

MEDIATION PROJECT TEAM MINUTES
March 1, 2007

The Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) Mediation Project Team (PT) held a meeting on Thursday, March 1, 2007, at 1:30 PM at the Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) Science Center near Glyndon.

Attending were: Bruce E. Albright, Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.) and BRRWD Office Administrator; Roger G. Ellefson, Curtis M. Nelson, John E. Hanson, and E. Robert Olson, BRRWD Managers; Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls Wetland Management District (WMD) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); Jack Frederick, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA); Erik S. Jones, Engineer, H.E.; Don Schultz, Area Wildlife Manager, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR); Pete Waller, Board Conservationist, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR); Brian Winter, Program Director, The Nature Conservancy (TNC); and Robert A. Zimmerman, Engineer, City of Moorhead.

Members absent were: Dave Barsness, Fisheries Specialist, DNR; Don Buckhout, Red River Basin Coordinator, DNR; Brian Dwight, Board Conservationist, BWSR; Craig O. Evans, PM-D, United States Army Corps of Engineers (COE); Audubon Dakota; Leo Grabowski, Project Manager, COE; Brad Grant, District Administrator, Becker Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD); Bob Honeman, Area Resource Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); Kevin Kassenborg, District Manager, Clay SWCD; Steve Hofstad, Clay County Water Planner and Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Administrator; Shawn May, Detroit Lakes WMD and USFWS; Robert G. Merritt, Area Hydrologist, DNR; Michael T. Murphy, Refuge Manager, Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and USFWS; Richard Pemble, BRRWD Citizen Advisory Committee; Maynard Pick, Staff Assistant, Congressman Collin Peterson's Office; Gerald L. VanAmburg, BRRWD Manager; Scott Kahan, Detroit Lakes WMD and USFWS; and Doug Wells, Fergus Falls WMD and USFWS.

Albright called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM. He thanked everyone for their attendance. We are missing some members because of the pending winter storm. Our last meeting was held on 1/25/07.

Business brought before the group included:

Meeting Minutes. Draft minutes for the 1/25/07 PT meeting were distributed with today's agenda. **Motion** by Schultz to approve the minutes. **Seconded** by Fredrick. **Approved.**

Project No. 54, Whisky Creek Tributaries. A meeting of the landowners in the Section 14, Barnesville Township, impoundment site, was held on 2/20/07 at the Moorhead SWCD office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Conservation Practice (CP) 34 and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) II. Of the three landowners, Max Peppel wants to put as much land into the program as he can. Arvid Thompson appears to be agreeable to installing an approximate additional 22 acres, which would enroll most of his land below the 2-year flood elevation. Tim

Thompson has agreed to align his field in accordance with what Arvid Thompson does. Albright said several weeks ago, we received the Revised Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) plan for the Kelly Nichol tract, located in Section 21, Humboldt Township, Clay County. It appears that not much has changed. According to Scott Smith, NRCS, they will hold a contractor viewing sometime this spring when conditions permit. At the 1/25/07 PT meeting, the group supported having Albright work with the USFWS regarding a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) application. Initially, we were going to consider using expenditures from the Manston Slough Restoration, Swede Grove Lake Outlet, Riverton Township Retention, and Whisky Creek Tributaries project as a match. Albright noted there will be other NAWCA funding opportunities. Because of the uncertainties surrounding the Manston Slough Restoration, the project was not used as a match at this time. The same holds true for Swede Grove Lake Outlet. Initially, Scott Kahan, Detroit Lakes WMD and USFWS, was going to use the entire cost of the Section 14 impoundment site on Whisky Creek Tributaries as a match. This total would have been \$559,698.00. The area covers 240 acres, along with 85 acres of grassed bufferstrips for nesting and migratory waterfowl and other water species. Because the NAWCA match had to be related to wetlands, Kahan felt if we submitted the impoundment site as match, which does not hold water on a permanent basis, it might jeopardize the entire grant. After further discussion, the match was reduced to \$57,675.00 to account for only the development of the project's grassed bufferstrips. Albright has not printed a copy of the grant, which had to be submitted by 2/28/07. The grant application is about 170 pages long, with additional attachments. Brennan concurred that the application was a difficult process. Winter said TNC had match dollars, totaling about \$1.6 million. This was for funds expended for acquisition of the Williams property. Albright said in the future, the Manston Slough Restoration project will be submitted as a separate NAWCA grant application.

