

# ***BUFFALO-RED RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT***

BARNESVILLE, MINNESOTA 56514

1303 4th AVE NE  
Email: general@brrwd.org

PO BOX 341

PHONE 218-354-7710  
Website: www.brrwd.org

---

## **MINUTES FOR MANAGERS' MEETING**

August 12, 2019

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held a regular meeting on Monday, August 12, 2019, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. BRRWD Managers present were Jay A. Leitch, Mark T. Anderson, John E. Hanson, Peter V. Fjestad, Troy E. Larson, Catherine L. Affield, and Gerald L. Van Amburg. BRRWD staff attending included: Bruce E. Albright, BRRWD Administrator, Kathleen K. Fenger, Assistant Administrator, and Erik S. Jones, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI). Others attending included Joel Fremstad, Attorney, Fremstad Law; Stephen Hanson, Associate Attorney, Ohnstad Twitchell; and landowners Ed Askegaard, Lynn Brakke, Jay Nord, John Ready, Don Nelson, and Chuck Anderson.

BRRWD President Leitch called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and announced that the proceedings were being video recorded to aid in the preparation of the minutes.

**Agenda.** President Leitch asked for comments or additions to the meeting agenda. Jones, Albright, and Leitch all had discussion items to add. With those changes, **motion** by Anderson to approve the agenda. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

**Secretary's Report.** The Board reviewed draft minutes for the 7/22/19 regular meeting. **Motion** by Van Amburg to approve the minutes. Leitch noted one minor correction. **Seconded** by Manager Fjestad. **Approved.**

**Treasurer's Report.** The Board reviewed the BRRWD's monthly financial statements, including the project account balance sheet, administrative disbursements, and summary of income. Cash on hand is \$2,398,415.51. Current 2019 accounts receivable are \$5,024,993. Administrative disbursements this month equal \$29,520.95, and for the year, total \$199,754.71. Total income this year is \$2,358,657.52. Income received since the 7/8/19 meeting totaled \$27,837.70, including \$806.58 from Otter Tail County for current and delinquent ditch/property tax proceeds; \$19,552.42 from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for reimbursement from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) Upper South Branch of the Buffalo River Grant; and \$2,292.54 from landowners associated with the Section 27, Manston Township, waterway repair. The remainder of the income came from Midwest Bank July interest (\$4,961.16) and HEI for their monthly office rent (\$225). **Motion** by Anderson to approve the Treasurer's Report. **Seconded** by Larson. **Approved.**

Albright plans to contact the Clay County Auditor regarding the status of their 2019 1<sup>st</sup> half ditch/project tax proceeds, which the County has not yet forwarded. Midwest Bank is waiting for copies of the 2019 Audit and the 7/22/19 minutes before renewing the BRRWD's \$600,000 line-of-credit.

### **Citizens to be heard.**

Leitch introduced Attorney Joel Fremstad, who is representing the BRRWD for the Diversion Authority's (DA) lawsuit.

Jay Nord had a question about the South Branch of the Buffalo River breakouts to Wilkin County Ditch (C.D.) No. 13. HEI recently surveyed the sites again along the South Branch where water historically overtops. They found that the river acted much the same as it has in the past. There are about three areas

where the bank overtops to the west to C.D. No. 13. Albright explained that area landowners have built dikes along the river on their property that are higher than the natural land elevation. This raises the river elevation enough to push water over the natural ridge between the river and C.D. No. 13, causing downstream damages due to overland flooding. Albright suggested that the Board could move forward with the development of the Upper South Branch of the Buffalo River channel restoration project, starting in 2020 with Phase I east of Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 9. This will help the situation, but, Phase II of the South Branch project will actually address the noted breakouts (2021 or later).

