

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

BARNESVILLE, MINNESOTA 56514

1303 4<sup>th</sup> AVE NE  
E-mail: brrwd@bvillemn.net

PO BOX 341

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

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## **MINUTES FOR MANAGERS' MEETING May 26, 2015**

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2015, at 7:00 PM in the Barnesville office. BRRWD Managers present were Gerald L. Van Amburg, Breanna L. Kobiela, Mark T. Anderson, John E. Hanson, Catherine L. Affield, Troy E. Larson, and Peter V. Fjestad. BRRWD Staff attending included: Bruce E. Albright, BRRWD Administrator, and Erik S. Jones, Engineer; Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI). Others attending included: John Blaufuss, Wilkin County Commissioner; Dan Swedlund, Wilkin County Highway Department; and landowners: Sherwood Peterson, John D. Peterson, Ronald Erdman, Arnold Fankhanel, and Virgil Fankhanel.

Chairman Van Amburg called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. He announced that the proceedings were being recorded to aid in the preparation of the minutes.

**Secretary's Report.** The Board reviewed draft minutes for the 05/11/15 regular meeting. **Motion** by Affield to approve the minutes. **Seconded** by Kobiela. **Approved.**

**Treasurer's Report.** The Board reviewed the BRRWD's financial status. Cash on hand is currently \$1,307,550.50. Administrative disbursements for the year total \$122,646.25. There has been no income since the last meeting, so our income to date still stands at \$1,709,557.31. The office billed the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) last week for \$131,582 to close out Amendment Nos. 6 and 8 for Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation. The BRRWD should start to receive the 2015 first-half property tax proceeds from the counties in early June. Albright noted that Harold J. Rotunda, CPA, is working on the 2014 Audit, and we should receive it by the June 8 meeting. Once the Audit is approved, it will be added to the 2014 annual report, and we can submit that document to Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Midwest Bank has also asked for a copy of the 2014 Audit as part of our documentation to renew the line of credit.

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

**Tiling Operation Concern.** Dan Swedlund, Wilkin County Highway Department, and John Blaufuss, Wilkin County Commissioner, discussed the BRRWD's requirements regarding tile operation during high water events. There was a recent situation in Sunnyside Township where an operating lift station was threatening to overtop a legal ditch system. Albright mentioned that a landowner contacted him about a similar issue near Glyndon regarding tiling pump operation flooding downstream property. Van Amburg observed that the BRRWD doesn't have an actual Rule regarding tile pump operation. The Board has discussed updating our Rules for tile operation and reviewed other Districts' Rules, but we haven't yet made a decision regarding this issue. Albright commented that creating a rule that tile pumps must be shut down when there is downstream flooding is the first step, but enforcement will be difficult. The Board had plans to work on their Rules last winter, but time ran out before they could address this issue. The Bois de Sioux Watershed District (BDSWD) has policies regarding tile pump operation, but they haven't officially adopted Rules either. Albright discussed how the BRRWD could deal with the varying degrees of Rule violations and the BRRWD's standard tiling disclaimer.

Swedlund pointed out that the BRRWD needs to set a procedure whereby tiling can be regulated because the issue is only going to get worse as tiling increases within the District. He noted there are several sites where a tile system is outletting to a legal ditch system via a lift station during flooding situations. Albright noted that he is aware of several locations where similar problems exist. Blaufuss commented that landowners are not following BRRWD permit conditions/disclaimer, or even common sense when it comes to discharging their tile systems during high water events. The group discussed the BRRWD's downstream landowner notification form. Albright explained that when the BRRWD determines that there will be a direct downstream landowner impact from a proposed project, we ask the permit applicant to notify his neighbor and get a signature on the form prior to permit approval. The BDSWD has a page on their Website where they can post notification about tile pump operation when there has been a high water event. Albright thought that was something the BRRWD could do as well. He added that the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) has provided guidelines for tiling that the Board could consider adopting. The Board could hold a special meeting to work on their Rules. Albright added that the landowners/tile installers should be educated about Drainage Water Management to install and operate their systems correctly to yield multiple benefits. Swedlund pointed out that tile systems also keep the road ditches wet, causing cattail infestations that compromise ditch maintenance/function. Swedlund would like to coordinate their permitting system with the BRRWD to address tiling outlets into the County road ditches. The group briefly discussed tiling benefits. The Board agreed that tiling operation is an emerging issue that they will need to address not only in their Rules revision, but in their Comprehensive Plan update that is currently underway.

