

MEDIATION PROJECT TEAM MINUTES
May 18, 2006

A meeting of the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) Mediation Project Team (PT) was held on Thursday, May 18, 2006, at 7:00 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; Curtis M. Nelson, E. Robert Olson, and John E. Hanson, BRRWD Managers; Erik S. Jones, Engineer, H.E.; Robert A. Zimmerman, Engineer, City of Moorhead; Jack Frederick, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA); Henry VanOffelen, Natural Resource Scientist, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA), Robert G. Merritt, Area Hydrologist, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR); Don Schultz, Area Wildlife Manager, DNR; and Dave Barsness, Fisheries Specialist, DNR.

Guests included Sheila Carlson, Biology Teacher, Barnesville High School, and Brandi Scheffler, Gina Cox, Billy Affield, and Alyssa Meyer, River Watch Students.

Members absent were: Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls Wetland Management District (WMD) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); Don Buckhout, Red River Basin Coordinator, DNR; Brian Dwight, Board Conservationist, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR); Gerald L. VanAmburg and Roger G. Ellefson, Managers, BRRWD; 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); Steve Hofstad, Clay County Water Planner and Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Administrator; Kevin Kassenborg, District Manager, Clay SWCD; Bob Honeman, Area Resource Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); Shawn May, Detroit Lakes WMD and USFWS; Michael T. Murphy, Manager, Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and USFWS, Richard Pemble, BRRWD Citizen Advisory Committee; Maynard Pick, Staff Assistant, Congressman Collin Peterson's Office; Pete Waller, Board Conservationist, BWSR; and Brian Winter, Program Director, The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

Albright called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Introductions were made for the benefit of the River Watch Team.

Business brought before the group included:

2005 Water Quality Monitoring Report. Albright said the BRRWD has a history of supporting the Barnesville High School River Watch program. For 2005, the BRRWD made a contribution of approximately \$3,000 to help fund the program. Students give an annual report to the BRRWD regarding their findings. Albright felt it would be beneficial for them to attend tonight's PT meeting so that more people could learn of their work. Carlson said that students have four years of chemical data

and three years of biological data for approximately sixteen sites within the BRRWD. Many of the sites were selected because of planned Mediation projects for those areas.

The students selected two questions to study in 2005. One was the turbidity levels associated with Stony Creek and the second was evaluating the chemical data versus the biological data regarding Whisky Creek. The students discussed their sampling routine. Upon arriving at a site location, physical notations are made about the area around the stream and any notable weather conditions. The first step is a measurement of the stream depth. This measurement is taken with a tape measure, which is equipped with a weight at the bottom to get accurate results. Another measure is taken from the surface of the stream up to the stream mark, which is on a bridge or culvert. To collect the water sample, a device known as a VanDoren sampler is used. After the sampler has been rinsed three times, the water sample can be taken. There are two ways to measure turbidity. The first way is using a transparency tube. The second method of measuring turbidity is to use a turbidimeter. A turbidimeter is a computerized apparatus that passes a beam of light through a jar of water and measures turbidity. Once the data has been gathered in the field and all sixteen sites are sampled, the field sheets are brought back to the school and all data from the field sheets are entered into an Xcel spreadsheet. During the winter months, the data is computed into averages. The data is then put into graphs and evaluated. The standards for turbidity come from the MPCA, with less than 25 nephelometric turbidity units as being optimum. Students also compare turbidity data for a given year against the prior years' results to look for trends. High turbidity levels can have an impact on a number of things. Excessive turbidity levels are also like a chain reaction, it all circles back. High turbidity levels can affect everything from chemical parameters to macroinvertebrates, even to other bodies of water. Another impact of high turbidity levels is water temperature.

Two sites are sampled on Whisky Creek: one before the stream enters the City of Barnesville and one after. The Whisky Creek East site's 2005 average turbidity was 17.26 NTUs. The Whisky West site was 31.04 NTUs. There are two sites sampled on Stony Creek. Stony Creek East is the reference site, and Stony Creek West is the impact site. Stony Creek East had an average reading of 39.81 NTUs, and Stony West had an average reading of 69.06 NTUs in 2005. The Students also sampled two sites on Deerhorn Creek. Deerhorn East has 3.48 NTUs.

