

BUFFALO-RED RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

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MEDIATION PROJECT TEAM MINUTES

June 21, 2007

The Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) Mediation Project Team (PT) held a meeting on Thursday, June 21, 2007, at 7:30 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; Don Buckhout, Red River Basin Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR); Erik S. Jones, Engineer, H.E.; Steve Hofstad, Clay County Water Planner and Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Administrator; Shawn May, Detroit Lakes Wetland Management District (WMD) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); Jack Frederick, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA); Robert G. Merritt, Area Hydrologist, DNR; Don Schultz, Area Wildlife Manager, DNR; Dave Barsness, Fisheries Specialist, DNR; Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD and USFWS; and Pete Waller, Board Conservationist, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

Members absent were: Brian Dwight, Board Conservationist, BWSR; Audubon Dakota; Craig O. Evans, PM-D, United States Army Corps of Engineers (COE); 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); Michael T. Murphy; Manager, Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and USFWS (retired); Richard Pemble, BRRWD Citizen Advisory Committee; Maynard Pick, Staff Assistant, Congressman Collin Peterson's Office; Gerald L. VanAmburg, BRRWD Manager; Brian Winter, Program Director, The Nature Conservancy (TNC); Robert A. Zimmerman, Engineer, City of Moorhead; and Kevin Kassenborg, District Manager, Clay SWCD.

Albright called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. He thanked everyone for their attendance. The BRRWD's Mediation PT has been meeting once every two months. Many of the current projects have been on the meeting agenda for quite some time. The Mediation PT will be more active as we progress on the Overall Plan. Our last meeting was held on 4/25/07.

Business brought before the group included:

Meeting Minutes. Draft minutes for the 4/25/07 PT meeting were distributed with today's agenda. Albright noted that at the last meeting, we did spend some time with a group of landowners from Skree Township, who were concerned about a proposed hog facility that would have been located in the E½, Section 20, Skree Township, Clay County. Clay County Planning and Zoning held a hearing on 5/15/07. At that time, the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) was tabled. Since then, it was found out that the facility was "legally exempt" from completing an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). Clay County Planning and Zoning met again on 6/19/07 where they voted to deny the request. The

next step for the proposer will be to decide if he wishes to appeal their decision. He has 30 days to file this appeal. The appeal would go before the Clay County Board of Commissioners. If denied at that level, the next step would be for the proposer to take the matter to district court. **Motion** by Hofstad to approve the 4/25/07 meeting minutes. **Seconded** by Barsness. **Approved.**

Project No. 54, Whisky Creek Tributaries. This project is in the monitoring and evaluation phase. It was essentially completed in the fall of 2005. After the 2006 spring flooding, parts of the project qualified for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) repairs. That work was completed this spring by the original project contractor, Dennis Drewes, Inc. On 5/22/07, the repaired area received approximately a 4" rainfall, and many of the repairs washed out again. We will wait until this fall to complete the repairs for a third time. Several of the landowners involved with the impoundment site located in Section 14, Barnesville Township, have expressed an interest in working with the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) II. Albright said he met with Doug Thomas, Assistant Director, BWSR, on 6/19/07. Thomas indicated that applications will have a mid-September deadline. Some landowners are waiting for new soil rental rates, which will be published by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) on 8/01/07. Hofstad indicated that Donald Griffin, the landowner on the west side of the impoundment site, who has the emergency spillway and outlet on his property, might also be interested in CREP II. Don Buckhout questioned what level of protection the landowners were looking for by signing up for the program. Waller said that the landowners are interested in Conservation Practice (CP) 34. They are looking at the two-year flood elevation level. Earlier this year, the BRRWD worked with the USFWS regarding a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) application. Right now, Shawn May said they are in the middle of the Grant application review process, but rumors are that it looks like the Detroit Lakes WMD's application will be funded. They had eight applications, and it looks like they'll be able to fund all of the proposals. The bufferstrips on Project No. 54 were included in that request.

