



1303 4TH Ave. NE
Barnesville, MN 56514
218-789-3100
www.brrwd.org

Board Meeting Minutes

Monday June 8, 2026

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

Managers Absent:

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

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

Others Attending: Adam Mortneson, Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD); Carolyn Ellingson; Michael Ellingson; Steve Thompson; Greg Grommesh; Tim Thompson; Paul Krabbenhoft, Clay County Commission; Jon Braton, Wilkin County Commission.

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

Agenda: Additions to agenda:

Project No. 81 – Whiskey Creek Enhancement, Mediation Appointment

Project No. 79 – Wolverton Creek Restoration, Construction Agreement for Culvert Installation

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

Citizens to be Heard:

Adam Mortenson. Wilkin SWCD. Provided update on Wilkin SWCD Soil Health Program. Currently, Wilkin SWCD has federal funding that is supporting their Soil Health Program. Last year, BRRWD funds were used for five soil health contracts.

Carolyn Ellingson and Michael Ellingson. Owns property in Section 22, Sunnyside Township, Wilkin County. Expressed concern about permit application for Permit No. 26-037. Received Downstream Landowner Notification (DLN) Form for tiling permit to cross property. Concerned that tile project proposes to flow through ditch on property. Staff were waiting for the DLN for Permit No. 26-037 so application not been considered complete. Staff will review permit application and consider comments presented.

Tim Thompson. Complimented staff on response to comments after May 2026 meetings. Noted he appreciated Board of Managers meeting with landowners to review concerns presented.

Greg Grommesh. Grommesh spoke in favor of proposed Clay County Ditch No. 34/Whisky Creek, Barnesville Township, Restoration.

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

May 11, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Financial Report

Permit Nos.

26-034, Vance Johnson– tiling, E ½ SW ¼ and W ½ SE ¼, Section 22, Akron Township, Wilkin County with conditions

26-035, Dallas Miller– ditch cleanout, NE ¼, Section 35, Foxhome Township, Wilkin County with conditions
Clay County Ditch No. 47 Repair, Pay Estimate No. 1 for \$2,615.00 to Key Contracting, Inc

Seconded by Larson. **Motion Carried.**

Permits for Discussion:

Permit No. 26-032. Rob Jordahl. Applicant proposing to tile SW ¼, Section 14, Moland Township, Clay County. Natural flow path of water remains unchanged. Tile outlets into road ditch on west side of property. Applicant has coordinated with neighbors and received DLN with no concerns. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions and approval from road authority to work within road right-of-way (ROW).

Permit No. 26-036. Ziebarth Construction, c/o Lance Ziebarth. Applicant proposing to construct three twin homes in Dilworth north of Clay County Ditch No. 50. Applicant proposing to install underground storm sewer and outlet into Clay County Ditch No. 50. Proposing concrete spillway outlet within Clay County Ditch No. 50 ROW. Uhler recommended approval subject to concrete spillway being installed on grade with existing ditch slope and that it connects with existing concrete channel liner. Applicant is also advised to keep structures as far away from the top of the ditch as possible to maintain integrity of the ditch system.

Permit No. 26-038. Derek Berg. Applicant proposing to install culvert for new driveway approach in NE ¼, Section 30, Cromwell Township, Clay County. Uhler recommended approval subject to installation of 18" culvert and approval from road authority to work within road ROW.

Permit No. 26-039. C-W Valley Co-op, c/o Mike Bjertness. Applicant proposing to install ring levee around fertilizer plant in SE ¼, Section 8, Wolverton Township, Wilkin County. Top of levee will be built to 2' above the probable maximum flood (PMF) as determined by the Metro Flood Diversion Authority (MFDA). Entire levee footprint will be on applicant's property. Uhler recommended approval subject to approval from road authority to work within the road ROW.

Permit No. 26-040. Cris Anderson. Applicant proposing to install water and sediment control basin (WASCOB) in NW ¼, Section 9, Highland Grove Township, Clay County. Natural flow path of water remains unchanged. Tile outlets onto landowner's property which is an adequate outlet. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions.

Permit No. 26-041. Tim Deal. Applicant proposal to install WASCOB in SW ¼, Section 8, Trondhjem Township, Otter Tail County. Natural flow path of water remains unchanged, tile outlets onto landowner's property. Landowner has requested to clean ditch through center of property where each tile run will outlet. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions and approval from road authority to work in road ROW.

Permit No. 25-076. Wilkin County Highway Department, c/o Troy Wright. Applicant requesting permit extension to September 8, 2027.