**Other Business brought before the Board included:**

**DNR Contested Case and Permit No. 19-003.** Van Amburg **moved** that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss the DA lawsuit and contested case with Attorney Fremstad. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.** Albright gave the audience a brief recap of the issues regarding the DA's permit application and contested case. At 7:15 PM, the Board went into Executive Session. At 7:40 PM, **motion** by Fjestad for the Board to come back into regular session. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

The Board discussed the \$10,000 retainer request submitted by Fremstad Law Firm to provide the BRRWD with legal counsel regarding the DA lawsuit. **Motion** by Fjestad to approve the retainer, as referenced. **Seconded** by Van Amburg. **Approved.** Albright explained that our insurance company, Western National Insurance Group, will be covering our costs to defend our action to deny the DA permit application. The insurance company has hired the Fremstad Law Firm to represent the BRRWD.

The DNR contested case is ongoing. Vogel Law Firm is still our legal counsel for this matter.

Leitch reported that the Minnesota Land Committee's organizational meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 14, 2019, at 1:30 PM in the Clay County Courthouse. Leitch is a member of the Committee and will give the Board an update at our next meeting.

**Permit No. 19-014, Prairie View Township.** Applicant proposes to install drain tile in the centerline of 100<sup>th</sup> ST for 0.5 miles in Sections 5/6, Prairie View Township, Wilkin County, along the Wilkin/Clay County line and in 200<sup>th</sup> ST S also along Sections 32/33, Humboldt Township, Clay County, to address road instability due to excess groundwater. Jones discussed the tile outlet route, which could impact downstream landowners, including United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) property. The Board had an extended discussion regarding drainage patterns and potential downstream impacts. Following a field review today, Jones recommended that the permit could be approved, subject to downstream landowner notification. Albright suggested that action be postponed for two weeks until he has a chance to discuss the project with Humboldt Township Supervisor Darrel Thomas. **Action Postponed.**

**Permit No. 19-060, Todd Boit.** Applicant proposes to replace/lower an 18" dia. culvert in the NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 13, Audubon Township, Becker County, through County Road (C.R.) No. 144. Manager Hanson and Albright conducted a field review a few weeks ago. Albright explained the history associated with area drainage and Boit's request to lower the culvert. He noted that Boit's recent drainage violations have caused concerns for the adjacent landowners, who have refused to approve the proposed work. **Motion** by Anderson to deny Permit No. 19-060. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Denied.** Albright will contact Boit to explain that in order for the Board to reconsider his proposal, he will have to unblock or replace the existing driveway culvert with the same sized pipe at the same elevation within 30 days and obtain downstream landowner approval from the Ronning family for the proposed culvert lowering.

**Permit No. 19-066, Lynn Brakke.** Applicant proposes to install pattern tile in the SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 2, the SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 3, the N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 10, and the NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 11, Wolverton Township, Wilkin County, outletting via gravity flow to Wolverton Creek. The project includes several control structures. Brakke has obtained easements from the downstream landowners to cross their property with the tile discharge pipe. Jones recommended permit approval, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer.

**Permit No. 19-070, Trevor Sorby.** Applicant proposes to install five 12" dia. gated field inlets into the south ditch of 90<sup>th</sup> AVE N in the NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 3, Oakport Township, Clay County, to prevent backflow from the ditch during high water events. **Action postponed.** pending a field review with the landowner.

**Permit No. 19-073, Steve Thompson.** Applicant proposes to add a new 22' long culvert to lengthen an existing 16' long culvert to widen a field approach off 100<sup>th</sup> ST S (C.R. No. 15) in the NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 3, Alliance Township, Clay County. The structure size and elevation won't change, but Thompson plans to add a flapgate on one end. Clay County has already issued a permit for the work in their road right-of-way (R/W). Jones suggested postponing action on this permit until a field review can be conducted to determine the effects of a flapgate at this location. **Action postponed.**

**Permit No. 19-077, Donald Yaggie.** Applicant proposes to install tile in the SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> and SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 29, Meadows Township, Wilkin County, outletting via gravity flow directly into Wilkin C.D. No. 1A to which the property is assessed. Jones recommended permit approval, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer.