Turbidity has been linked to many factors. Land use and rain events have taken center stage in the debate over what should be done to lower turbidity levels. The students had a slide showing land use near the sampling sites. Landscaping can greatly affect turbidity simply by farming land in such a way that is suitable for erosion. The role of vegetation is to stop turbidity. Based on their samples and the MPCA standards, the students are finding that turbidity is a big cause for concern in the BRRWD. The students also test water quality on some drain tile associated with Wilkin County Ditch No. 43. A complete report of their findings is on file in the BRRWD office.

The students said one of their sampling periods was after a heavy June rain event in 2005. Turbidity levels were all higher at that time. They try to sample each of the sites during the same time. Their report also focuses on solutions, which would include more vegetation along the channels.

Merritt thanked the students for their very good report. He wanted to note that several years ago at a workshop sponsored by the University of Minnesota, he learned that there is still research being done regarding drain tile. Just because a field is tilled doesn't mean runoff will be reduced. Tiling can increase the water's conductivity, and can increase the amount of nitrates. Tiling in a particular field allows the water to runoff at a faster pace, and agencies have concerns about maintaining stream flow during longer periods of time.

Frederick said another issue involves phosphorus. Presently, there is no MPCA standard for phosphorus. Phosphorus in a stream can change the whole system. He said the future of water quality monitoring will look at loading versus concentration. He suggested that the students work with BRRWD to have gauging stations installed at the various sampling sites. That way, the pounds of nutrients can be calculated. Frederick said the MPCA will offering training regarding the use of the type of equipment needed to calculate loading versus concentration equations. Most of the streams within the BRRWD are quite flashy and reach their peak very quickly after a runoff event. Timing of the sampling is important to gather those high flows.

VanOffelen commented that it would be good to tie the sampling sites into gauging locations. Most of the time, the gauge is a simple device, such as a measuring stick that can be attached to a culvert or bridge. Once the gauges are installed, someone like Erik Jones, H.E., could do rating curves for the site.

VanOffelen questioned why the 2004 Stony Creek readings were significantly different from the 2005 readings. Frederick felt the students should meld the data together. The amount of runoff that was occurring at a particular sampling time could skew the data. Worse months for sediment appear to be in the early spring, such as April, May, and June.

Merritt attended the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) Conference in Canada last January. Considerable emphasis was placed on the amount of sediment going into Lake Winnipeg, and how that lake is being affected by phosphorus. Lake Winnipeg experiences tremendous algae blooms. Minnesota comprises only about 25% of the Lake Winnipeg watershed, but contributes the majority of the phosphorus. Albright said that the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) and the MPCA are working together on a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study for the BRRWD. Wayne Goeken is also gathering samples throughout the district. Frederick said that using the High School's program is a good way to collect data. Biological work that the Barnesville High School is doing is becoming more important in the assessment of water quality.

VanOffelen commented that water temperature is directly related to its dissolved oxygen (DO). Frederick questioned if the students were using a sond to gather their water quality data. Carlson said they were. Merritt questioned how long the students had been involved with the River Watch program. Barnesville High School offers an independent study option for River Watch.

As noted, in 2005, the students sampled at 16 different sites. In 2006, they may drop Stony West and Hay West, as Goeken is also sampling at these locations. This year, the River Watch students will be looking at chloroforms, and how this affects the stream's water quality. Those samples will have to be shipped to a laboratory for testing.

Carlson said they've also had difficulty sampling at the site upstream of the Manston Slough Restoration project, which is located along Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 9. There's just too much traffic in this area to have the students do their work safely.

Merritt expounded more on his concerns regarding tiling. Tile drains out all of the subsurface water from the soil, which lessens base flows during the winter months when fish and other biological life forms need the water. It is getting more crucial to maintain those low flows. VanOffelen said there are a number of studies being done at the present time regarding the effects of tiling.

Merritt questioned if any of the 12th Graders had plans to continue studying science when they go to college. Frederick said that the MPCA offers internships to students at the rate of \$12.50/hr. If anyone is interested, they can contact him for an application. Carlson said she started the River Watch program in 2002 to connect classroom studies with real science. She finds it very interesting to learn more about the program all the time. VanOffelen commented that they are currently revising the science standards. The RRBC is working with the State on the Clean Water Legacy. Frederick commented that he hoped more schools would start to participate with the River Watch program. The monitoring team from the RRWMB is having less and less time to do field sampling. The Bois de Sioux Watershed District has students in Traverse County collect their samples.