Albright said he drove the area following the 5/22/07 rainfall event. Most project aspects looked like they were working as designed. The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) project in Section 10, Barnesville Township, was full to capacity, but there was no water coming out the principal spillway. The impoundment site in Section 14 filled to capacity, but no water exited the site via the emergency spillway. No water went over County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 52, and it appears that the waters in "west tributary" were being handled in accordance with the design. Buckhout questioned if the FSA has made their final ruling regarding the use of CP34. Waller said this was done approximately four months ago. Waller said the other area in the Red River Valley that's looking at the use of CP34, is the Red Lake Watershed District and their Brandt impoundment. To use CP34, there is a federal environmental review process that must be followed. Waller said there's another area in Stevens County where they're looking at a possible 320-acre parcel along 12-Mile Creek.

NRCS has taken bids for the Section 21, Humboldt Township, WRP site. The area now needs to dry, and a local Barnesville contractor was the low bidder. Landowners downstream of that site have been anxious to see it completed, as it will add and enhance the original project features. Time permitting, Wade Opsahl, Technician, H.E., will follow up on the annual monitoring to review the various project features.

Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration. A heavy rainfall event inundated the area on June 3-4, 2007. Ellefson asked H.E. to survey elevations of the flood pool. It appeared that there was more water being held south of CSAH No. 26 than on the north end of the proposed impoundment site. The

BRRWD has acquired the Donald Holubok property, located in the SE¼, Section 30, Manston Township. Waller said that in order for BWSR to process the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) application, they will need a copy of the deed. Albright said he would furnish the information. The DNR is still working on acquisition of the Arnhalt and C. & H. Farms properties. The landowners are waiting to sign the BRRWD easement before selling the property to the DNR. Schultz said that their appraisal is usually good for a 6-month period. Once the landowners accept the offer, the option to purchase would then be good for one year. Albright said that Lee Markel, DNR, has contacted the BRRWD office and would like to see a map of the proposed project site. The BRRWD also intends to sell a WRP easement to the NRCS on the Holubok property. Albright said the BRRWD has been very busy, but our next step will be to develop the easement options. The actual easement is attached to the option as an exhibit. Once these forms are developed in "draft" format, Albright will send them to Schultz and Brennan for review and comment. This project is a little more complicated than a normal project, since most landowners have already enrolled their land in WRP.

A 5/27/07 letter from Kevin Brennan, USFWS, was discussed. The USFWS had a regional and engineering office review of the preliminary construction plans and offered a number of comments. They questioned the dam's classification. The emergency spillway is set based on a 50-year storm event and a Class II hazard dam. While in another place in the Engineer's Report, an analysis supports a Class III classification. They are concerned that the Class II dam analysis was used to raise the dikes for more flood water retention when it is not necessary and conflicts with National Wildlife Refuge System compatibility policy. The USFWS would like to see the classification be Class III. This would avoid the additional flooding of uplands used by nesting waterfowl, as well as other species of wildlife, lower construction costs, and avoid an unnatural "square lagoon" appearance. In addition, providing storage of the 100-year event in Manston Slough would decrease, if not eliminate, the incentive for the upstream water retention aspects identified in the original project plan. They also felt that since this project's purpose is management of wetland dependent wildlife habitat, the report should mention various drawdowns scenarios, and what are the various reflooding scenarios. The Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Agreement discusses refilling the pool to one-third to one-half-full to encourage aquatic plant growth. The hydrology to maintain these scenarios needs to be discussed in the Engineer's Report. The Report should also address and discuss the anticipated bounce in the water elevations over the operating pool (elevation 972.00) during the nesting season (April 1-July 31). While the USFWS has indicated that borrow sites could come from their property, they would like no borrow sites deeper than 2' from the surrounding natural terrain to obtain a winter kill of invasive fish. Initially, we identified the need to do additional work in the upstream 26.5 square mile (sq. mi.) drainage area. They felt this aspect of the project should be covered more thoroughly in the Engineer's Report. There are a number of other specific corrections and/or changes. Albright said that Mike Love and Rick St. Germain, Engineers, H.E., are formulating a response to Brennan's letter