Motion by Stubstad to approve Permit Nos. 26-032, 26-036, 26-038, 26-039, 26-040, 26-041 with conditions outlined above and permit extension for Permit No. 25-076, **Seconded** by Steffl. **Motion Carried.**

Projects:

Project No. 31 – Deerhorn Creek Basin. Landowner Request. In August 2025, Greg Grommesh requested BRRWD reinstall two culverts that washed out of Deerhorn Creek in NW ¼ Section 22, Deerhorn Township, Wilkin County. Board of Managers decided to survey locations of previous crossings and determine culvert size. Board of Managers also agreed to assist with acquiring a Public Waters Work Permit from Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR). Grommesh requested Board of Managers reconsider purchasing culverts in May 2026. Estimated cost to purchase and install culverts is between \$65,000.00 and \$75,000.00. Grommesh stated culverts are requested to access 17 acres of land that historically was enrolled in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Board of Managers requested Uhler explore other crossing options and bring information back to Board of Managers at a future meeting.

Project No. 46 – Turtle Lake Outlet. Maintenance Request. Landowners on Turtle Lake contacted BRRWD requesting to repair sheds that house equipment for Turtle Lake and Long Lake siphons. Landowners are proposing to complete repairs and are asking Board of Managers to reimburse them for materials. They estimate the cost to be \$550.00. **Motion** by Steffl to accept proposal and authorize landowners to complete repair for reimbursement as requested, **Seconded** by Davis.

Motion Carried.

Project No. 80 – Stony Creek Restoration. Easement Violation. During an inspection, staff identified easement violations on Stony Creek. In total 17.62 acres need to be reseeded. Two of the encroachments are crop infringement on the easements (Parcel Nos. 02.004.2000 and 02.011.4701) and the remaining violations involve alfalfa being planted on the levee (Parcel Nos. 02.002.3700, 02.004.1000, 02.011.1600, 02.011.1800, 02.011.4702, 02.012.3500). Board of Managers reviewed violations. Landowners of the two crop infringements have not had violations in the past and landowners of the remaining violations have previously violated the easement. **Motion** by Larson to notify landowners of Parcels Nos. 02.004.2000 and 02.011.4701 of the violation of the easement and ask them to work with BRRWD on resolving violations, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.** **Motion** by Davis to work through Vogel Law Firm to notify landowners of Parcel Nos. 02.002.3700, 02.004.1000, 02.011.1600, 02.011.1800, 02.011.4702, 02.012.3500 of violations and replant at the expense of the landowners, and request landowners to come to future Board Meeting to discuss violation, **Seconded** by Affield. **Motion Carried.**

Project No. 80 – Stony Creek Restoration. Project Discussion. During Citizens to be Heard portion of the May 2026 Board Meeting, citizens expressed desire for retention site in the Stony Creek watershed. Uhler presented four options Board of Managers previously considered. Cost estimates range from \$20 million for 6,979 acre feet-storage to \$9 million for 1,300 acre feet-storage. Board of Managers directed staff to continue to look for funding opportunities for storage sites.

Project No. 81 – Whiskey Creek Enhancement, Phase 3. Final Change Order and Pay Estimate. **Motion** by Stubstad to approve final Change Order for (\$947.00) reducing the final contract from \$3,049,431.10 to \$3,048,484.10, **Seconded** by Steffl. **Motion Carried.** **Motion** by Davis to approve the final Pay Estimate for \$183,222.23, **Seconded** by Affield. **Motion Carried.**

Project No. 81 – Whiskey Creek Enhancement. Effectiveness Monitoring Joint Powers Agreement. **Motion** by Stubstad to authorize Goeden to sign Joint Powers Agreement with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to utilize Section 319 grant funds as presented, **Seconded** by Affield. **Motion Carried.**

Project No. 84 – City of Wolverton Flood Mitigation. Land Acquisition Resolution. There are multiple landowners that have been unwilling to sign necessary easement documents to complete the City of Wolverton Flood Mitigation Project. Negotiations can continue with impacted landowners, but court actions may be required to acquire necessary property interests to complete the project. BRRWD is required to acquire land for project as part of agreements with the Metro Flood Diversion Authority (MFDA). **Motion** by Van Amburg to approve Resolution No. 2026-001 to allow Vogel Law Firm to proceed with condemnation proceedings within district court as presented, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Otter Tail River Restoration. Project Discussion. Board of Managers discussed possible assessment values for a proposed water management district (wmd). Board of Managers considered existing funding which is expected to cover land acquisition and construction expenses. Board of Managers discussed a lower maximum assessment may be more appropriate for this proposed project.

