



1303 4<sup>TH</sup> Ave. NE  
Barnesville, MN 56514  
218-789-3100  
www.brrwd.org

## Board Meeting Minutes

Monday October 14, 2024

**Managers Present:** Peter Fjestad; Catherine Affield; William Davis; Gerald Van Amburg (remote); Curtis Stubstad; Todd Andresen.

**Managers Absent:** Troy Larson.

**Staff Present:** Kristine Goeden, Administrator; Matthew Schlauderaff, Watershed Specialist.

**Consultants Present:** Bennett Uhler, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI).

**Others Attending:** Gregg Larson; Dan Donley; June Steffl; Jenny Mongeau, Clay County Commission; Paul Krabbenhoft, Clay County Commission; Jonathan Lowry (remote); Jon Braton, Wilkin County Commission (remote).

President Fjestad called meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Agenda:** **Motion** to approve agenda by Davis, **Seconded** by Stubstad. Aye – Fjestad, Affield, Davis, Van Amburg, Stubstad, Andresen. **Motion Carried.**

**Citizens to be Heard:** None.

**Consent Agenda:** **Motion** to approve consent agenda items:

September 9, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

Financial Report

Permit Nos.

24-095, Darren Carlson – water and sediment control basin (WASCOB) installation, NW ¼, Section 2, Eglon Township, Clay County with conditions

24-098, Terri Nelson – wetland restoration, SE ¼, Section 6, Lake Park Township, Becker County with conditions

24-099, Matt Ness – land development, NW ¼, Section 31, Holy Cross Township, Clay County

24-100, Peter Lewis – tiling, E ½ of the W ½, Section 24, Elmwood Township, Clay County with conditions

24-101, Mark Farnam – land development, NW ¼, Section 11, Hawley Township, Clay County with conditions

24-102, John Sorby – land development, NE ¼, Section 11, Hawley Township, Clay County with conditions

24-103, Cal Willits – utility installation, SW ¼, Section 3, Moorhead Township, Clay County with conditions

24-104, John Jaehning – tiling, NW ¼, Section 10, Holy Cross Township, Clay County with conditions

24-105, Kraig Nelson – tiling, SE ¼, Section 4, Audubon Township, Becker County with conditions

Project No. 81 – Whiskey Creek Enhancement Phase 3, Pay Estimate No. 10 for \$264,005.00

South Branch Buffalo River Restoration Phase 1, Pay Estimate No. 7 for \$3,950.10

by Affield, **Seconded** by Davis. Aye – Fjestad, Affield, Davis, Van Amburg, Stubstad, Andresen. **Motion Carried.**

**Permits for Discussion:**

**Permit No. 24-091, Matt Conzemius.** Applicant proposes to tile S ½, Section 4, Connelly Township, Wilkin County. Natural flow path of water remains unchanged. Proposed tile outlets into road ditch, which is an adequate outlet. Applicant received downstream landowner notification form with no concerns. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions and approval from Township to work in road right-of-way (ROW).

**Permit No. 24-107, Mike Yaggie.** Applicant proposes to tile Section 8 and 16, Connelly Township, Wilkin County. Natural flow path of water remains unchanged. Proposed tile outlets into Red River, which is an adequate outlet. Uhler recommended approval subject to standard tile conditions and approval from Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to work in road ROW.

**Permit No. 24-108, Brent Ellefson.** Applicant proposes to install culvert in NE ¼, Section 34, Barnesville Township, Clay County. Uhler recommended approval subject to installation of 18” culvert and approval from County to work in road ROW.

**Motion** to approve Permit Nos. 24-091, 24-107, 24-108 with conditions outlined above by Affield, **Seconded** by Davis. Aye – Fjestad, Affield, Davis, Van Amburg, Stubstad, Andresen. **Motion Carried.**

**Projects:**

**Project No 49 – Oakport Township. Snow Fence Request.** Paul Anderson, property owner along 63<sup>rd</sup> Ave. N in Moorhead requested Board of Managers consider installing snow fence north of property along Oakport levee to reduce snow drifts in winter. For levee certification, no permanent structures, including fences can be within levee clear zone (15 feet offset from levee toe on both sides of levee). A temporary snow fence could also compromise structural integrity of levee. **Motion** to deny request due to potential to damage levee by Stubstad, **Seconded** by Affield. Aye – Fjestad, Affield, Davis, Van Amburg, Stubstad, Andresen. **Motion Carried.**

**City of Wolverton Flood Mitigation. Review Well Quote.** Wells for two properties along proposed City of Wolverton Flood Mitigation levee will be impacted. LTP Enterprises, Inc provided estimates for installation of new well and abandonment of old well. Costs for well installation and abandonment will be paid by Metro Flood Diversion Authority (MFDA) as a project expense. Estimated cost is \$12,792.50 for one property and \$12,202.50 for the other. Total estimated cost is \$24,995.00. **Motion** to authorize LTP Enterprises to install new wells and abandon old wells as presented, by Davis, **Seconded** by Andresen. Aye – Fjestad, Affield, Davis, Van Amburg, Stubstad, Andresen. **Motion Carried.**