The River Watch presentation was completed at 7:45 PM.

Meeting Minutes. Draft minutes for the 4/20/06 PT meeting were distributed with today's agenda. **Motion** by Merritt to approve the minutes. **Seconded** by Frederick. **Approved.**

Comprehensive Planning. Henry VanOffelen, MCEA, was invited to tonight's meeting to discuss his work regarding the natural resource enhancement (nre) assessment that is being completed in conjunction with the BRRWD's overall plan update. The process was officially started in November 2004, when the BRRWD signed a grant agreement with BWSR. One of the tasks includes identification of past and present nre activities within the BRRWD. Task No. 8 is to identify nre priority problems and establish quantitative goals. A meeting was held on 6/16/05 at the BRRWD office in Barnesville to go through the seven sub-planning regions, and to identify and assess the natural resources in each area. VanOffelen attended the 10/20/05 PT meeting to give an update regarding the status of his work. Maps of existing, restorable, and priority natural resource areas are being developed. They will be used by the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) during the Plan's Phase 2 work. VanOffelen noted that he still had some work to do on the Lakes Sub-region, but it should be completed in the next several weeks.

VanOffelen distributed handouts regarding the planning worksheets, as well as a section on goals and objectives, for each of the subwatersheds. Questions on the planning worksheets include items such as: what important/significant natural resource features exist in this watershed, what factors limit the productivity and quality of these natural resource features, what unique resource features are located in this subwatershed, what are the opportunities to make larger blocks of habitat, where are there opportunities to connect existing quality habitats, where are there opportunities to rehabilitate streams or waterways, where are the known areas in this subwatershed where wildlife concentrate, what areas in the subwatershed have notable wind/water erosion problems, where are the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) acres concentrated, a listing of specific action items to create, rehabilitate, or generally improve the natural resources in a particular subwatershed, a listing of project opportunities for flood damage reduction (fdr) projects in a subwatershed, and a list/references for the natural resources within a subwatershed.

VanOffelen noted that for each subwatershed, there is a "Goals and Objectives" section. While the worksheets address goals and objectives on a subwatershed basis, they can be used for a rewrite of the entire Overall Plan. Albright commented that H.E. has about 95% of the hydrologic model completed. VanOffelen felt this was good. Many of the Watershed Districts he's worked with to date, did not have their hydrologic model when they were meeting with the CAC/TAC groups. VanOffelen said his history with the process is that all of the information interrelates. Albright said for each subwatershed, nre and fdr projects will be identified, scored, and ranked. Then an overall scoring sheet will be done for the entire BRRWD. Not all projects may have direct BRRWD involvement. For example, if

bufferstrips along the mainstem of the Buffalo River in Becker County are identified as one of the goals, the Becker SWCD may take the lead on this type of project. VanOffelen said the watershed planning should also tie in with county water plans, SWCD plans, local water plans, etc. The ultimate goal would be to have one plan for the entire watershed that would cover all concerns. This methodology is also being stressed by Waller.

VanOffelen just got some new information from the USFWS. He also has information from the DNR where they've identified wetland/grassland priority data. The USFWS also has their Duck Plan/Wetland model. For the most part, VanOffelen was surprised that we have as much grassland within the BRRWD as exists. He also noted that there are a lot of CRP acres. Depending on the Farm Program, some of these lands may be coming out in the near future. VanOffelen said CRP is an issue that can be factored into the hydrologic model. When this land comes out of CRP, it will definitely change the downstream hydrographs. The new Duck Plan completed by USFWS is great Graphic Information Systems (GIS) work, and this is something we can use in our planning effort. When the Bois de Sioux Watershed District completed their plan, this information was not available. The GIS mapping breaks things down into 40 acre parcels. Natural resource planning can identify priority natural resource areas. It can also identify water courses that need special attention. Cheryl Feigum, formerly with H.E., completed an index for the area, which will also be a useful tool. The *Red River Basin Stream Survey Report* for the BRRWD was completed in May 2003. This document talks about the watershed description, methods for completing the survey, results of the survey, and future recommendations. The report presents the results of sampling efforts conducted in the year 2000 in streams and waterways that lie within the BRRWD. Specifically, the report describes the landscape setting, presents and discusses the results of the sampling, identifies factors impacting aquatic resources, and outlines potential strategies to improve the condition of stream resources. All of the maps that will accompany VanOffelen's worksheets are still being developed. VanOffelen felt it would be good if we scheduled another meeting with the same group of people that met in June 2005 to review the goals and objectives sections, as well as the worksheets. VanOffelen would appreciate any feedback from the PT members regarding his work.