Project No. 81 – Whiskey Creek Enhancement, Mediation Appointment. **Motion** by Affield to appoint Davis to represent BRRWD for mediation in the event that Fjestad or Stubstad (appointed at the December 2024 Board Meeting) are unable to attend, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Project No. 79 – Wolverton Creek Restoration. Construction Agreement for Culvert Installation. **Motion** by Stubstad to award contract to Matson Excavating, Inc. for \$138,947.00 and sign agreement, **Seconded** by Larson. **Motion Carried.**

Ditches:

Clay County Ditch No. 33. Construction Agreement. **Motion** by Larson to approve construction agreement with KCI Construction LLC for outlet repair as presented, **Seconded** by Steffl. **Motion Carried.**

Drainage Repair Recommendations

Drainage	Township	Section	Problem/Proposed Work	Estimated Cost
Clay County Ditch No. 34	Barnesville	22	North spoilbank is washing out. Haul in 60 yards of clay fill to repair.	\$6,500 - \$8,500
Clay County Ditch No. 40	Kurtz	28	Haul in 10 yards of class 3 rip rap to guard side inlet and prevent erosion.	\$1,500 - \$2,500
Clay County Ditch No. 58	Elmwood	3	Field drain eroding spoilbank and gulley forming in field. Install 18"x45' side inlet with flapgate and haul in 80 yards of clay.	\$7,000 - \$8,000
Pj. 54, Whisky Creek	Barnesville	23	Repair washouts along channel. Haul in 40 yards of clay, seed with agricultural roadside mix, and cover with erosion control blanket.	\$4,000 - \$5,000

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

Other:

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Report Discussion. Board of Managers reviewed report submitted by HEI to the City of Moorhead regarding MS4 implications from the TMDL report from MPCA. **Motion** by Van Amburg to authorize Goeden to sign comment letter to send to MPCA, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

River Keepers. 2027 Budget Request. **Motion** by Van Amburg to accept the 2027 budget request from River Keepers for \$65,000.00, **Seconded** by Affield. **Motion Carried.**

Flood Damage Reduction Workgroup (FDRWG). Five-year Monitoring Program. Manston Slough Consideration. FDRWG would like to complete a rapid floristic quality assessment (rFQA) of Manston Slough as part of their Five-year Monitoring Program. Board of Managers discussed current active management of vegetation and Manston Slough. Board of Managers discussed that Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) manage the pools at Manston Slough and BRRWD is responsible for outlet maintenance. Board of Managers decided to not enroll Manston Slough in Five-year Monitoring Program because BRRWD is not responsible for vegetation maintenance in the pools of Manston Slough.

Minnesota Watersheds. Resolutions. Board of Managers discussed Resolutions presented by member districts and determined BRRWD could support all resolutions being presented in 2026. There was discussion that the resolution to create a new funding source for Hazard Mitigation may not be beneficial. It may be more beneficial to work with legislatures to adequately fund the existing Flood Hazard Mitigation Program.

Human Resources (HR). 2027 Staff Benefits. Goeden presented recommendation from HR Committee for 2027 Staff Benefits. HR Committee recommended switching health insurance coverage to Medica ChoicePassport 2850, keep dental insurance with BlueCross BlueShield Minnesota (BCBSMN) Freedom Enhanced, and keep vision insurance with BCBSMN Enhanced Eyewear. HR Committee recommended keeping long term disability, group life insurance, and accidental death and dismemberment insurance through Companion Life. Due to Paid Family Medical Leave being offered by the State of Minnesota, the HR Committee recommended discontinuing short term disability coverage through Companion Life. **Motion** by Davis to approve 2027 Staff Benefits as presented, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Office Maintenance. Cleaning and Landscaping. **Motion** by Stubstad to accept proposal from Kayla Nosal to clean the BRRWD office and maintain landscaping at a rate of \$100 per cleaning two times per month and \$50 per hour for landscaping, **Seconded** by Affield. **Motion Carried.**

Office Maintenance. Office Painting. Motion by Davis to authorize staff to obtain quotes to repaint BRRWD office, **Seconded** by Larson. **Motion Carried.**

Midwest Bank. Positive Pay. Motion by Davis to utilize Positive Pay through Midwest Bank online banking services for Automated Clearing House (ACH) transaction and checks for \$25.00 per account per month, **Seconded** by Affield. **Motion Carried.**

Midwest Bank. Certificate of Deposit Account Registry (CDAR). Motion by Affield to put \$1,000,000.00 in a CDAR for 6 months at 3.85 (annual percentage yield) APY, **Seconded** by Stubstad. **Motion Carried.**

Midwest Bank. Savings Account Discussion. Motion by Stubstad to close the BRRWD Savings Account, **Seconded** by Davis. **Motion Carried.**

Bills. Motion by Stubstad to approve bills totaling \$603,126.97, **Seconded** by Affield. **Motion Carried.**

Next Regular Meeting. Monday July 13, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office.

President Fjestad adjourned meeting at 9:35 PM.

/s/William Davis
William Davis
Secretary