Spring Prairie Township Erosion. This drainage area has been identified as a CREP II target area. The Clay SWCD started marketing CREP II along the main stem of the Buffalo River. The next work area includes Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee, which they'll do in conjunction with the Wilkin SWCD. Albright's concern is that CREP II is scheduled to expire with the Farm Bill on 9/30/07.

Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration. Albright said considerable time was spent at the 1/25/07 PT meeting discussing this project. Rick St. Germain, Engineer, H.E., presented the draft Engineer's Report and Preliminary Construction Plans. Brennan did not see a design in the plans for the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 26 structure. The report talks about installing two lines of 48" dia. reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) through CSAH No. 26. It also mentioned there will be a concrete box installed on the south side of the roadway. Brennan was curious about the design of this box. He questioned the time frame for submitting comments to St. Germain regarding his report and plans. Albright said at the 1/25/07 PT meeting we talked about a 30-day comment period. However, he felt that we'll continue to take comments and redesign the project as more information is developed. This process goes right up until the time the actual project is let for bids. Brennan gave Jones several examples of fish-barriers that might be used on the project. The DNR and USFWS still have concerns about fish entry into the impoundment and permanent pools. Some very simple types of barriers could be used to control at least adult fish.

Albright said that a meeting was held with Steve Holubok on 3/16/07. At that time, a deal was worked out with Holubok to purchase his father's farm, located in the SE¹/₄, Section 30, Manston Township, at a price of \$700,000. Albright distributed a handout showing the calculations used to determine that amount. On 3/27/06, the BRRWD offered Holubok \$679,120. That offer was withdrawn on 9/11/06 because funding that was going to be used to enhance the WRP/Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP) payment was not available. This reduced the offer by \$82,476. The offer was reduced further because initially the BRRWD thought that the DNR would purchase the property at a

rate of approximately \$500/acre. Since then, based on two appraisals completed by the DNR for Tom Arnhalt and C&H Farms, it appears that this value is lower. The Board assumed a rate of \$250/acre, which also reduced the 3/27/06 offer by \$43,450. This left a current sale price of \$553,194. Instead of placing a permanent WRP/WREP easement on the property, Pete Waller, BWSR, suggested that we use a 30-year easement. Easement payments through this option are 75% of what would be paid for permanent easements. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) also pays up to 75% of the restoration costs. For both permanent and 30-year easements, USDA pays all costs associated with recording the easement, including recording fees, charges for abstracts, surveying and appraisal fees, and title insurance. The maximum rate that can be paid for a WRP/WREP easement in Wilkin County is \$1,178 per acre. 75% of this value amounts to \$883.50/acre. This reduces the offer by \$46,531 for a total of \$506,663. However, Waller proposed that the State then put a Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) easement on the property, which can be done with a 30-year WRP/WREP easement. The rate for their RIM easement is \$1,191.60/acre. This adds \$188,273 to the offer, for a total of \$694,936. Holubok said he would be willing to accept \$700,000 for the property, at which time, a deal was made. BWSR agreed to pick up the shortfall of \$5,064 to seal the deal.

Schultz noted that there are no guarantees that DNR can or will purchase Holubok's property. His recommendation to St. Paul would be that the land be acquired and used in the Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Albright questioned how we could start that process. Schultz will discuss it with Lee Markell. Albright stated that he recently discussed the DNR's offer for the Tom Arnhalt property with Arnhalt. Arnhalt said he has been trying to contact Markell, but Markell is not returning his calls. Schultz felt that the first thing that the BRRWD should do is sign the purchase agreement with Holubok, and then they could start their appraisal process. Ellefson recently had a conversation with someone from the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association. They felt that they might have some funding available to assist with the development of food plots, etc., if the project is developed. Ellefson said they never did discuss a dollar amount.