**Erdman/Fankhanel Complaint.** Arnold and Virgil Fankhanel, along with their renter, Ronald Erdman, attended the meeting to discuss a possible solution to their complaint regarding Ivan Nelson's installation of a dike on the east-west quarter line on the north side of the SE1/4, Section 22, Atherton Township, Wilkin County, which blocks ditch flow to the south. At the last meeting, Ivan Nelson agreed to allow the Fankhanel's to connect a 4" dia. tile line to his existing tile system so the residual water on the south end of Fankhanel's ditch could drain to Deerhorn Creek. The Fankhanel's also discussed installing a new gated 18" dia. inlet culvert at the proper grade on the north end of the ditch to provide drainage north to Wilkin County Ditch (C.D.) No. 42, as a ditch system expense.

The Fankhanel's were still concerned about the fact that Nelson blocked their ditch without notifying them, and they didn't think a 4" dia. tile would handle all the water draining south. Ron Erdman, who operates the property, discussed the drainage proposal. He thought that a ditch to the north could be installed, but the field is currently planted to alfalfa, and constructing a ditch would disturb the crop. He was also concerned about who would pay for it. Nelson had agreed to furnish the 4" dia. connectors and "beehive" inlet. Albright observed that Nelson did violate the Rules by blocking an existing drainage ditch without a BRRWD permit. Using the overhead monitors to view an area LiDAR map, the group discussed possible drainage options. Anderson suggested that the landowners install the 4" dia. tile line as a temporary fix in the location suggested at the last meeting until after the crop is off this fall and then revisit the issue at that time. **Motion** by Anderson to authorized Albright to send Nelson a letter with details of tonight's discussion, letting him know that he should go ahead with the 4" dia. tile installation now, and once the crop (wheat) is off this fall, we'll meet again with all the affected parties to find a permanent solution to the drainage issue. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.** Erdman will contact Nelson to work with him on the tile installation.

**Stony Creek Comprehensive Project.** Sherwood and John Peterson were in attendance to check on the status of the Stony Creek Detention Project. Jones noted that the soil borings are done, but the analysis will be completed in a few weeks. Sherwood Peterson asked if the BRRWD has contacted any landowners regarding easements. Van Amburg said that no one has been approached as yet about easement acquisition. Currently, the land in the proposed south pool (Pool B) has had water problems. The landowners/operators are interested in an opportunity to put in a retention pond for flood storage. Peterson

asked if the Board had determined easement values for this project. Van Amburg explained that there may be some funding from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) Conservation Partners Legacy Grants (CPLG) Program for Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) easements. Albright explained that RIM easement values are set by Township market values. In Clay County, he thought that easement values could be at \$4,000 per acre, or higher. RIM easements are permanent, meaning the land could no longer be farmed. Albright noted that we are not at the point in the project development to consider easements. He estimated that it could take at least five years to get a project developed, so there are still many issues yet to be worked out before we'd be approaching landowners for easements. The group discussed current easement and market values. Peterson noted that when he said he wasn't interested in an easement for his property in the proposed Pool A, he had no idea how high the value might be. He said he would be interested in an easement if the values were high enough. Jones said his work is on hold until the geotechnical analysis is completed. Albright explained the proposed comprehensive project concepts for Stony and Hay Creeks. He added that the benefits for the Clay C.D. Nos. 17 and 31 are outdated and should be redetermined. If we were to repair those ditches based on the current benefit area, four sections of land might have to pay for a \$2-\$3 million project, which the BRRWD doesn't think is fair. Albright will contact Peterson when there is new information.

**Permit No. 15-036, Jerry Butenhoff.** Applicant proposes to remove a field approach with a 24" dia. culvert along 110<sup>th</sup> ST S on the west line of Section 12, Alliance Township, in the SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, and add a field approach without a culvert on 140<sup>th</sup> AVE S in the southwest corner of Section 12 to make field access more convenient and accommodate larger equipment. **Tabled,** pending field review by Albright.

**Permit No. 15-037, Dennis Butenhoff.** Applicant proposes to install an 18" dia. corrugated metal pipe (CMP) in a dry approach in the NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 16, Barnesville Township, Clay County.

**Permit No. 15-038, Dennis Butenhoff.** Applicant proposes to install an 18" dia. CMP in a dry approach in the SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 8, Barnesville Township, Clay County.

**Permit No. 15-039, Gary Forsberg.** Applicant proposes to install sediment control basis designed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 33, Parke Township, Clay County. Forsberg has an agreement with the adjacent landowner to hold water temporarily on the property to the west.