Albright said the BRRWD is getting ready to mail the TAC/CAC member invitations. Once the planning committees are identified, it will take approximately 12-18 months to complete the Phase 2 work. VanOffelen said Cliff McLain, City of Moorhead, should probably sit in on the discussions pertaining to the Buffalo Aquifer, since this is an important water supply source for the City of Moorhead.

There was some discussion regarding the number of ethanol plants that are currently being planned for Minnesota, in light of the high price of gas. Someone commented that it takes approximately 3 gallons of water to create one gallon of ethanol. Also, the food source used for ethanol is typically corn or soybeans. This could also enhance erosion and turbidity problems within the BRRWD's waterways.

After June 12, Albright said he could work with VanOffelen on setting up another meeting with the Natural Resource professionals to discuss the status of his work.

Project No. 54, Whisky Creek Tributaries. This project worked well during the 2006 spring flood. The impoundment site was close to full for 8-10 days. The Vertin WRP project filled with water, which never outletted to "west tributary". There was considerable flooding along the main stem of Whisky Creek (Clay County Ditch No. 34). No breakouts along the tributary project occurred. No water entered the site from Stony Creek. Albright said the site did experience some damage due to siltation, minor erosion, etc., because "east tributary" was only seeded late last fall. It's expected that

the counties will file a disaster claim with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The BRRWD will seek funding assistance from FEMA to make the repairs if allowable.

According to the project implementation process and procedures worksheet, this project is at Step 8, Monitoring. Wade Opsahl, Technician, H.E., is working on the monitoring report. Albright said the NRCS still needs to complete work on the Nichols WRP site east of Barnesville. This component will address many landowner concerns east of Interstate 94 (I-94) in the upstream portion of the project's watershed. Honeman said that they're rebidding the project, and weather permitting; hopefully the Nichol site can be constructed this summer.

Spring Prairie Township Erosion. The BRRWD still has not found time to meet with landowners of a potential detention site in Keene Township. Based on the preliminary engineering review, it appears that the site has limited potential because of gravel deposits, etc., in the area that are expected to be mined in the future. The site could also affect property within the Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD). The BRRWD is working with the Spring Prairie Colony on a possible lateral to Clay County Ditch No. 39, which is also the outlet for the natural waterway in Spring Prairie Township. This existing outlet becomes full of silt and the water is eroding the natural banks. In 1997, the water did break out at this location and then flowed west to Clay County Ditch No. 65. The intent of the project would be to restore the natural channel for a one mile stretch and to protect and armor the banks to prevent erosion and the breakouts.

Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration. Albright reviewed BWSR correspondence, where Ron Harnack, Director, BWSR, committed the use of Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) dollars to participate with the NRCS through their existing Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP) program for easements on this project. The addition of RIM dollars would get landowners close to the total payment similar to what other landowners received last year, before the NRCS changed the WRP/WREP appraisal process. NRCS would most likely need to do a 30-year WRP easement with a perpetual RIM easement to qualify for the funding. According to Waller, the current WRP cap per acre in Wilkin County is \$1,178 for a permanent easement. A thirty year easement is based on 75% of the cap, or \$883.50/acre. The RIM payment cannot exceed \$961.20/acre for cropland and \$640.80/acre for non-cropland areas. Waller feels that WRP and RIM could not exceed either the appraised value or the amount received by the other landowners within the project area. Albright has had several conversations with NRCS personnel who would like Donald Holubok to get his WRP application in before June 1, 2006. There is a risk that the State could lose some of the WRP/WREP funding they currently have if they cannot commit it to this project.