**South Branch Buffalo River Restoration Phase 1. Extension Request.** In areas where project plans required deep cuts in ridge on landscape, contractor has been having trouble getting grass to grow. This covers approximately 15 acres of project area. Uhler was on site and noted white crust forming on surface. Contractor submitted soil samples to University of Minnesota for analysis. Uhler recommended granting extension to June 1, 2025. Current grant funding expires June 30, 2025, recommended extension would allow work to be completed within grant period. **Motion** to grant extension as recommended, by Stubstad, **Seconded** by Affield. Van Amburg requested staff contact North Dakota State University (NDSU) soil scientist for guidance as well. Aye – Fjestad, Affield, Davis, Van Amburg, Stubstad, Andresen. **Motion Carried.**

**Upper Buffalo River Restoration. Discussion.** Uhler presented update to funding from Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR). Funding initially anticipated for proposed project is no longer available. MNDNR has approximately \$1.21 million available that would expire June 30, 2026. BRRWD has additional funding through Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund (LSOHF) that could be used with funding from MNDNR to fund proposed project. Uhler discussed option to hold hearing for upper and lower reach of proposed project together or separately. Board of Managers discussed preference to hold one hearing for both upper and lower reaches. It was discussed that hearing could be held in late winter or early spring of 2025. Steffl asked when document outlining assessments would be available. Uhler noted water management district (wmd) document would be available for the hearing. HEI has completed some of the analysis, however, the document has not been drafted.

**Project Repair Recommendation**

| Drainage                    | Township    | Section | Problem/Proposed Work  | Estimated Cost         |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------|--|------------------------|
| Project No. 54 Whisky Creek | Barnesville | 14      | As part of repair approved at September 9, 2024 Board Meeting, haul in and additional 250 yards of fill material to low spot in spoilbank. | \$12,000.00-\$15,00.00 |

**Motion** to approve repairs as presented, by Stubstad, **Seconded** by Affield. Aye – Fjestad, Affield, Davis, Van Amburg, Stubstad, Andresen. **Motion Carried.**

**Ditches:**

**Clay County Ditch No. 30. Concrete Liner Repair. Motion** to sign agreement with Key Contracting, Inc. to complete concrete liner repair on Clay County Ditch No. 30 for \$22,900.00 by Stubstad, **Seconded** by Davis. Aye – Fjestad, Affield, Davis, Van Amburg, Stubstad, Andresen. **Motion Carried.**

**Clay County Ditch No. 41 Outlet/Snakey Creek, Change Order No. 1 and Pay Estimate No. 3. Motion** to approve Change Order No 1. for \$32,902.10 to Tunheim Construction, LLC by Davis, **Seconded** by Affield. Aye – Fjestad, Affield, Davis, Van Amburg, Stubstad, Andresen. **Motion Carried.** **Motion** to approve Pay Estimate No. 3 for \$163,782.00 to Tunheim Construction, LLC by Stubstad, **Seconded** by Andresen. Aye – Fjestad, Affield, Davis, Van Amburg, Stubstad, Andresen. **Motion Carried.**

**Becker County Ditch No. 15. Request to Remove Trees.** Kraig Nelson, landowner in Section 11, Audubon Township, requested to remove trees along Becker County Ditch No. 15 on his property. Nelson has equipment and necessary documents to be a licensed contractor and requested Board of Managers consider his request for reimbursement. Estimated cost is \$6,000.00 to \$8,000.00. Board of Managers discussed getting quote from Nelson and another contractor. **Motion** to authorize staff to gather quotes and hire repair based on lowest quote by Andresen, **Seconded** by Davis. Aye – Fjestad, Affield, Davis, Van Amburg, Stubstad, Andresen. **Motion Carried.**

**Other:**

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Website Compliance.** Goeden presented rule by Department of Justice for website accessibility. Board of Managers discussed working with attorney to ensure website is compliant.

**Minnesota Watersheds Annual Conference. Delegate Appointment. Motion** to appoint Affield and Stubstad as delegates and Fjestad as an alternate for Minnesota Watersheds Annual Conference by Davis, **Seconded** by Andresen. Aye – Fjestad, Affield, Davis, Van Amburg, Stubstad, Andresen. **Motion Carried.**

**Bills. Motion** to approve bills totaling \$888,343.51 by Stubstad, **Seconded** by Affield. Aye – Fjestad, Affield, Davis, Van Amburg, Stubstad, Andresen. **Motion Carried.**

**Next Regular Meeting.** Tuesday November 12, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office.

President Fjestad adjourned meeting at 8:02 PM.

/s/ William Davis  
William Davis  
Secretary