Albright questioned what guarantee the BRRWD could get from the NRCS regarding if the Holubok property will qualify for WRP/WREP. Waller said that right now, NRCS is not considering the acquisition of the Holubok property as part of the State's funding for 2007. He said the best way to find out would be for Holubok to sign his letter of intent, and get the offer in as quickly as possible. Waller said the same will hold true for the RIM easement. All the WRP/WREP/RIM easements will require that Holubok initially start the process. Otherwise, the BRRWD will need to wait one year before qualifying for the programs. Schultz said that the DNR appraisal process could take anywhere from 6-12 months before the BRRWD would actually get their funding. Albright also needs to check with Kent Lokkesmoe, Director, DNR Waters, about use of Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) funding allocated through the 2006 bonding bill for this project. Assuming the BRRWD can qualify for 50% reimbursement regarding the Holubok acquisition, the BRRWD will then only need to worry about borrowing \$350,000. Right now, the BRRWD does not have that type of money available. Again, as the BRRWD is reimbursed for the WRP/WREP easement, the RIM easement, and the DNR acquisition, the funds will be credited back to the project account. Waller felt something should be added to the purchase agreement to reflect the RIM and WRP/WREP easements. Waller also felt the project should be discussed with Pheasants Forever (PF). He will contact Matt Holland. PF may have some funding assistance.

Albright said that right before today's meeting, he did receive a draft real estate purchase agreement from Lori S. Hersrud, Vogel Law Firm. Steve Holubok is acting as power-of-attorney for his parents, Donald and Marlys Holubok. The BRRWD will look at putting down approximately \$10,000 in earnest money to be paid at the date of the execution of the real estate purchase agreement. The

balance would be paid at closing, which right now looks like May 1, 2007. The real estate taxes and special assessments will be apportioned to the property at the time of sale. Holubok would be allowed to crop the fields in 2007. Both the DNR and USFWS didn't see a problem with this. The Holuboks will be allowed to stay on the property until around September 1, 2007. Until the buildings and land are vacated, they will be required to carry the necessary insurance. One of the next steps will be complete the abstract review. Albright hopes to meet with Steve Holubok in the next several days to start discussions on the purchase agreement. Steve Holubok has requested that he be able to take the two 5,500 bushel steel grain bins and several small outbuildings. Schultz felt from the DNR's prospective, they could take all of the buildings or the BRRWD could offer them for sale to be moved. He would prefer to see the buildings gone when the DNR acquires the property. Albright and Ellefson will meet with the Wilkin County Board of Commissioners on 3/13/07 to discuss the project. Wilkin County Planning and Zoning will require a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the project because of the dikes and road use. Schultz said that the DNR will also need County approval to acquire any property in this area.

Albright felt we should try to set up another meeting with the road authorities before spring field work begins. Perhaps we'll meet with the affected parties individually. Albright's had some discussions with Jerry Nordick, Supervisor, Meadows Township, regarding drainage along the south end of the project. We'll also have to hold a meeting with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT), as they expressed concerns about water depths along Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 9. St. Germain has looked into the road standards, and because the water depths are less than 2', guard rails should not be required. We'll also have to have a meeting with Thomas G. Richels, Engineer, Wilkin County Highway Department, about the regrading proposed for CSAH No. 26. The BRRWD will be asking the County for funding assistance to place a 4:1 slope along this road. This spring, wetland impacts on the road sloping will need to be analyzed.

St. Germain has furnished a copy of the Engineer's Report to Eric Mohring, BWSR, for his review regarding potential seepage impacts. Jones was not aware of the status of their discussions. On 1/25/07, St. Germain noted that he was still waiting for some additional information from Midwest Testing, who did the soils investigation. St. Germain was also going to submit copies of the Engineer's Report to the BWSR and DNR for their advisory comments. Jones will check on this. Al Kean, BWSR, always does a very thorough review of the Engineer's Reports.

Earlier today, Albright received revised copies of the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Operation and Maintenance (O&M) plan from Brennan. Brennan has talked with Bob Honeman and Tim Kohler, NRCS, and has made changes in the draft MOU and O&M as they requested. Kohler is checking with their Washington office on how to handle the WRP/WREP tracts. They are considering using the MOU, but may also use a Delegation of Administrative Jurisdiction to either the DNR, BWSR, or USFWS. They are still waiting for a response from Washington. Brennan felt that once we hear from Kohler, we can start routing both agreements for signatures. He said the documents still do not contain language regarding a fish barrier. Albright felt we still had some time to sign the O&M and MOU agreements. Brennan said it may take several months for the USFWS to route the agreements through their legal departments, and he would like to get this process started.