Albright noted the BRRWD is ready to finish the soil borings on the project. According to Merritt, the St. Paul DNR office can provide help with the observation well installation. They have a drilling rig that is suitable for installing wells in granular material. Back on 5/11/06, the operator was currently doing another job, but felt he could help us out. The rig is fairly big, so it won't access into wet soil areas very easily. Another option would be to install the observation wells with the assistance of Eric Mohring, BWSR.

At the last meeting, Albright said the group spent considerable time talking about the COE concurrence points, and if they should be used for this project. The benefits of using the process include reaching an agreement with COE regulatory staff at key stages in the FDR project development process before proceeding to the next stage. This should preclude the revisiting of project development decisions that are made prior to the submittal of a Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permit application. Consequently, the FDR/404 merger process could significantly

improve the progress and ultimate permitability of proposed projects. Jones said that he has been working on information for Concurrence Point 1, which is "Project Purpose and Need". The Manston Slough project has developed to a point where we could probably also address Concurrence Point 2, which is "An Array of Alternatives and Alternatives Carried Forward".

Frederick commented that he is working with a number of other watershed districts, who are trying to use the COE Concurrence Points. The COE seems to be getting hung up on the purpose and needs statements.

Schultz said that the DNR has completed appraisals for the Tom Arnhalt and C&H Farms properties. At this time, he cannot divulge what the values were. They came a little lower than he expected. Apparently, land that's entered into perpetual easements may not be worth quite as much as initially thought. However, if the landowner keeps out a 5-acre building site, etc., this increases the value of the entire tract.

Albright said we should find out after 5/22/06, when the Legislature is scheduled to adjourn, how we fair regarding the bonding bill. Presently, the bonding bill has \$1.5 million in it for the development of this project.

Project No. 58, Riverton Township Retention. The draft Engineer's Report was forwarded to Brain Winter, TNC, on 5/08/06. The BRRWD is currently waiting for his review and response, which will be incorporated into the final document. The bonding bill did include \$230,000 for project development. BRRWD Chairman Roger Ellefson remains optimistic that project construction could start later this fall.

Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation Project. A landowner informational meeting was held on 5/11/06 at the Moorhead Armory. Approximately 100 people attended. The BRRWD has a meeting scheduled with the Appraiser for 5/26/06 to start the buyout process. Approximately 21 homeowners are interested in a buyout. The homes are located either in the floodplain or in areas that cannot be protected because of their proximity to the Red River. Albright anticipated that it will take the Appraiser about 60 days to complete his work.

Project No. 60, Swede Grove Lake Outlet. On 5/18/06, at the request of Scott Kahan, USFWS, Jones forwarded information about the project to Bob Usgaard, Ducks Unlimited (DU). An agency meeting was held in 3/24/06 with representatives from the USFWS and DNR to discuss the project. There appears to be an interest in lowering the lake to provide for flood control and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitats. The next step for the BRRWD will be to schedule an informational meeting with all of the project landowners. Albright thought that a meeting could be held sometime during June. Albright said he was recently contacted by a real estate agent in the Twin Cities area, who had read on a blog involving Minnesota waters that there were attempts underway to completely drain Swede Grove Lake. Of course, this information is false. The real estate developer was trying to sell lake lots around Swede Grove Lake.

Buffalo River Levees. Albright has recently talked with the landowner on the north side of the Buffalo River, Harmon Tande, who is still concerned about erosion and flooding. In 2005, the BRRWD made two attempts to meet with landowners in this area. The meetings were poorly attended. There was considerable erosion and flooding in this area again during the 2006 spring flood.

Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee Restoration. The last sub-committee PT meeting was held on 3/16/06. At that meeting, H.E.'s 2/27/06 preliminary investigation report was reviewed. More information is needed to make a complete analysis for this area. The BRRWD is currently exploring the establishment of a storm water utility area in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Annotated (M. S. A.) 103D.729, which allows Watershed Districts to build, construct, reconstruct, repair, enlarge, improve, or in any other manner obtain storm water systems, including mains, holding areas, and ponds, and related facilities for the collection and disposal of storm water. It also allows them to maintain and operate the facilities and acquire land and easements. Waller has recently furnished the BRRWD office with more information regarding the setup of a storm water utility area. The BRRWD would like to setup an assessment area for Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee, to establish a tax base for funding to finish the necessary survey work, as well as to complete minor maintenance while the study is ongoing, such as beaver dam removal, cattail spraying, etc.