**Permit No. 15-040, Skree Township.** Applicant proposes to install an 18" dia. culvert through the township road in the NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 16, Skree Township, Clay County, to drain water in the road ditch from Section 16 to Section 9.

**Permit No. 15-041, Dwight Hanson.** Applicant proposes to install a 4' long x 8' wide dike with 4:1 sideslopes and a sediment stand pipe to reduce runoff. Hanson also plans to install pattern tiling in the NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 23, Hamden Township, Becker County. The project area is the same field where Hanson plugged an existing tile line through the road blocking Scott McCaslin's tile system on the other side of the road from accessing Hanson's tile. **Tabled,** pending resolution of the McCaslin issue.

Albright gave the Board a brief update of the drainage/tiling dispute in the NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 24, Hamden Township, Becker County, involving landowners Scott McCaslin and Duane and Dwight Hanson. Albright discussed a survey that he and Cody Zarak, Technician, HEI, conducted of the ditch McCaslin constructed on the east side of 220<sup>th</sup> ST, which drains north to a waterway the eventually goes to Becker C.D. No. 15. Dwight Hanson and Todd Andresen, Hamden Township Supervisor, were present during the survey. The Township is concerned that McCaslin's ditch needs work to address road safety issues. BRRWD Attorney Tami Norgard, Vogel Law Firm, provided information about a similar court case where a downstream landowner blocked an existing tile line. In the example case, the Appellate Court ruled that the

downstream landowner could not plug the downstream tile and that he was liable for any crop damages on the upstream property while the tile was plugged. Norgard noted that according to M.S.A. 103E.075, (Minnesota Drainage Law) regarding obstructions in private drainage systems, the Board could hold a hearing with the affected landowners. The landowner where the obstruction has been placed must be notified 10 days prior to the hearing. If the Board determines that the obstruction should be removed, the landowner must do the work within reasonable time set by the Board in the Order. If it is not removed, the Board can order the obstruction removed at the landowner's expense via a lien on the property.

The Board had an extended discussion regarding the survey results, and options for a solution to this issue. Albright observed that Ed Musielewicz, Becker NRCS, wouldn't have signed off on McCaslin's tiling project if they thought the project was enhancing or improving the area drainage because of possible impacts to nearby wetlands. **Motion** by Fjestad to send the survey results and other pertinent information to the Hansons and invite them to the 6/08/15 BRRWD meeting, cautioning them that the Board is leaning towards ordering the tile obstruction removed. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

**Permit No. 15-042, Bruce Hein.** Applicant proposes to install sediment control basins designed by NRCS in Section 18, Audubon Township, Becker County.

**Permit No. 15-043, Robert Braton.** Applicant proposes to add random tiling to an existing tile main in the E½NW¼, Section 8, Prairie View Township, Wilkin County, outletting via gravity flow to a field ditch and eventually to Wilkin C.D. No. 41 to which the property is assessed.

**Permit No. 15-044, Bruce Nelson.** Applicant proposes to install sediment control basins designed by NRCS in Section 11, Lake Park Township, Becker County.

**Permit No. 15-045, Gary Myers.** Applicant proposes to install sediment control basins designed by NRCS in the N½, Section 33, Cuba Township, Becker County.

Manager Anderson **moved** approval of Permit Nos. 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, and 45, subject to the applicable project disclaimers. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

**Permit No. 15-032, MNDOT.** Albright noted that the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) has been completed for Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MNDOT) project to construct a new overpass on I-94 at the Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 75 interchange, which the Board approved on 04/27/15. EAW comments will be accepted until 06/24/15. The Board agreed to offer no comments.

**Project No. 77, Clay C.D. No. 51-Lateral No. 3.** The Viewers (Ron Ringquist, Rick Battles, and Rod Knutson) propose to hold their first meeting on 06/12/15. Albright will contact Ringquist to confirm that date and time. Attorney Norgard has offered to attend this meeting when the two opposing Attorneys, Roger Minch and Zenas Baer, will have an opportunity to meet with the Viewers. Richard Gilbery, Kragnes Township Supervisor, contacted the office regarding who would have to pay for a 24" dia. culvert proposed for 100<sup>th</sup> AVE N. Albright noted that according to Drainage Law, the road authority (Township) would be responsible for the cost (M.S.A. 103E.525, Subd. 2).

**Project No. 75, Wilkin C.D. No. 31-Lateral.** Albright revised Sharon Josephson's easement and will send her a copy via email for her review.