Project No. 58, Riverton Township Retention. After the 1/25/07 PT meeting, the Board of Managers, BRRWD, met with Brian Winter, Program Director, TNC, regarding this project. They discussed TNC's project design requests. The majority of the issues were resolved. The BRRWD would like to construct this project in 2007. Assuming a bid opening around June 1, 2007, we need to keep things moving over the next several months. The next step would be for TNC to sign the

easement option. Winter felt that TNC would like to see the actual construction plans to make sure that all of their design considerations have been met. At the 2/26/07 meeting, the Board asked H.E. to conduct an analysis of the project benefits for Clay County Ditch No. 12. Jones noted that they started this investigation yesterday. The next step for the BRRWD will be to authorize the Appraisers, Eddie Bernhardson, Arvid Thompson, and Lauren Peterson, to begin their benefit assessment work. Albright said the BRRWD is still looking into the "no-build" easement referenced by Winter for the W½, Section 28, Riverton Township. Tim Pender owns this property. Albright said the BRRWD has made some contacts regarding this issue, but to date, has not come to a conclusion as to how to address this request.

Winter felt that if the BRRWD wants TNC to sign the easement option at this time, maybe some additional language could be added to the easement option stating that TNC would need to approve the final construction plans before signing the actual easement.

Albright said the BRRWD has received a revised cost estimate from Jones. The new cost estimate was submitted at the 2/26/07 meeting. The estimated project costs are now \$794,460. The BRRWD will contact the DNR for additional funding. Through the 2006 bonding bill, the BRRWD received a 50/50 grant from the DNR in the amount of \$235,000, based on the total estimated project cost of \$470,000. The 5/08/06 Engineer's Report had a revised cost estimate of \$682,840. Jones noted that some of the costs have escalated due to inflation. The other major increase pertained to seeding an additional 130 acres to native grasses in the area that will be inundated. This was one of TNC's requests. The estimated cost for the seeding is \$500/acre. Albright said that we probably wouldn't include the native grass seeding in the construction bid proposal. We'd probably just have the main contractor seed all disturbed areas to winter wheat/rye/oats so we get a cover crop started to meet the MPCA storm water permit requirements. A separate contractor would be hired later to do the actual native grass seeding. The BRRWD will ask the DNR for an additional \$165,000. Their funding will determine if the project can be built in 2007. Albright will contact Kent Lokkesmoe, DNR Waters, regarding this issue.

Jones noted that he recently visited with Midwest Testing, and they suggested that the possible embankment levees could be moved farther east to encounter better soils. This area is also at a higher elevation, which would lessen the embankment heights. Jones felt the project would still have the same storage capabilities. Winter felt we may be too far into the design to start making major changes.

Nelson commented that the site is starting to become very expensive. We're probably near the limit as to what the BRRWD can expend for a project of this nature.

Winter said they would allow cattle grazing on the site this summer. Albright said we still need to meet with Riverton Township regarding use of their road for the inlet spillway. The site is capable of holding temporary storage to elevation 948.50, which is the emergency spillway crest of about 269 acre-feet (a-f), which equates to about 0.80" of runoff. There's additional temporary storage from elevation 948.50 to elevation 950.50, which is the top of dam elevation of approximately 305 a-f, or about 0.91" of runoff. The project provides for the reduction of peak discharge between 24% and 71% for the 18" dia. RCP outlet, which we will operate from the spring to May 1. After May 1, the outlet will be opened to a 36" dia. RCP culvert and the reduction of peak discharges ranges from 17% to 53%.

Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation Project. The BRRWD is working with Pifer's Auction and Realty on the sale of homes acquired for the project. A tentative sales date for the acquired homes has been set for May 3, 2007. A listing of the properties will be ready to distribute by 4/01/07. The

BRRWD is having some trouble with approximately four homeowners on the west side of the Oakport Coulee, whose homes cannot be protected by the proposed dike, given its present alignment. It is very difficult to modify the dike alignment in this area without affecting the height of the Red River of the North. These homeowners have contacted the television, radio, and newspapers regarding their concerns. Ulteig Engineers, Inc. (UEI), is still working on the dike alignment survey. They need to get a stretch of dike done so that we can begin working on finalizing the dike placement. UEI remains optimistic that part of the dike could still be built in 2007. Zimmerman noted that the City of Moorhead has concerns regarding the sanitary sewer manholes that are located in the coulee area. Manhole flooding caused a major problem during the past flooding events.

