admin.	\$ 1,028.38
Fuchs Sanitation	02/28/17 garbage billing	Admin.	\$ 51.48
Gerald L. Van Amburg	Voucher #17-07, 01/01/17-02/28/17	Admin.	\$ 639.99
HEI	February billing	Varies-see attached	\$ 121,192.83
Jason Rick Snow Removal, LLC	February billing (2)	Admin.	\$ 220.00
Jay A. Leitch	Voucher #17-06, 01/01/17-02/28/17	Varies	\$ 654.43
John E. Hanson	Voucher #17-04, 01/01/17-02/28/17	Varies	\$ 847.11
Mark T. Anderson	Voucher #17-02, 01/01/17-02/28/17	Admin.	\$ 341.25
Network Center Communications, Inc.	03/01/17 statement	Admin.	\$ 4,701.49
Peter V. Fjestad	Voucher #17-03, 01/01/17-02/28/17	Varies	\$ 1,081.11
Premium Waters, Inc.	#366590-02-17, Water	Admin.	\$ 69.32
Purchase Power	February postage	Admin.	\$ 150.00
Red River Basin Commission	2017 Contribution	M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3	\$ 25,000.00
RRVCPA	02/01/17-03/01/17 billings (2)	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 184.92
Vogel Law Firm	#192547, Greywind Condemnation	Pj. 39, Georgetown	\$ 175.00
WREC	01/18/17-02/18/17 service (2)	Pj. 46, Turtle Lake	\$ 64.81
Xcel Energy	01/24/17-02/26/17 Office-Gas service	Admin.	\$ 107.18
Xcel Energy	01/24/17-02/26/17 Service (1)	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 44.42
Xcel Energy	01/28/17-02/27/17 service (1)	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 166.04
			<b>\$ 158,020.50</b>



**Motion** by Leitch to approve payment of the bills. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.**

**Next Meeting.** The Board will hold their next regular meeting on Monday, March 27, 2017, at 7:00 PM in our Barnesville office.

**Adjournment.** Chairman Van Amburg adjourned the meeting at 10:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hanson, Secretary