



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

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday January 9, 2025

Managers Present: Peter Fjestad; William Davis; Troy Larson; Gerald Van Amburg; Curtis Stubstad; Todd Andresen.

Managers Absent: Catherine Affield.

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

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

Others Attending: Jon Braton, Wilkin County Commission; June Steffl; William Steffl.

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

Agenda: Additions to agenda:

Upper Buffalo River Restoration, Grant Agreement with Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)

South Branch Buffalo River Restoration, Grant Agreement with MNDNR

South Branch Buffalo River Restoration, Hearing Discussion.

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

Citizens to be Heard:

None.

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

December 9, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

Permit Nos.

24-125, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) c/o Gabe Dretsch – utility installation, Moorhead Township, Clay County with conditions

24-126, Shawn Norman – tiling, SE ¼, Section 14, Manston Township, Wilkin County with conditions

24-127, Alexander Soyering – bridge removal and culver installation, NW ¼, Elkton Township, Clay County with conditions

by Van Amburg **Seconded** by Davis. **Motion Carried.**

Annual Meeting:

Election of Officers.

Larson nominated Fjestad, **Seconded** by Stubstad, to be President in 2025. **Motion** to elect Fjestad President by Larson, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Fjestad nominated Affield, **Seconded** by Davis, to be Vice President in 2025. **Motion** to elect Affield Vice President by Davis, **Seconded** by Larson. **Motion Carried.**

Larson nominated Davis, **Seconded** by Stubstad, to be Secretary in 2025. **Motion** to elect Davis Secretary by Larson, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Davis nominated Stubstad, **Seconded** by Larson, to be Treasurer in 2025. **Motion** to elect Treasurer by Davis, **Seconded** by Larson. **Motion Carried.**

Financial Report and Year End Transfers. Board of Managers reviewed annual financial report including 2024 interest, drainage, basic water management fund #1 and #2, and riparian buffer aid allocations. **Motion** to approve Financial Report with year-end transfers by Stubstad, **Seconded** by Van Amburg. **Motion Carried.**

January 9, 2025

2025 Financial Designation. Motion to designate Midwest Bank, Barnesville as the official 2025 depository by Davis, **Seconded** by Andresen. **Motion Carried.**

2025 Board Meeting Schedule. Motion to set date and time of regular Board Meetings for the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the BRRWD office in Barnesville, by Larson, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

2024 Newspaper Designation. Motion to designate Barnesville Record Review as official newspaper for 2025 by Davis, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Lobbying Services. Motion to contract with Joel Carlson Inc for lobbying services at rate of \$850.00 per month for January 2025 through December 2026 by Stubstad, **Seconded** by Van Amburg. **Motion Carried.**

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). 2025 Appointments. Board of Managers discussed appointments to the CAC. **Motion** to Table appointing members to CAC until the February 2025 Board Meeting by Davis, **Seconded** by Larson. **Motion Carried – Tabled.**

Projects:

South Branch Buffalo River Restoration. Proposed Temporary and Permanent Easement Payment Rates. Uhler presented methodology for determining temporary and permanent easement payment rates. Proposed methods for temporary easements included paying \$250.00 per acre of cropland with a minimum payment of \$500.00 per parcel. Proposed methods for permanent easements would include paying 10 percent estimated market value from the county for land within the channel and land that should be in a vegetated buffer under the Minnesota Buffer Law, land currently enrolled in Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) would receive the difference of the payment between the current Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and RIM at the crop rate, existing non-cropped land not enrolled in RIM would be paid the CREP non-crop rate, and cropland not enrolled in RIM would be paid the full CREP rate. Land already enrolled in CREP will be paid 20 percent of the RIM non-crop rate rounded up to the nearest \$25.00. **Motion** to approve proposed payment methodology by Stubstad, **Seconded** by Larson. **Motion Carried.**

South Branch Buffalo River Restoration. Hearing Discussion. Board of Managers discussed holding separate hearings for the proposed restoration and the proposed storage site. Currently, BRRWD has funding for the stream restoration. Funding for the storage site could take some time to acquire. Board of Managers directed staff to proceed with planning the stream restoration hearing with plans to hold a hearing for the proposed storage site at a later date. Board of Managers will discuss proposed hearing dates for the stream restoration at the February 2025 Board Meeting.