Project No. 60, Swede Grove Lake Outlet. BRRWD representatives met with the Clay County Highway Committee on 2/21/07 to discuss the project status. The scope of the project has changed since the County initially petitioned for an outlet to control water levels adjacent to their road. The project has now incorporated flood damage reduction (fdr) and natural resource enhancement (nre) benefits. These changes have also increased project costs. The County is still interested in establishing an outlet that would protect their road; however, they feel the additional costs need to be borne by other benefited parties. H.E. is working on a draft Engineer's Report, which will include a revised cost estimate. That information will be submitted to the DNR Division of Waters for possible funding assistance. The County Highway Committee also felt that we should start working with the downstream landowners to see if we can secure easement options to build the outlet. If the landowners are not interested in the project, it may not be practical to build.

Buffalo River Levees. Albright said there was no new information to report regarding this potential project. Now that the Comprehensive Planning process is started, when we meet with landowners in this area, this may be a project that they might like to see developed.

Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee Restoration. Waller noted that the Clay and Wilkin SWCDs secured a Clean Water Legacy (CWL) grant in the amount of \$289,000 to work on this project. They've submitted their workplan, which has been approved, and have signed their grant agreement. Their check should be coming in the near future. The two SWCDs would like to see the BRRWD hold another sub-committee PT meeting with the area landowners so they can discuss the grant funding and work plan. Waller suggested that if BRRWD is having financial problems, perhaps we could borrow some funds from either the Clay or Wilkin SWCDs, as both secured CWL grants.

Lawndale Trout Stream Restoration. Following the 1/25/07 PT meeting, Schultz had Arlan Schalekamp, DNR Fisheries, Fergus Falls, contact Albright regarding the project status. This project will be delayed one year because of the DNR's environmental review. Schalekamp plans that the work could begin in the fall of 2008, and they would finish the project in 2009. The Trout Stream redesignation is moving forward and should be completed in a few months. The required ditch hearing could be held in the fall of 2007, once the DNR completes the Engineer's Report and plans.

Albright has had some discussions about the project with a local landowner, Mark Yaggie, who would still like to see the DNR construct a new channel across the WMA that would carry all of the ditch flows so that the existing ditch along his property could be vacated and filled in. Both Schultz and Ellefson doubted that this would happen. Ellefson said the DNR does plan to construct a large enough channel to handle all of the ditch flows.

Grove Lake Outlet. H.E. has completed the field survey. They are currently plotting the information to review the various lake elevations, possible outlets, etc. A meeting will be held with the affected landowners once the report is filed.

Kragnes Ringdike. The BRRWD is working with the DNR regarding possible funding assistance through their ringdike program to construct this project in 2007. Recently, local Legislators Paul Marquart and Kent Eken co-authored a bill appropriating ringdike funding for 2008 and 2009. The bill is worded that the funds would go to the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB). The BRRWD has sent a letter of concern regarding this issue to Marquart and Eken. To date, there has been no response.

Comprehensive Planning. A Kickoff meeting was held for Phase 2 work on 2/27/07 in Barnesville. Albright said 27 people attended from the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). A meeting will be held in March in one of the sub-regions. To date, the BRRWD is still looking for a USFWS representative. For now, Brennan said that the notices should be mailed to his office. Depending on which sub-region is meeting, Brennan felt he may be able to split USFWS time between the Detroit Lakes and Fergus Falls WMD. It would make more sense for the Detroit Lakes WMD personnel to attend meeting in their respective counties.

Ellefson said there was no discussion the other night about irrigation. He felt this was something we needed to include in the plan update. Irrigation has not been a major issue over the last 10-15 years because of the wet cycle we've had. However, if we go back into a dry cycle, drought conditions could prompt the installation of more irrigation wells, especially if commodity prices for corn, etc., stay high. Waller said in 2006, the Governor had a drought disaster program. Within three days, the State took in \$1.2 million in project applications. There was only \$250,000 allocated to the program. Brennan felt that if irrigation is going to become an issue in the future for the BRRWD, it should be addressed in the Comprehensive Planning process. Fredrick felt it would be beneficial in the future if the BRRWD could identify a list of resource issues/concerns for discussion at the sub-region meeting. This might help move the meeting along.

CREP II. Waller felt this program has been discussed in relationship to the BRRWD's projects. So far, the program really hasn't taken off in the Red River Valley. Southeastern and southwestern Minnesota is also having some problems. Ellefson felt that high land values and commodity prices are making landowners hesitant to enroll lands into a 45-year easement program. The dollars just aren't competitive.