**Project No. 61, Clay C.D. No. 11N& S.** Albright explained the outlet structure has failed as a result of the recent heavy rainfall. The ditch is still functioning. He suggested some fencing should be installed around the scour holes as a safety precaution. Albright distributed photographs of the site for the Board's review. He also took photographs of the slumping problems in the Duane Walker's yard (the former John Leseth

building site). On the east side of T.H. No. 75, the ditch is also slumping seriously. When the soil boring results are completed and we have repair recommendations, Albright suggested that the Board will need to hold a ditch system hearing with the affected landowners and let bids for the repairs. Jones will be meeting with Terracon, Inc. tomorrow, and he will ask them to expedite their soils analysis for C.D. No. 11. Jones noted that the outlet repair will require 280' of 84" dia. buried pipe, and a rough cost estimate for the repairs (pipe and slumping) could be approximately \$250,000. **Motion** by Anderson to authorize Albright to schedule a ditch informational meeting/hearing, as soon as possible. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.**

In regards to the outlet culvert on Clay C.D. No. 11 North that was partially filled in from Burlington Northern/Sante Fe (BNSF) Railroad track repair work, Albright contacted Rick St. Germain, HEI, who notified BNSF. The plugged culvert was an overflow culvert, not the main outlet, and BNSF opened it manually. They plan to finish the cleanout as soon as conditions permit.

**Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration.** Albright and Josh Kadrmas, HEI project inspector, are working on a punch list for the contractor. Native grass seeding has been delayed because of the wet weather conditions.

The project received the 2015 Minnesota Environmental Initiatives (MEI) award in the Natural Resources category. We also won the overall 2015 Partnership of the Year Award at the 05/21/15 ceremony in Minneapolis. Albright added that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture won an award for the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP). Van Amburg congratulated Albright and Jones for preparing the winning application. The Board felt that former Manager Roger Ellefson, who recently passed away, should be recognized as being instrumental in envisioning a project for Manston Slough. **Motion** by Hanson to recognize Manager Roger Ellefson's vision and work on the Manston Slough project. **Seconded** by Kobiela. **Approved.** Albright will send a letter on behalf of the Board to the Ellefson family documenting the Board's appreciation of Ellefson's contribution to the Manston Slough Restoration project.

**Project No. 49, Oakport Flood Mitigation.** Albright reported that chances of getting funding for Oakport from this Legislative Session are not looking good. There might be another chance for a bonding bill when the Governor calls for a Special Session. Albright has contacted our local Legislators, asking for their support for Oakport funding.

**Project No. 39, Georgetown Levee.** The 90-day review period for the Greywind house appraisal for the BRRWD's Resolution of Condemnation ends on July 18. Albright has requested that Attorney Norgard ask for a hearing to get permission to start demolition as soon as possible after that date.

Albright plans to attend the Georgetown Council meeting on 06/01/15 to answer more questions about project costs.

Albright and Wade Opsahl, Technician, HEI, plan to contact all the property owners in the City who have the dike on their property to find out if they have any concerns about the project. Reiner Construction, Inc., the project contractor, is anxious to complete the project and wants a punch list so they will know how much work there is to do when they return.

**Project No. 37, Clay C.D. No. 41-Lateral No. 1 Channel Repair.** The Board approved the ditch outlet repairs at their last meeting. Jones will prepare plans and specifications to be distributed to a number of local contractors for a bid opening. There is a significant slump failure in the American Crystal Sugar (ACS) factory site on the outlet. Midwest Testing's investigation has led them to believe that their nearby pond might be causing the bank failure. Solutions could include moving the pond, or installing two lines of large culverts (14' x 14'). Albright and Jones will meet with ACS and Midwest Testing to discuss options

for the outlet repair. The Board briefly discussed the status of "Snaky Creek", which is a part of the C.D. No. 41 system.

**Project No. 24, Wilkin C.D. No. 44.** Allan Jerger, Manston Township Supervisor, contacted Albright with a request to remove the centerline culvert in 170<sup>th</sup> ST in Section 3 on C.D. No. 44. Albright will prepare a draft petition for the Township to review and will work with them to move the process forward to abandon the north ditch, remove the centerline pipe, and make the ditch on the south side of 170<sup>th</sup> ST part of the legal ditch system.

**Project No. 23, Becker C.D. No. 15 Repair.** The contractor has finished the repairs on C.D. No. 15 through the Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Opsahl will work with our contractors to continue the repair work south of the NWR on the remaining portions of the ditch system, including the SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 11, Audubon Township, as petitioned by Kraig Nelson.