On 5/11/07, Albright and St. Germain met with Thomas G. Richels, Engineer, Wilkin County. He didn't have any problems with work involving either CSAH No. 26 or County Road (C.R.) No. 172 (230th ST) on the south end of the project. Initially, H.E. had designed 4:1 inslopes on CSAH No. 26, beginning at Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 9 and extending west for approximately 1.5 miles. Richels felt we only needed 4:1 inslopes wherever the permanent pool will meet the road slope. This will shorten up the amount of work needed along CSAH No. 26, helping lower project costs. He has also agreed to open cutting CSAH No. 26 to install the principal spillway between the south and north pools. Brennan said that during the June rainfall event, water from the south end of the project area was flowing south to Wilkin County Ditch No. 6A. Albright said the Southern Region Revised

Watershed Management Plan (RWMP) meeting will be held on 6/26/07 in Barnesville. He hoped that some of the landowners from the Manston Slough project area would be in attendance. This might be a good chance to discuss upstream flood damage reduction (fdr) and natural resource enhancement (nre) opportunities.

Brennan questioned the status of O & M in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreements. Both documents were updated on 3/20/07. Brennan felt that the NRCS needs to be a party to both documents. He suggested a teleconference to discuss their involvement. He cautioned the BRRWD that actually getting both documents signed will take some time at the federal level. He didn't want the USFWS to be the ones holding up the project later on if we don't start that process shortly. Frederick questioned the status of the pre-project monitoring. Albright said that for the last two years, the Barnesville River Watch Team has been collecting water samples at the outlet on Wilkin County Ditch No. 13-Lateral. The Engineer's Report does have a tentative monitoring plan in it. He felt it was time to start looking at what needs to be done to gather any data about the project before it's actually constructed.

Project No. 58, Riverton Township Retention. As discussed earlier, it looks like the Detroit Lakes WMD's NAWCA application will be approved. A good part of that application was the wetland restorations on an approximate 1,300-acre parcel, purchased by TNC from the Williams Family. Albright said that Appraisers are currently looking at benefits and damages for the project. Once they file their report, the next step for the BRRWD will be to schedule the Final Hearing in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Annotated (M. S. A.) 103D.745. At this time, no date for the Final Hearing has been set. Albright hopes to hold the Final Hearing sometime in mid-August. After the Final Hearing, the Engineer and Appraisers may need to look at issues brought forth by anyone who's affected by the project. Assuming the BRRWD makes an order to construct the project, the order would be subject to a 30-day appeal period. The appeal period would need to expire before the BRRWD could open construction bids. If everything goes well, the BRRWD could look at opening construction bids sometime in September. Most likely, specifications for this project would call for completion of all work by sometime in 2008. Albright questioned if May was aware of Winter's timeframe for completing the upland wetland restorations. May said that any work pertaining to the NAWCA application would probably occur in 2008. On 6/12/07, representatives from the BRRWD met with the Riverton Township Board of Supervisors. Their road on the east side of Section 28 will need to be used for the inlet spillway. We also discussed a possible "no-build" floodplain management agreement for the W $\frac{1}{2}$, Section 28. This is one of the items that the engineer and TNC have mentioned. At a minimum, if houses are constructed in this area, they should be built at an elevation higher than T.H. 9. The Township Board of Supervisors voted to support the project, and the BRRWD office will prepare an Agreement for their review and signature. At the last BRRWD meeting, the Board approved installation of a staff gauge that will be installed on the east side of T.H. 9 to start recording water levels. Fredericks suggested that perhaps we could check with the Hawley River Watch Team to see if they might gather water quality samples.

Albright said the BRRWD office has been contacted Jeff Johnson, who owns the E $\frac{1}{2}$, Section 30, Riverton Township, Clay County. This area is located approximately 1.5 miles west of the proposed impoundment site in Section 28. Johnson is interested in working with the BRRWD on another possible water retention area. Hofstad had a map of the area, showing the wetlands on the tract as identified through the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI). Areas shown in blue on the map have hydric soils. According to the map, the site is quite wet. The group felt this might be a good area for

an additional holding area on Clay County Ditch No. 12. Albright said he expects more information about the site will come forward at the Central Region RWMP meeting, which is now scheduled for 7/19/07 in Barnesville. Albright also noted that the BRRWD is working with Hofstad in accordance with the WCA regarding 0.46 acres of wetland impacts that will be experienced on the development of Project No. 58, Riverton Township Retention. The BRRWD has wetland credits in the BWSR bank that they intend to use as mitigation.

Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation Project. Albright said that Ulteig Engineers, Inc. (UEI) is currently working on the dike alignment. There are a number of factors that are being considered regarding the dike alignment, including impacts to the coulee, soil stability, and hydrology. The project's goal is to maintain the 100-flood elevation for the Red River in the project area. Waller questioned how the 5/03/07 auction went regarding the sale of 13 homes acquired by the BRRWD. Albright said that it went quite well. The proceeds were higher than the BRRWD had anticipated. The home buyers have until 10/01/07 to remove the buildings. The BRRWD would like to complete the appraisal process later this fall, and hold a final hearing sometime this winter. The DNR has been issuing grant amendments in the amount of \$1 million for the project as it develops. We have currently spent approximately \$3 million for the initial project design and buyouts. The next opportunity for project funding will be in the 2008 bonding bill. If everything goes as planned, the BRRWD would like to begin project construction in the summer of 2008. A Steering Committee meeting was held on 5/30/07. At that meeting, the group discussed the current funding status, a development schedule, which includes the BRRWD legal process, as well as property acquisition status. The next engineering steps were also discussed, which includes the development of easement options and permits. An EAW will be required for the project. The next meeting for Project No. 49 will be a Technical Committee meeting where wetlands and hydrology in the Oakport Coulee will be discussed.

Project No. 60, Swede Grove Lake Outlet. The BRRWD recently completed the new Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction WorkGroup (RRBFDRWG) Project Compatibility and Readiness form. This was reviewed with the RRBFDRWG on 5/24/07. They had questions regarding the "game lake" designation that would be needed to lower the lake below the Ordinary High Water (OHW) elevation. Merritt felt that the BRRWD would need to take conservation easements from the affected landowners. Ron Harnack, the former Executive Director of BWSR, said he has been through this process and felt it can be quite time consuming. Dave Barsness said that his office has recently taken some calls from people who are fishing on the lake, and said that it has been quite good. The RRBFDRWG felt that the project would not be ready for funding until the 2009 funding cycle. The BRRWD has questioned landowners' interest in this project. Merritt said that a hearing would be required to make the "game lake" designation. The purpose of the hearing is to provide information to the DNR Commissioner as to whether or not a permit should be issued for the change. The group discussed several other lakes in the State that have gone through the "game lake" designation. There was a project proposed approximately 20 years ago on Upper Lightning Lake in Otter Tail County. To date, that project is still not completed. Clay County would like to see the lake lowered enough so that they can protect C.R. 37. Merritt said he has not been directly involved with the game lake process, but felt this is something that we could start in the near future if the BRRWD is interested in a project for Swede Grove Lake. Albright felt that unless there is state funding assistance to help construct the project, locals, including Clay County, are not interested in spending approximately \$300,000 for the project. Some of the added costs occurred once we started discussing nre benefits for the lake. Barsness said the DNR would still like to see some type of fish control barrier installed at the

outlet so that fish don't migrate into Swede Grove Lake from the Buffalo River. For now, this project is basically on hold with the BRRWD. We can submit it for funding in the 2008 bonding bill, if we can find local support.

Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee Restoration. The area has been too wet for Luther Aadland, Stream Restoration/Habitat Specialist, DNR, to do his analysis regarding locating sites for rock riffles downstream of T.H. 75. H.E. has finished compiling the survey for this area downstream of T.H. 75, which included the County's LiDAR work, a BWSR Global Positioning Station (GPS) survey last winter, and floodplain mapping. Aadland intends to use this area for one of his stream restoration workshops in August 2007. Frederick noted that MPCA has stopped monitoring for water quality data on Wolverton Creek. At this time, they only have one year's worth of data. It takes two years' worth of data for the area can be listed as "impaired waters". With the data that has been obtained to date, it is questionable if Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee will be added to the impaired waters list in 2008. Albright said there was good discussion about Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee at the Western Region RWMP planning meeting, held in Comstock on 4/03/07. The Clay and Wilkin SWCDs used the meeting to discuss their Clean Water Legacy (CWL) grant. The funding will be used to develop a project that will focus on the Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee watershed area. The area has a history of water problems dating back to 1963, when there was a Public Law (PL) 566 project proposed for the area. The two SWCDs have approximately \$289,000 available to work on the project. The first phase of the project will focus on the channel degradation that is occurring near the outlet to the Red River of the North, downstream of T.H. 75. The channel degradation is caused by the lack of a defined channel, channel erosion, beaver dams, and flood damage. The proposed solutions may include in channel rock stabilization structures, bank stabilization measures, and bufferstrip establishment. A timeline for the grant is June 2009. Albright said the flows in Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee are quite "flashy" in nature, which is caused by rainfall/runoff events. The two SWCDs have questioned where contractors will get rock to build the proposed grade stabilization structures west of T.H. 75. They would like to complete the installation of the rock grade stabilization structures in 2007, and they are counting on Aadland to do the design in the near future.

Fredericks said that the Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) will start the Surface Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) modeling for the "upper" Red River Basin, which will include Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee. Waller said the two SWCDs are also looking at side inlet controls and bufferstrips for the upstream drainage area. The drainage area for Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee is approximately 100 sq. mi.

Lawndale Trout Stream Restoration. Schultz said there have been some minor problems regarding the EAW to relocate the trout stream across the Atherton Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Sections 34 and 35, Atherton Township, Wilkin County. The DNR is still be interested in acquiring Dave Yaggie's property in Section 34, Atherton Township. Rerouting the water flows that normally go through Wilkin County Ditch No. 40 across the WMA will eliminate the majority of the water under normal flows that currently goes west in Wilkin County Ditch No. 40. David Yaggie has a DNR permit to irrigate from County Ditch No. 40. The DNR is still looking at ways to furnish his water supply. Any issues regarding the irrigation permit will need to be dealt with by Terry Lejcher, Area Hydrologist, Fergus Falls DNR.

Grove Lake Outlet. The BRRWD held a second informational meeting with the Grove Lake landowners on 6/19/07. A similar meeting was held last fall on 10/30/06. Landowners around Grove Lake are still interested in seeing a project that would lower their water levels 2'-3'. The lake is probably at an all time high, given the recent rainfall events. The lake is located in northwestern Otter

Tail County. An outlet for Grove Lake would be to drain the water into Maple Lake, which currently outlets to Whisky Creek. It appears that we may also need to work with the Otter Tail Planning and Zoning Commission, as a CUP may be required for the project. The outlet would have the potential to drain approximately 7-8 cubic feet per second (cfs) from the lake. A landowner who lives on the outlet of Maple Lake, attended the 6/19/07 informational meeting, and said he was not interested in the project. The BRRWD is currently trying to meet with him to discuss his concerns. Since the 6/19/07 meeting, the BRRWD has learned that Maple Lake may also be several feet higher than normal. In order to drain Grove Lake into Maple Lake, the outlet from Maple Lake may need to be repaired. Barsness said that the fishing in Grove Lake has been exceptionally good. He questioned if we could get concerns from area landowners if the lake is lowered, and eventually winter kills because of poor oxygen conditions. Barsness said there is no fisheries management going on regarding Grove Lake from the Fergus Falls DNR office. Someone at the meeting mentioned that there are brook trout in Whisky Creek. If there are, Brennan felt this may be worth investigating. Barsness commented that since the informational meeting, he did discuss the brook trout issue with Arlin Schalekamp, Fisheries Manager, Fergus Falls DNR office. Schalekamp said there are no brook trout in Whisky Creek. A project for this area would need to include a maintenance component to deal with downstream beaver problems, which historically have been a problem on Whisky Creek. Albright said the RRBFDWRWG Project Compatibility and Readiness form was also completed for this project. The RRBFDWRWG recommended that the project would be ready for funding in the 2008 bonding cycle. The RRBFDWRWG did not take a position on the project, as they felt that unless it has an Operating Plan, it would be of no benefit to the Red River Basin. They did suggest that the BRRWD work with downstream landowners on other possible fdr and nre sites along Whisky Creek. At the meeting held last fall, we included landowners from a number of lakes that are upstream of Grove Lake, including Pete and Rankler Lakes. At that time, the landowners indicated they were not interested in a project. There was some support at the 6/19/07 informational meeting to include an outlet for Rankler Lake with the Grove Lake project. The BRRWD's position is that Grove Lake will be the outlet for all of the other upstream lakes, so that the first phase should be to develop an outlet for Grove Lake. Frederick suggested that a Technical Committee be formed to meet to discuss this project. The MPCA could have downstream water quality concerns, including low dissolved oxygen, especially if the project were operated during the winter months.