Activities Update. Albright distributed a copy of the 2/26/07 meeting press release. Most of the items have already been discussed at today meeting. Albright said the press release includes information regarding the BRRWD's Website. Within the last several weeks, considerable information has been added to the Website. There's still future work to do. The BRRWD received a grant from BWSR to do ditch mapping. When completed, Website users will be able to click on a map of the BRRWD and view individual ditch systems, showing location, benefit area, history, bufferstrip status, etc. Schultz questioned if the BRRWD could add the ditch system profiles to the data. Albright felt this might be a possibility.

Clean Water Legacy. MPCA has recently distributed a 2007 Legislative fact sheet regarding monitoring and assessment, and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development. The Governor recommends an increased appropriation from the general fund of \$10.57 million to each year of the fiscal year (FY) 2008-09 biennium to the MPCA Water Program. Increased funding will enable

continued progress in quality assessment of lakes, rivers and streams, and increase the number of TMDL studies initiated to address impaired waters as required by the Federal Clean Water Act. TMDLs are complex, scientifically rigorous reports that determine what actions are required to restore a lake, river, or stream. Typically, they take 3-4 years to complete. Currently, Minnesota has 2,250 listed impairments on 284 rivers, and 1,013 lakes. About two-thirds of the listings are due to mercury in fish tissues; the rest are from "conventional" pollutants, such as sediment, nutrients, and bacteria. Currently, only a small percentage of streams and lakes have assessed, so the number of impairments will continue to rise. Completion of TMDLs has a direct economic impact on Minnesota. The Clean Water Act prohibits newer expanded waste water discharges to an impaired water until a TMDL is completed. A 2005 State Appeals Court decision in the case of Maple Lake and Annandale, two Minnesota cities that had been issued a permit to build and jointly operate a new waste water treatment plant, forced the MPCA to revoke the permit. With their existing plant at capacity, these cities effectively cannot grow until the TMDL is done. The case has been appealed to the State Supreme Court, but meanwhile more cities are finding themselves in a similar situation. The recommendation of \$10.57 million builds upon the progress made over the past year and includes continued funding at \$1.86 million for assessment and an increase (from \$3.17 million in FY 2007 to \$8.71 million) for TMDL development.

Albright reviewed some information he recently obtained from Molly McGregor, Principal Planner, MPCA, Detroit Lakes. The information includes a map showing the turbidity impairments and monitoring sites within the BRRWD. Currently, 21 sites are being monitored regarding water quality by Wayne Goeken, RRWMB. When you include the River Watch sites for Barnesville and Hawley, there are close to 50 sites being monitored within the BRRWD. Nelson asked Fredrick if the MPCA will ever look at changing their standards. Fredrick said they will need to comply with the Federal Clean Water Act, which is administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The MPCA may also start looking more at phosphorus. Fredrick commented that the BRRWD's recent 319 grant is currently being held up because there's no funding available at the Federal level. The MPCA has hired the Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) to conduct Surface Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) modeling in the Red River Basin. The BRRWD's grant will use the NRCS Annualized Agricultural Non-Point Source model (annAGNPS).

March Conference. Albright distributed information regarding the 9th Annual Joint Conference between the RRWMB and the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction WorkGroup (RRBFDRWG). The conference is scheduled for Thursday, March 29, 2007, at the Northland Inn, Crookston, MN. The Conference will run from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. It has been eight years since the Mediation Agreement was signed inaugurating a new approach to fdr/nre planning and project development in Minnesota's portion of the Red River Basin. This year's Conference will feature a mini-workshop using the new project methodology being developed by the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC) and the RRBFDRWG. The agenda includes an overview of the history of the RRWMB, preliminary results of a TSAC culvert sizing study, and presentation of the SWAT model. The handout includes registration information. Albright encouraged all PT members to attend.

On 3/28/07, Albright will attend a COE Concurrence Points meeting in Crookston scheduled for 1:00 PM.

Next Meeting. Albright said we won't have another meeting in March due to the Conference. The next meeting we'll go back to the regular meeting schedule for the fourth Thursday of the month. The meeting will be held on 4/26/07. At this time of the year, we'll go back to evening meetings, which

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will begin at 7:00 PM at the MSUM Science Center. Notices will be sent out several weeks in advance.

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the group, Albright adjourned the meeting at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully Prepared and Submitted by

Bruce E. Albright, BRRWD Administrator