**Mediation PT.** The next PT meeting will be held on July 9, 2015.

**Upper South Branch of the Buffalo River Erosion Concerns.** Jones plans to continue to look for options for Phase 1, which is to restore the channel from Wilkin C.R. No. 30 upstream to T.H. No. 9, including potential flood control retention sites. He hopes to have some proposals for the Board to review at their 07/13/15 meeting.

**Barnesville Township Area Drainage.** The landowner informational meeting will be held Thursday, May 28, 2015, at 7:00 PM in the BRRWD office. Notices have been mailed. The meeting will consist of a review of the survey data and a discussion of potential problems. Following a time for landowners to provide input, we will offer some potential solutions to address the identified problems, which will include a presentation of proposed retention sites.

**Wetlands Reserve Enhancement (WRE) Sites.** The Haick/Peppel informational meeting was held on 5/19/15. The landowners indicated that they wanted the BRRWD to continue project development. Jones forwarded information to John Jasche, BWSR, to determine if we can use their 34-acre easement area for storage. The Peppels want to enroll their entire tract (160 acres) into WRE, so the BRRWD will work with the federal and state agencies to determine what type of easements could be provided.

**Reep Lake.** Albright plans to schedule a meeting with landowners Mike and Zita Jacobson to determine their interest in an easement with the Watershed District.

**John Bohn WRE.** There is a potential WRE site in Section 33, Norwegian Grove Township, Otter Tail County, along the south side of T.H. No. 108, which would involve four landowners, including John Bohn. With the recent rainfall, that area is now standing water. Albright suggested that the Board could meet with the affected landowners to discuss a potential project. **Motion** by Fjestad to authorize Albright to schedule a meeting with the landowners as referenced. **Seconded** by Anderson. **Approved.**

**Revised Watershed Management Plan (RWMP)/Watershed District Enlargement (WDE).** Albright noted that as Jones completes sections of the draft RMWP, he will forward them to Albright for review in an effort to move that work forward. Once the document is completed, we will schedule one more meeting with the Technical and Citizen Advisory Committees to get their approval.

**Army Corps of Engineers (COE) F-M Diversion.** Albright reported that the Richland-Wilkin Joint Powers Authority injunction was upheld, and the Courts have ordered that work on the Diversion should stop. The Diversion Authority (DA) has formed a new group comprised solely of North Dakota entities so that the BRRWD no longer has a vote on the DA budget approval. The DA plans to continue work on the

Diversion in North Dakota. The Minneapolis Star Tribune reported that Minnesota Governor Dayton was disappointed with their decision to move forward.

**Stakke Lake Elevations.** Albright plans to meet with Stakke Lake property owners next week to discuss options for a project to stabilize the lake's elevation. Manager Hanson will also attend.

**MAWQCP.** As discussed earlier, the MAWQCP was selected as the winner in the Food Stewardship category at the 2015 MEI Awards ceremony last week. The next pilot area meeting is scheduled for June 17-18, 2015, in Winona, MN. Albright and Fjestad plan to attend.

**Elkton Township Wetland Restoration.** Albright reported that we still have not received any response from Ziegler Construction, Inc., regarding Chuck Anderson's crop damage claim. The BRRWD will need to file the claim directly with the contractor's insurance carrier. Albright noted that he will contact Anderson to get his revised easement signed.

**MAWD Summer Tour.** MAWD is hosting their Summer Tour on June 24-26, 2015, at the Radisson Duluth Harborview. Albright made reservations for Managers Van Amburg, Hanson, Affield, and Fjestad.

**Buffalo River TMDL Study.** Albright explained that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) let the study contract expire with the BRRWD on 12/31/14, so at this time, there is no contract in place for the BRRWD to do any work on the Buffalo River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)/Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) project. MPCA received comments from two agencies regarding the TMDL/WRAPS reports, which they will address.

**Upper Red River TMDL/WRAPS Study.** We are now at the stage to start preparing the draft TMDL/WRAPS reports. The Board discussed HEI staffing for the work. Public informational meetings will be scheduled to review those documents. The Study deadline is June 30, 2016.

**Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee.** Albright noted that we will start work on setting up the watershed management district (wmd) to provide a local funding/matching source for the project. The Board reviewed the bufferstrip requirements for Wilkin C.D. Nos. 5A, 22-Laterals 1 and 2, and 26; and the grade control recommendations for C.D. Nos. 5A, 26, 22, and 53. Hearings should be held with the ditch system landowners. Albright suggested that the hearings could be combined so that we would only have to hold hearings on two or three different nights in the Barnesville office. **Motion** by Anderson to authorize Albright to schedule the referenced hearings. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.** Currently, the BRRWD has a BWSR grant (approximately \$150,000) to help pay for the grade control structures, which expires 12/31/15. Jones noted that the bufferstrip installation and grade control structures are requirements of the DNR permit for the channel restoration.