Kragnes Ringdike. H.E. is working on a revised plan for the Kragnes ringdike. The project involves two ringdikes: one around the White House, located on the east side of T.H. 75 and one around the Kragnes community surrounded by C.R. 96, CSAH No. 26, and T.H. 75. The revised Flood Insurance Base Flood (100-year) elevation for Kragnes is approximately 892.5. The purposed ringdikes are anticipated to provide approximately 100-year protection to the properties within them. The peak 2006 flood elevation near C.R. 96 just east of T.H. 75 was approximately 892. Albright said the BRRWD has received a grant from the DNR in the amount of \$57,438, or approximately 50% of the estimated project costs. The next step will be to appoint Appraisers to assess benefits and damages in accordance with Watershed Law. Once that's completed, the BRRWD can look at scheduling the Final Hearing. The BRRWD would like to complete construction of this project in 2007, if everything goes well.

Comprehensive Planning. The initial Kickoff meeting with the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was held on 2/27/07. Since then, we've completed a number of the regional planning meetings, including the Western Region (4/30/07), the Moorhead Region (5/10/07), the Northern Region (5/22/07), and the Lakes Region (4/24/07). Upcoming meetings include the Southern Region (6/26/07), the Central Region (7/19/07) and the Mainstem

Region (7/31/07). The BRRWD will be asking BWSR for a grant extension until 12/31/08 to complete the planning process. Once the regional meetings are completed, the next step will be to convene CAC/TAC meetings to start looking at problem solutions. The BRRWD would like to have the draft plan completed by 4/30/08.

CREP II. As previously discussed, BWSR would like to have all applications in by 9/01/07 for the RIM part of the CREP II program. For a variety of reasons, primarily payment rates, landowners have not expressed much interest in this program. It appears that local SWCDs within the BRRWD each may have one or two applications. The biggest interest to date, has been the CP34 program, associated with the Whisky Creek Tributaries and the impoundment site in Section 14, Barnesville Township.

Activities Update. Albright distributed a copy of the 6/11/07 meeting press release. Three Managers plan to attend the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Summer Tour, which will be hosted this year by the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District in Maplewood, MN. The tour is scheduled for June 28-30. Merritt commented that according to the DNR's records, the Red River Basin has been the wettest part of the State for the last 3-4 years. The recent rainfall events that occurred in May and early June 2007 have caused numerous problems for residents of the District.

Fall Tour. Albright said that the Fall Tour is tentatively scheduled for 9/21/07, which is a Friday. He questioned if Fridays worked for agency personnel. He also noted that last year, he had to leave the tour earlier because his son was involved with a football game. He expected the same would hold true this year. The group agreed to move the tour to Thursday, September 20, 2007. Albright felt it was still early enough to make that change. Other invited guests will include SWCD Supervisors, local politicians, County Commissioners, and agency personnel. Typically, 45-50 people attend. Last year's tour began at the Ponderosa Golf Course and went east to look at other parts of the BRRWD. Most likely, Albright felt that this year, the tour would begin in Barnesville.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the BRRWD's Mediation PT is scheduled for Thursday, August 23, 2007, at 7:30 PM in the MSUM Science Center. Notices and a meeting agenda will be mailed. No meeting will be held in September because of the Fall Tour. Our next regular meeting date would be 10/25/07.

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the group, Albright adjourned the meeting at 9:57 PM.

Respectfully Prepared and Submitted by

Bruce E. Albright, BRRWD Administrator