**Permit No. 19-078, Albin Warling.** Applicant proposes a Becker Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) designed water and sediment control basins with surface intakes and underground outlet to Becker C.D. No. 9 to which the property is assessed. Jones recommended permit approval.

**Permit No. 19-079, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT).** Applicant proposes to extend the culvert under T.H. No. 210 by 6' to the south and shape the inslopes to 1H:4V in the NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 2, Foxhome Township, Wilkin County. Jones recommended permit approval.

**Permit No. 19-080, City of Moorhead.** Applicant proposes the construction of a permanent levee in the NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 21, Oakport Township, Clay County, from 50<sup>th</sup> AVE N/Oakport ST to Clay C.D. No. 67. The levee alignment will follow the Red River. This work is Phase 1 of a multiphase project the City is working on in the newly annexed Oakport area, which includes a number of buyouts along the river and a stormwater pond with future expansion into a regional retention pond. The proposed pond excavation spoil will be used to build the levees. Jones recommended permit approval.

**Permit No. 19-081, Mark Askegaard.** Applicant proposes to install pattern tiling in the SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 16, Holy Cross Township, Clay County, outletting via gravity flow to Wolverton Creek. Jones recommended permit approval, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer.

**Permit No. 19-082, Mark Askegaard.** Applicant proposes to install pattern tiling in the E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 16, Holy Cross Township, Clay County, outletting via gravity flow to Wolverton Creek. Jones recommended permit approval, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer.

**Permit No. 19-083, Mark Askegaard.** Applicant proposes to install pattern tiling in the S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> and the N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 9, Holy Cross Township, outletting via gravity flow to Wolverton Creek. Jones recommended permit approval, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer.

**Permit No. 19-084 Pheasants Forever (PF), Inc.** Applicant proposes the restoration of one wetland basin in the SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 25, Tansem Township, Clay County. The work will include removing existing tile, if present, through the basin, and the removal of 18" of material, which will be spread on the south side of the wetland basin. Jones noted that the project should only affect PF property and recommended permit approval.

**Permit No. 19-085, PF, Inc.** Applicant proposes the restoration of five wetlands in the NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 24, Hawley Township, Clay County, through a combination of tile removal, sediment removal, ditch fill, and a ditch plug. Jones noted that this project will only affect PF and USFWS property and will be developed in association with the USFWS. He recommended permit approval.

**Permit No. 19-086, Richard Yaggie.** Applicant proposes to install pattern tile in the SE¼, Section 17, Nordick Township, Wilkin County, outletting in the southwest corner of the quarter to the north ditch of C.R. No. 20 (250<sup>th</sup> ST), flowing west about 0.5 miles, then south through C.R. No. 20 to the east side of C.R. No. 3 in Section 20, then south to a natural waterway. The applicant states that Steve Nepl, Wilkin County Highway Department, has already given verbal approval of the proposal. Downstream landowner notification forms were provided to Allen Yaggie for his neighbors' signatures. Jones recommended permit approval, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer and downstream landowner approval. **Action postponed**, pending receipt of the signed notification forms and verification of Wilkin County approval.

**Permit No. 19-087, Richard Yaggie.** Applicant proposes to pattern tile the SE¼, Section 9, Foxhome Township, Wilkin County, outletting via gravity flow to Wilkin C.D. No. 4, to which the property is assessed. Jones recommended permit approval, subject to our standard tiling disclaimer.

**Permit No. 19-088, Blayne Tonsfeldt.** Applicant proposes the installation of a new approach with an 18" dia. x 60' culvert placed west of the newly established property line in the southeast corner of the SE¼, Section 28, Alliance Township, Clay County, off C.R. No. 51 (170<sup>th</sup> AVE) and the replacement of an existing 18" dia. culvert in the southwest corner of the quarter with an 18" dia. x 60' pipe. Albright explained that Tonsfeldt has already installed the new approach. The County will provide both culverts. Jones recommended permit approval, subject to County approval to work within their road R/W.

