

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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"Local Watershed Has Quiet Meeting"

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), took approximately 3 hours to go through their three page agenda at their 2/26/07 meeting held in Barnesville. There was no audience attendees.

Business included:

- Approved permits to the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the resurfacing and overlay of the west bound lane of Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 10 between Hawley and Lake Park; the Clay County Highway Department to replace a bridge on County Ditch No. 12 between Sections 27 and 28, Glyndon Township; and Aggregate Industries to install a crossing with two 36" dia. culverts to access a proposed gravel pit in the S1/2SE1/4, Section 29, Keene Township, Clay County.
- Noting that the field survey work for a possible outlet for Grove Lake in northwestern Otter Tail County has been completed. Houston Engineering, Inc. (H.E.) is currently working on plotting the information.
- Noting that the office will schedule a preliminary hearing regarding improvements to Clay County Ditch No. 11-N. The work area is located along County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 8 in Section 32, Kurtz Township. A meeting was held last week with the County Highway Committee who has concerns regarding their road. They have plans to move CSAH No. 8 to the north, possibly in 2008. They questioned if the two projects could be combined.
- Noting that at the 2/21/07 meeting with the Clay County Highway Committee, the possible outlet for Swede Grove Lake was discussed. The County was the project petitioner. Several features have now been added to the project design, which provides flood damage reduction (fdr) and natural resource enhancement (nre). The County felt the BRRWD should submit the project to the State of Minnesota for possible funding assistance. Downstream landowners will also be contacted regarding easement options.
- Considerable discussion took place regarding a proposed project in Section 28, Riverton Township, located on The Nature Conservancy (TNC) property. H.E. submitted a revised cost estimate totaling \$794,460. The BRRWD has proposed a 50/25/25 split of the costs with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources/BRRWD/assessment to benefited properties. The easement option will be sent to TNC for signing. H.E. will analyze the project's downstream benefits to Clay County Ditch No. 12.
- Noting that Bonds will be sold on 2/27/07 for financing Project No. 51, Clay County Ditch No. 68-Establishment in the City of Glyndon and Project No. 57, Moorhead/I-94 Flood Control. The total bond sale was \$475,000. The funds will be remitted to the BRRWD on 3/27/07.
- Noting that the next step for the Manston Slough Project will be contacting landowners regarding their easement options. H.E. is finalizing work regarding the option exhibits. The BRRWD plans to give a project presentation to the Wilkin County Board of Commissioners on 3/13/07.
- Discussed the status of the Oakport Flood Mitigation project. The BRRWD is currently working with landowners on buyouts. Ulteig Engineers, Inc. is surveying the dike alignment. A tentative date of May 3, 2007, has been set with Pifer's Auction and Realty to sell homes acquired by the BRRWD.

2/28/07 BRRWD News Release (cont.)

- Noting that Sellin Brothers, Inc., will install the Long Lake siphon valve on 2/27/07 for the Turtle Lake Outlet project. Plans are to restart the Long Lake siphon.
- Approval to send a letter to Representatives Paul Marquart and Kent Eken regarding their sponsorship of a bill to fund farmstead ringdikes in the Red River Valley in 2008/2009. The current bill's wording allocates the funding to the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB).
- Noting that the BRRWD held an informational meeting on 2/19/07 with landowners regarding Branch No. 4 of Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch No. 1. They have requested an improvement/extension. The office is currently working on a petition. The project area is located in Section 12, Wolverton Township, and Section 7, Deerhorn Township, Wilkin County.
- Noting that Managers plan to attend the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Legislative Breakfast in St. Paul on March 14-15, 2007.
- Noting that Managers plan to attend the 9th Annual Joint Conference of the RRWMB and Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction WorkGroup, scheduled for March 29, 2007 at the Northland Inn, Crookston, MN.
- A Kickoff meeting for the BRRWD's Comprehensive Plan Update will be held on 2/27/07 in Barnesville. Approximately 15-20 meetings will be held throughout the next 12 to 15 months to complete the planning effort. The next meeting is scheduled for late March 2007. It will be held in one of the seven sub-regions identified within the BRRWD as a separate planning unit.
- Contributing \$200 to the Barnesville River Watch Team to cover meals and lodging expenses associated with their attendance at the upcoming International Water Institute Conference in Grand Forks.
- Approval to send a repair proposal to a landowner who accidentally burned a bridge last fall on Clay County Ditch No. 32 in Section 15, Kurtz Township. The total repairs are estimated to cost \$2,900.
- The BRRWD permit application, ditch repair request form, and other district information is now available at <http://www.brrwd.org>.

The next meeting of the Board of Managers, BRRWD, is scheduled for Monday, March 12, 2007, at 8:00 PM in the Barnesville office. All meetings are open to the public.