South Branch Buffalo River Restoration. Grant Agreement with MNDNR. Motion to authorize Goeden to sign grant agreement for \$1,313,300.00 for Phase 2 of the South Branch Buffalo River Restoration with MNDNR by Davis, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Upper Buffalo River Restoration. Water Management District (wmd) Discussion. Uhler presented two options for Upper Buffalo River Restoration wmd. Option one included the upper portion of the proposed project area with an assessment to cropland of \$2.40 per acre with a maximum annual assessment of \$29,500.00. Option two included both the upper and lower portions of the proposed project area with an assessment to cropland of \$2.40 per acre with a maximum annual assessment of \$50,000.00. **Motion** to proceed with option one as presented, by Stubstad, **Seconded** by Larson. **Motion Carried.**

Upper Buffalo River Restoration. Proposed Temporary Easement Payment Rates. Uhler presented methodology for proposed temporary easement payment rates. Proposed methods include \$250.00 per acre of cropland with a minimum payment of \$500.00 per parcel. **Motion** to approve proposed payment methodology by Van Amburg, **Seconded** by Davis. **Motion Carried.**

Upper Buffalo River Restoration. Grant Agreement with MNDNR. Motion to authorize Goeden to sign grant agreement for \$1,718,224 for the Upper Buffalo River Restoration with MNDNR by Davis, **Seconded** by Van Amburg. **Motion Carried.**

Project No. 84 – City of Wolverton Flood Mitigation. Proposed Payment Rates. Goeden presented proposed payment rates for the easements needed for City of Wolverton Flood Mitigation project. Metro Flood Diversion Authority (MFDA) will pay for easements and have approved proposed rates. Proposed rates include paying landowners the temporary easement rate determined by Crown Appraisals, Inc., with a minimum payment of \$1,000.00. Permanent easements would be paid at appraised value plus 20 percent rounded. **Motion** to approve payment rates as presented by Van Amburg, **Seconded** by Andresen. **Motion Carried.**

RIM Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and BRRWD staff drafted MOU for use of RIM land for stream restoration projects. **Motion** to accept MOU with BWSR by Stubstad, **Seconded** by Larson. **Motion Carried.**

*Board of Managers went into Closed Executive Session at 8:23 PM under MN Statute 13D.05 Subd 3b for **Project No. 49 – Oakport Flood Mitigation.** Attorney Johnson provided an update easement encroachment violations. Executive Session ended at 8:32 PM.*

Motion to instruct attorney to pursue abatement of Oakport encroachments by Stubstad, **Seconded** by Larson. **Motion Carried.**

Ditches:

Clay County Ditch No. 9. Petition and Findings and Order to Impound, Reroute, and Divert Ditch. Clay County Highway Department submitted petition to impound, reroute, and divert drainage system waters on Clay County Ditch No. 9 for the installation of a roundabout. **Motion** to accept Petition and Findings and Order to appoint Bennett Uhler engineer to investigate the proposed installation and file a report with BRRWD as the drainage authority by Stubstad, **Seconded** by Van Amburg. **Motion Carried.**

Other:

Annual Report. Motion to approve 2024 Annual Report as presented, by Van Amburg, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

2025 Legislative Session. Board of Managers discussed 2025 legislative session and the priorities of Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) and Minnesota Watersheds. BRRWD will support the efforts of the RRWMB and Minnesota Watersheds.

BWSR Manager Training. Board of Managers discussed upcoming training for Board Managers.

Bills. Motion to approve bills totaling \$743,697.70 by Stubstad, **Seconded** by Larson. **Motion Carried.**

Next Regular Meeting. Monday February 10, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office.

President Fjestad adjourned meeting at 9:10 PM.

/s/ William Davis
Secretary