**Permit No. 19-089, Bill Steffl.** Applicant proposes to install water and sediment control basins, designed by the Becker SWCD, in the SW¼SW¼, Section 28, Callaway Township, Becker County, with surface intakes and underground outlet. The project will cross the downstream landowner's driveway, so Steffl will need to get downstream landowner approval for the project. Jones recommended permit approval, subject to downstream landowner notification.

**Motion** by Hanson to approve Permit Nos. 19-066, 19-077 through 19-085, and 19-087 through 19-089, subject to the referenced disclaimers and conditions. **Seconded** by Anderson. **Approved.**

### **Miscellaneous Investigations.**

**Roger Finch Request.** Leitch received a letter from Roger Finch requesting permission to raise 2<sup>nd</sup> ST N (township road) in Section 6, Oakport Township, Clay County. Flood water has overtopped this road four times in the past 12 years. When the road is flooding, he and his wife have to take a boat in and out of their property. They lost their house in 2009 and rebuilt to meet County and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain requirements, but the township road still goes underwater during highwater events. Jones explained that raising the road would require a "no rise" engineering study to demonstrate that flood levels wouldn't be affected upstream and downstream of the road. Leitch will contact Finch with this information.

**Scott Anderson Culvert Complaint.** Scott Anderson contacted the office with a complaint about the elevation of a culvert in the southwest corner of Section 33, Humboldt Township, Clay County. Water stands in the ditch because the pipe is 2' higher than the ditch grade. Anderson claims that the Township replaced the existing culvert this spring but installed the new pipe at the same elevation to avoid having to file a BRRWD permit application. Anderson wanted the culvert lowered. Jones noted that this is the same area where Prairie View Township has plans to install centerline tile in the roads (Permit No. 19-014). Albright plans to meet with the Township and landowner to discuss this issue.

**Wetland Banking Project.** Howard Pender is working with the Clay SWCD to establish a 105.6-acre wetland easement in Section 16, Skree Township, north of C.R. No. 10, to restore shallow marsh, wet meadow, and upland buffer to generate 25.51 wetland banking credits and 7.5 upland credits for a total of 33.01 credits. The SWCD sent over a notification of Pender's project, which has a 30-day

comment period. Albright will respond to the SWCD, noting that a BRRWD permit is required for the project.

**Wilkin C.D. No. 27 Retrofit.** The BRRWD has an opportunity to work with the Wilkin SWCD to leverage some Clean Water Fund (CWF) grant funding to finance a C.D. No. 27 retrofit. Jones presented HEI's ditch investigation findings. The C.D. No. 27 system is comprised of two ditches along two separate roads running north to south. The west ditch starts in Section 15, Foxhome Township, along 310<sup>th</sup> AVE, flowing 2.6 miles south in Sections 14, 22, and 27, then turns east for 0.2 miles, outletting to the Otter Tail River. The east ditch starts in Section 14, Foxhome Township, along C.R. No. 19, flowing 2.5 miles in Sections 14, 23, and 26, outletting to the Otter Tail River. Sediment depths in the west ditch vary from 0.0' to 0.9' and in the east ditch from 0.0' to 2.9'. The retrofit plans call for 0.03% to 0.12% gradeline with a straight grade between the existing culverts to match the 2008 repair. HEI also recommended the installation of side inlet pipes to help reduce sediment loading into the ditch and the Otter Tail River and to reduce erosion at the inlet locations. He added that the ditches have steep sideslopes. To create a safer 4H:1V side slope on the east ditch along C.R. No. 19, the ditch would have to be moved east. The required recovery zone extends 10' off the road shoulder. If some regrading were done on the backside of the ditch spoil banks, it could reduce the number of needed side inlet pipes.