Albright said at the 3/16/06 sub-committee PT meeting, the need to establish gauging stations on the coulee was discussed. Albright will work with H.E. regarding this issue.

Lawndale Trout Stream Restoration. Albright received an e-mail earlier today from Arlin Schalekamp, DNR Fisheries, Fergus Falls, regarding the status of the Lawndale Creek Restoration project. If this project is funded in the next fiscal year (July 06), Schalekamp remains optimistic that construction could begin in the fall of 2007. The DNR recently met with one of the main project landowners, Dave Yaggie, to resolve the water appropriation issue. They presented him an offer to cost share on a well in exchange for an easement to protect some native prairie he owns, which adjoins the Atherton Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Yaggie would like to link the well/easement offer to abandonment of Wilkin County Ditch No. 40 along his property. Albright said the BRRWD has pretty much decided that they don't want to abandon the ditch in this area, as it will be used as an overflow in the future once the channel is rerouted across the WMA.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) II. To date, neither the House of Representatives nor the Senate has allocated any funding for this program during the 2006 Minnesota Legislative Session. On 5/02/06, Waller reported that an update regarding CREP II was presented to the BWSR Board on 4/26/06 in St. Paul. Consensus of the program participants is that although they've had some signups, the payment rates are not in step with competing options. BWSR will be taking this under advisement and will work with the Governor and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to address this issue. The Farm Bill Assistance project will be fully funded for the period July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007. Future funding for both the Farm Bill Assistance Project and CREP II will be contingent on progress made between now and the end of the year, as well as the outcome of the 2007 Legislative Session. Governor Pawlenty recommended \$30.5 million for this program through the 2006 Legislative Session. The net result is that agencies need to use the existing \$20 million we currently have for CREP II by end of this year to be in good position for future 2007 Legislative funding.

International Water Institute (IWI) Grant Application. The River Center for Watershed Education has proposed a grant application entitled "Student Science Adventures (SSA): Building Tomorrow's Scientific Community". The National Science Foundation is seeking projects that focus on sustainable partnerships of formal and informal education providers, business/industry, and colleges of education to expose students to innovative out-of-school learning experiences that demonstrate effective synergies within school curricula. The IWI and partners will engage students from rural schools through out-of-school time education activities that are linked with existing school curricula and basin-wide programs including River of Dreams, River Watch, Water Festivals, Red River and New Teacher

Institute, and Adopt A River. The IWI is currently looking for letters of support for their application, which is due by 5/31/06. Anyone interested in more information can contact Chuck Fritz, Director, IWI.

Activities Update. Albright distributed a copy of the 5/08/06 meeting press release. That particular meeting focused on dealing with a number of pending permit applications. The Board recently awarded a contract to Allstate Excavating for Project No. 51, Clay County Ditch No. 68-Establishment. This will be a new legal drainage system on the west side of the City of Glyndon, which will also provide fdr benefits. The area in question is DNR protected waters. The BRRWD is currently working on a three mile repair of Clay County Ditch No. 41 in the Moorhead/Dilworth area. That work is being done in conjunction with an upstream project proposed by the City of Moorhead for flood control along I-94. The BRRWD remains optimistic that they will get their levy increase per M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3. Representative Lanning has offered the bill in the House and Senator Langseth the same in the Senate to triple the amount that is currently raised using this taxing authority for the BRRWD. Right now, we're looking at a 5-year period for the levy increase. The BRRWD is seeking the legislation because of a shortage of funds. The BRRWD has not been a member of the RRWMB since 2003. If approved, the additional funding will need to be petitioned for by a political subdivision or 50 residents of the district. Without the levy increase, the BRRWD will need to cut back on some of their activities such as water quality monitoring, log jam removal, etc.

Next Meeting. Albright said we'll try to get back on schedule for the regular June meeting; however, the fourth Thursday in June is also the same day as the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Summer Tour in Alexandria. Therefore, the next meeting of the BRRWD's Mediation PT will be held on Thursday, June 29, 2006, at 7:00 PM at the MSUM Science Center. The meeting in July is currently scheduled for the 7/27/06.

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the group, Albright adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Prepared and Submitted by

Bruce E. Albright, BRRWD Administrator