



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

Budget Hearing & Board Meeting Minutes

Monday September 14, 2026

Managers Present: Catherine Affield; William Davis; Curtis Stubstad; Troy Larson; William Steffl; Amos Baer.

Managers Absent: Peter Fjestad.

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

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

Others Attending: Jeri Yaggie; Peter Lewis; Philip Rogers; Jon Braton, Wilkin County Commission; Peter Fjestad attending as Citizen (remote); Michael Miller; Paul Krabbenhoft, Clay County Commission (remote).

Vice President Affield called meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Agenda: Addition to Agenda, Project No. 84 – City of Wolverton Flood Mitigation, Project Update. **Motion** by Stubstad to approve agenda with addition, **Seconded** by Davis. **Motion Carried.**

Wilkin County Ditch No. 40 Hearing:

Vice President Affield called hearing to Order at 7:02 PM.

Jeri Yaggie of D & J Yaggie, LP submitted Petition on August 7, 2026 to use Wilkin County Ditch No. 40 as an outlet for S ½ NE ¼, Section 2, Manston Township and NW ¼, Section 2, Manston Township. Board of Managers sitting as the Drainage Authority for Wilkin County Ditch No. 40, accepted petition on August 10, 2026. Petition requested to add 240 acres of subsurface drainage to the benefit area of Wilkin County Ditch No. 40. Current benefits are \$195,375.25. Board of Managers discussed assessing benefits for drainage at a rate of 50 percent of the adjacent lands benefit of \$40.00 per acre, or \$20.00 per acre since surface water will continue to drain into Wilkin County Ditch No. 44 and only subsurface drainage will drain into Wilkin County Ditch No. 40. Total benefits of Wilkin County Ditch No. 40 would increase \$4,800.00 for a total benefit of \$200,175.25

Public Comment:

Jeri Yaggie. Yaggie stated she is landowner and they are hoping to tile the land.

Jon Braton. Braton asked if Wilkin County Highway Engineer reviews and approves subsurface drainage being redirected into a different ditch system. Uhler stated BRRWD is the Drainage Authority, so they make final decision on drainage matters. Wilkin County Highway Department would need to authorize any work in the road right-of-way (ROW). Uhler noted a condition of the permit would be to obtain approval from road authority to work in road ROW if proposed tile project is in the ROW.

Findings and Order. **Motion** by Davis to approve Findings and Order to use Wilkin County Ditch No. 40 as an outlet as presented, **Seconded** by Larson. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Affield, Davis, Stubstad, Larson, Steffl, Baer; Absent – Fjestad.

Motion Carried.

Vice President Affield adjourned hearing at 7:11 PM.

Citizens to be Heard:

September 14, 2026

None.

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

August 10, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Financial Report

Permit Nos.

- 26-047, Terry Kohler – water and sediment control basin (WASCOB), SE ¼, Section 35, Hamden Township, Becker County with conditions
- 26-072, Cary Danielson – tiling, NW ¼, Section 7, Trondhjem Township, Otter Tail County with conditions
- 26-073, City of Moorhead c/o Michael Aamodt – land development, NE ¼, Section 28, Moorhead Township, Clay County
- 26-074, Bruce Yaggie – tiling, NE ¼, Section 35, Mitchell Township, Wilkin County with conditions
- 26-075, Ryan & Michael Hough – culvert installation, SE ¼, Section 25, Humboldt Township, Clay County with conditions
- 26-076, Steve Ouse – culvert installation, SW ¼, Section 30, Tanberg Township, Wilkin County with conditions
- 26-077, Tom Deal– culvert installation and ditch clean out, SE ¼, Section 3, Andrea Township, Wilkin County with conditions
- 26-078, Jon Kuehn– utility installation, NW ¼, Section 13, Oakport Township, Clay County with conditions
- 26-079, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) c/o Richard Bolin – land development, NW ¼, Section 23, Moorhead Township, Clay County
- 26-080, Chris Watterud –WASCOB, NW ¼, Section 35, Prairie View Township, Wilkin County with conditions

Pj. No. 85 – Upper South Branch Buffalo River Restoration, Phase 2 Pay Estimate No. 3 for \$512,569.56

Seconded by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Permits for Discussion:

Permit No. 26-063. Connor Yaggie. Applicant proposing to install tile in Section 2, Manston Township, Wilkin County. Subsurface tile for north half of Section 2 will outlet north, directly into Wilkin County Ditch No. 40, which is an adequate outlet. Subsurface tile for south half of Section 2 will outlet south into the road ditch, which is an adequate outlet. The road ditch flows into Wilkin County Ditch No. 44. Landowner petitioned to outlet tile water from land not currently assessed to Wilkin County Ditch No. 40. Land outletting south into Wilkin County Ditch No. 44, is in the benefit area. Uhler recommend approval subject to standard tile conditions, approval from road authority to work within road ROW, and that no appeal is filed within 30 days from the Board's Order to use Wilkin County Ditch No. 40 as an outlet. **Motion** by Stubstad to approve Permit Nos. 26-063 with conditions outlined above, **Seconded** by Steffl. **Motion Carried.**

Projects:

Project No. 80 – Stony Creek Restoration. Easement Violation. Staff conducted inspection August 2026 and found fence installed through the easement area and the easement is being grazed by cattle on property in Sections 12 and 13, Barnesville Township. It is recommended Board of Managers authorize staff to have Vogel Law Firm draft and send a letter to landowners to remove fence and cattle from the easement area. **Motion** by Larson to authorize Vogel to send letter to landowners to remove fence within 30 days of receiving letter, **Seconded** by Davis. Lewis stated he helped his brother install fence. Lewis did not think cows would damage creek. Baer asked if landowners were aware that they could not graze property once land was acquired. Land acquisition was discussed at Hearing. Landowner was paid market value for easement. Schlauderaff noted there is erosion on rock riffles that needs to be repaired. BRRWD is unable to complete repair with cows in the easement. Board of Managers discussed increasing time to allow landowner to remove fence. Rogers stated Lewis's pastureland after the project was constructed is worthless because cattle do not have access to water. Goeden stated BRRWD can survey easement boundary and Board of Managers can consider purchasing additional ROW if landowners are interested. Uhler noted there was an existing easement along the channel for Clay County Ditch No. 31, so cattle would not have had access to water before project was constructed either. Larson **Amended Motion** to require landowner to remove fence within 45 days of receiving letter, **Seconded** by Davis. **Amended Motion Carried.**

Project No. 49 – Oakport Township. Moorhead Public Service (MPS) Utility Easement. Motion by Larson, to authorize Affield to sign easement agreement as presented, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Project No. 84 – City of Wolverton Flood Mitigation. Project Update. Uhler provided update on City of Wolverton levee project. An Engineer's Report will need to be drafted and sent to state agencies for advisory comment prior to project hearing. **Motion** by Stubstad to authorize HEI to draft Engineer's Report and send to state agencies for advisory comments as required by statute, **Seconded** by Larson. **Motion Carried.**

Ditches:

Clay County Ditch No. 30. Award and Approve Contract. Motion by Steffl to award contract to Key Contracting, Inc., apparent lowest bidder for \$325,467.00 and approve contract, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Drainage Repair Recommendations

Drainage	Township	Section	Problem/Proposed Work	Estimated Cost
Clay County Ditch No. 9	Kurtz	1 & 2	Two failing side inlets. Replace with 24"x40' corrugated metal pipe (cmp) and 18"x24' cmp, both with flapgates.	\$4,000 - \$5,000
Clay County Ditch No. 58	Elmwood	11	Replace one failing bridge plank.	\$500 - \$1,000
Clay-Wilkin Judicial Ditch No. 1	Deerhorn	18	Ditch cleanout of one mile. Spread spoil and reseed buffer.	\$10,000 - \$12,000
Wilkin County Ditch No. 2	Sunnyside	5	Install seven 18"x24' side inlets with flapgates where field drainage open flows into ditch.	\$11,000 - \$13,000
Wilkin County Ditch No. 5A	Wolverton/Deerhorn	24/19	Ditch cleanout of three miles. Spread spoil and reseed buffer.	\$45,000 - \$55,000
Wilkin County Ditch No. 7	Andrea	28	Three failing side inlets. Replace with two 18"x50' cmps and one 18"x44' cmp, all with flapgates.	\$7,000 - \$9,000
Wilkin County Ditch No. 37	Nilsen	36	Ditch cleanout of 3/4 mile. Spread spoil and reseed buffer.	\$6,000 - \$8,000
Pj. No. 80, Stony Creek Restoration	Barnesville	Multiple	Haul out several loads of mature trees and driftwood. Install new 18" flapgate. Reshape rip rap at two locations to address erosion, haul in two loads of clay, and blanket outside bends to prevent further erosion.	\$8,000 - \$10,000
Pj. 85, South Branch Buffalo River	Manston	11	Twelve locations with minor erosion. Haul in 2-3 loads of clay, blanket, and seed locations to prevent further erosion.	\$4,000 - \$6,000

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

Other:

United States Geological Service (USGS). Stream Gaging Near Hawley Agreement. Motion by Larson to approve agreement as presented for \$15,120.00, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Moorhead-Clay County Joint Powers Authority (MCCJPA). Appoint Manager for BRRWD Representation. Motion by Larson to appoint Stubstad as the representative for BRRWD on the MCCJPA, **Seconded** by Baer. **Motion Carried.**

Human Resources (HR) Committee. Appoint Manager to Serve on Committee. Motion by Stubstad to appoint Davis to serve on the HR Committee, **Seconded** by Steffl. **Motion Carried.**

Flood Damage Reduction Workgroup. 2027 Conference Feedback. Board of Mangers will send feedback to Goeden.

Technology Update in Board Room. Board of Managers directed staff to obtain quotes to improve technology in the Board Room.

Minnesota Watersheds. Annual Conference Attendance. Board of Managers should notify Goeden if they would like to attend the Annual Conference in Nisswa, Minnesota in December 2026.

Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Performance Review & Assistance Program (PRAP). Survey Reminder. BWSR sent a survey for Board Managers and staff to complete to aid their PRAP. Goeden reminded managers to complete survey.

Project Development Discussion. Board of Managers discussed ways to improve project development and better inform landowners of upcoming projects.

Bills. Motion by Stubstad to approve bills totaling \$968,633.46, **Seconded** by Larson. **Motion Carried.**

Next Regular Meeting. Monday October 12, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office.

Vice President Affield adjourned meeting at 9:16 PM

/s/ William Davis
Secretary