The project is estimated to cost approximately \$591,000 with \$367,930 of the cost eligible for a 75%/25% split with Wilkin County and their CWF. About \$275,000 of this eligible amount could potentially be covered by reallocating existing grant funds. The additional permanent and temporary ditch easement acquisition costs would be non-eligible (\$131,000) for grant funding. Jones thought that a new CWF application wouldn't be needed for this project because of the potential existing funding. He added that Aaron Larson, Otter Tail County SWCD, had suggested that West Otter Tail County might have some of the \$275,000 needed in funding available from their buffer funding grant and the Wilkin SWCD could use the their CWF grant for the Otter Tail River project. The Wilkin County Highway Department could do the actual construction work. Additional savings could be realized if the Highway Department contributed funding to cover the cost of reworking the C.R. No. 19 road slopes to address public safety concerns. Albright suggested that once the funding questions have been answered, the BRRWD should schedule a landowner informational meeting to discuss the proposed project.

**Project No. 78, Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch (J.D.) No. 1-Outlet Repair.** The contractor, Drewes Construction, Inc., has started construction. Anderson mentioned Drewes is thinking they might need an extension beyond the 10/01/19 completion date.

**Wilkin-Otter Tail J.D. No. 2.** Jones reported on the status of the project. Because of the rains last week, the contractor, States Borders Construction, Inc., wasn't able to work. Albright noted that he conducted a tour with Ann Wessel, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), and the Wilkin SWCD staff to look at the Otter Tail River restoration and the J.D. No. 2 outlet work. Wessel is preparing a couple of articles on these projects. Jones forwarded the damages table to Kevin Fellbaum, Otter Tail County Ditch Inspector, for their work on the redetermination of benefits. He will check with Fellbaum about a possible completion date for his work.

**Project No. 79, Wolverton Creek Restoration.** The Board reviewed photos of the construction status. Albright noted that on Thursday (8/15/19), representatives from the DNR and the LSOHC will be touring the project. The Wilkin SWCD will be seeding more of the site this fall. Jones submitted Pay Request No. 7 in the amount of \$224,169.22 for Sellin Brothers, Inc. **Motion** by Anderson to approve the referenced pay request. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.**

**Wilkin C.D. No. 6A.** At the 7/22/19 meeting, the Board discussed landowner concerns about water breaking out of C.D. No. 6A along their property. It was determined that a limited channel survey might be needed before repairs could be considered. Albright talked about the upstream drainage area and Otter Tail County ditch systems associated with C.D. No. 6A. He has a meeting scheduled with Jared Nordick to define the

Wilkin C.D. No. 23 benefit area, which sits south of C.D. No. 6A. Jones displayed a map of the C.D. No. 6A system. The group had an extended discussion about the area drainage patterns and the HEI survey results. Several years ago, the Wilkin County Highway Department determined that the southern leg of the north-south stretch of C.D. No. 6A in Sections 28 and 33, Tanberg Township, wasn't working because the area water flows naturally to the west, not south. To make the ditch system drain, they installed two culverts through the west spoilbank in Section 28 and directed the water west and south into a natural waterway across the Ouse property, crossing C.R. No. 26, and eventually to C.D. No. 6A in Section 33. Manager Larson pointed out that the Ouses are concerned about the poor condition of these culverts/crossing, which they use for field access. Jones agreed that these culverts have failed and should be replaced. He added that the culverts also help meter water coming from the east. Albright recommended that the Board consider replacing the deteriorated culverts. He added that the Board and landowners should discuss making the natural waterway in Sections 28 and 33 part of the C.D. No. 6A system to allow for maintenance and to document where the water is actually flowing. Jones suggested that the existing culverts could be replaced with two 48" dia. culverts and noted that the Highway Department has offered to do the work to replace the culverts this fall if the BRRWD agrees. **Motion** by Anderson to authorize the Wilkin County Highway Department to replace the existing culverts, sized according to Jones' recommendation, and subject to landowner approval. **Seconded** by Larson. **Approved.**

**The following bills were presented for approval:**

Accounts Payable	Description	Account	Amount
Agassiz Mechanical, Inc.	#222094, HVAC Maint.	Admin.	\$ 338.00
AmeriPride	#160528347, July Rug Billing	Admin.	\$ 87.72
Bridge Communications	Annual Phone Contract	Admin.	\$ 550.00
Bruce E. Albright	Viewer's Meal	Wilkin C.D. No. 6A	\$ 42.00
Cardmember Service	Office Supplies	Admin.	\$ 7.46
Carmen Pattengale	July Office Cleaning	Admin.	\$ 130.00
Chris Hoppe Lawn Care	Fertilizer/Weed Control - 2nd app.	Admin.	\$ 190.00
Chris Hoppe Lawn Care	July Mowing (5)	Admin.	\$ 625.00
City of Barnesville	#10035435, 7/25/19 Utilities	Admin.	\$ 683.83
Clay County HWY Dept.	Pump Rental-2019 Flood Relief	Clay C.D. No. 3	\$ 773.95
Clay SWCD	FY20, 1/3 local Share-PF position	M.S.A. 103D.905, Sub. 3	\$ 2,166.00
Comstock Wildlife Club	Easement Option Payment	Pj. 79, Wolverton Creek	\$ 100.00
Contech Engineered Solutions	#18838887, Culverts	Varies	\$ 15,980.00
Contech Engineered Solutions	#18847671, Culverts	Wilkin C.D. No. 13, Lateral	\$ 15,750.00
Fremstad Law	#20996, July Billing	COE	\$ 6,386.50
Fremstad Law	Retainer	COE	\$ 10,000.00
HEI	July Billing	Varies-See attached	\$ 124,076.92
IWI	2019 Water Quality Monitoring	M.S.A. 103D.905, Sub. 3	\$ 5,531.36
LM Road Services	#1101, Ditch Spraying	Varies	\$ 24,829.35
LREC	07/01/19-08/01/19 Service	Pj. 79, Wolverton Creek	\$ 25.65
MPS	06/20/19-07/18/19 Service, FL #21	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 30.63
Network Technologies	#171442, Service Call	Admin.	\$ 28.75
Pitney Bowes	#3103291745, Postage meter rental	Admin.	\$ 129.00
Premium Waters, Inc.	#366590-07-19, July Water Billing	Admin.	\$ 50.24
RMB Environmental Labs	#459923, WQ Analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Sub. 3	\$ 117.00
RMB Environmental Labs	#457062, WQ Analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Sub. 3	\$ 519.00
RMB Environmental Labs	#460717, WQ Analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Sub. 3	\$ 632.00
RMB Environmental Labs	#460005, WQ Analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Sub. 3	\$ 604.00
RMB Environmental Labs	#460116, WQ Analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Sub. 3	\$ 26.00
RMB Environmental Labs	#461513, WQ Analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Sub. 3	\$ 291.00
RRVCPA	04/01/19-08/01/19 Service	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 106.79
Sellin Brothers, Inc.	Pay Request No. 7	Pj. 79, Wolverton Creek	\$ 224,169.22
SFA	09/05/19 Soil Health Day Busing	M.S.A. 103D.905, Sub. 3	\$ 200.00

U.S. Postal Service	Annual Post office Box Rental	Admin.	\$ 56.00
US Bank	#391726239, 07/27/19-08/27/19 Contract	Admin.	\$ 230.94
Vogel Law Firm	#239769, July Billing	Pj. 79, Wolverton Creek	\$ 1,817.50
Wilkin SWCD	Soil Health Contribution	M.S.A. 103D.905, Sub. 3	\$ 20,000.00
Wilkin SWCD	Conservation Marketing Position	M.S.A. 103D.905, Sub. 3	\$ 12,000.00
Wm. Nichol Excavating	#294, Repairs	Pj. 21, Wilkin C.D. 13Lat.	\$ 8,614.00
WREC	06/1819-07/18/19 Service (2)	Pj. 46, Turtle Lake	\$ 188.21
Xcel Energy	#647409145, 06/25/19-07/25/19 Service	Admin.	\$ 62.99
			<b>\$ 478,147.01</b>

**Motion** by Anderson to approve payment of the bills. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

**Whiskey Creek.** The office has received landowner complaints about beaver activity along Whiskey Creek in Wilkin County. The Wilkin County Highway Department has also identified several sites along the Creek where the beaver infestation needs attention. **Motion** by Fjestad to authorize HEI to hire a beaver trapper for the sites noted by the landowners and the County. **Seconded** by Anderson. **Approved.**

**Manager Per Diem.** The Board tabled action at the 7/8/19 meeting regarding the Watershed District Manager per diem rate increase from \$75/day to \$125/day until tonight's meeting to allow for the required 30-day notice period, according to the BRRWD's Bylaws. **Motion** by Van Amburg to take the 7/8/19 motion from the table. **Seconded** by Anderson. **Approved.** Having met the 30-day notice period, the Board voted on the previous motion to increase the per diem rates from \$75/day to \$125/day and to change the Bylaws to reflect that rate change, effective 8/12/19. **Approved.** An updated copy of the Bylaws, effective 8/12/19, will be available for signature at the next meeting.

**Sustainable Farming Association (SFA) Workshop.** BWSR is looking for a \$200 donation to help cover the transportation expenses for a soil health workshop at the Grommesh Farm on 9/5/19, sponsored by the SFA. **Motion** by Hanson to contribute \$200 to the workshop expenses. **Seconded** by Larson. **Approved.**

**Clay SWCD Funding Request.** The Clay SWCD submitted a funding request for \$2,166 to help fund Tony Nelson's PF Farm Bill Biologist position. BWSR grant funds cover 90% of this position (\$59,500), and the remaining 10% (\$6,500) has traditionally been split 3 ways by the SWCD and local partners. **Motion** by Anderson to contribute the referenced funding for the Clay SWCD PF position. **Seconded** by Van Amburg. **Approved.** Nelson will be involved with the Wolverton Creek Phase 3 easement acquisitions in Clay County through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

**MAWD Annual Meeting.** The Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) is calling for policy recommendations through the resolutions process. The deadline to submit resolutions is 9/1/19. The Board agreed to discuss this item at their 8/26/19 meeting. The staff has prepared the preliminary nomination form to submit Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation, for the MAWD 2019 Project of the Year Award, which will be presented at their Annual Conference and Trade Show to be held December 5-7 in the Arrowwood Conference and Resort Center, Alexandria. The deadline for the preliminary nomination submission is 8/16/19. **Motion** by Van Amburg to nominate Project No. 49 for the Project of the Year Award. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

**2019 Annual Report.** The draft 2019 Annual Report was distributed to the Managers for their review and potential approval at the 8/26/19 Board meeting.

**Comments and Announcements.** Fjestad noted that the West Otter Tail County SWCD held their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration recently. He also commented on the delinquent status of Clay County's 2019 1<sup>st</sup> half ditch tax payments. Fjestad suspected that the delay could be caused by our DA actions.

Leitch noted that the River Keepers "Race the Red" event is scheduled for 8/19/19. He also discussed having HEI provide a wall map of the BRRWD for display in our Barnesville office.

**Next Meeting Agenda.** Leitch asked for next meeting agenda items. Albright noted that we will be holding our annual budget hearing during the 8/26/19 meeting.

**Adjournment.** **Motion** by Fjestad to adjourn the meeting. **Seconded** by Larson. **Approved.** President Leitch adjourned the meeting at 9:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hanson, Secretary