**Otter Tail River Restoration.** HEI submitted the MPCA's 319 Grant application by the deadline. The grant pays 55% of the project costs with a cost share of 45%. We should receive MPCA's decision about the application by July 31, 2015.

**Hawley Buffalo River Restoration.** The punch list has been assembled for Reiner Contracting, Inc. The grant funds were to be expended by 6/01/15. HEI submitted Change Order No. 3 (\$3,870.30) and Pay Request No. 4 for a total of \$29,918.51 for the contractor. The net change is still -\$23,911.75. The office will send a pay request to the DNR this week to close out the contract. **Motion** by Hanson to approve the referenced Change Order and Pay Request. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.** The DNR has submitted our request for Phase 2 funding to continue the project south of T.H. No. 10 along the golf course.

**Wilkin C.D. No. 41-Branch 3.** The ditch has erosion sites along Sections 7 and 8, Prairie View Township. There are also plugged culverts as a result of the recent rainfall. Albright distributed photographs of the sites. He suggested that the Board might want to consider more permanent repairs because of the steep grade elevation, the ditch will continue to erode. **Motion** by Larson to authorize HEI to conduct a repair analysis. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.**

**Brian Haugrud Drainage Concern.** Albright noted that in response to a phone call from Haugrud regarding willow infestation on the natural waterway separating his property and Lloyd Lindholm's property. Albright conducted a field review and didn't see any damage to Haugrud's cropland. He suggested that this would typically be work that the neighbors could complete together.

**2015-2016 River Watch Budget.** The Board discussed Barnesville's budget, totaling \$5,201.50. The River Watch Team, comprised of Barnesville High School students and Biology Teacher/Advisor Nate Strand, is responsible for a number of water quality sampling sites within the BRRWD in conjunction with the International Water Institute (IWI) water quality monitoring contract with the BRRWD. **Motion** by Fjestad to approve the referenced budget. **Seconded** by Anderson. **Approved.** The program also provides educational opportunities for local youth, which satisfies the BRRWD educational goals set forth in our Comprehensive Plan.

**River Keepers Report.** Albright distributed the River Keepers staff report for May, April and May for the Board's review. Albright and Manager Van Amburg met with Christine Laney, River Watch Executive Director, to discuss our annual contribution (\$45,000) to the organization. Laney requested that the BRRWD consider a slight increase to our contribution for 2016. More information will be forthcoming.

**Federal Farm Bill.** The NRCS is holding a meeting to review the new Agricultural Conservation Easement Program/Agricultural Land Easements on Thursday, May 28, 2015, in Thief River Falls, at 10:00 AM. Albright plans to attend. He noted that this program might allow entities to use the Ag Land Easements for water retention.

**Bufferstrip Legislation.** Albright distributed information regarding new legislation for bufferstrip installation on public waters and legal ditch systems. The Board discussed the status of buffers on our ditch systems and the timeline the Legislature provided to complete this work.

**Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) Summer Tour.** The RRBC Summer Tour is scheduled for June 4, 2015. The office can handle registrations, or the Managers can contact RRBC directly. The bus leaves the Marriott in Moorhead at 9:00 AM. Albright will make a presentation regarding the Manston Slough Restoration project during the tour.

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

Accounts Payable	Description	Account	Amount
Carmen's Cleaning	May service (2)	Admin	\$ 130.00
Dakota Mailing	#43675, postage meter supplies	Admin	\$ 99.74
Haugen's Landscaping, Inc.	#1181, R/W posts	Pj. 14, Clay C.D. No. 10	\$ 1,375.00
Joel Carlson	June Lobbyist fee	Admin	\$ 850.00
L&M Road Services	#366, 2015 tree/brush spraying	Varies-see attached	\$ 15,324.75
Maier Farms	CAP-130 Plan (75%)	DWM/BWSR Grant	\$ 937.50
Mark T. Anderson	#1516, 03/01/15-04/30/15	Varies	\$ 605.59
MAWD	Affield-Summer Tour registration	Admin	\$ 185.00
MN BWSR	Closeout/refund DWM grant	BWSR DWM Account	\$ 29,427.52
Reiner Contracting, Inc.	Pay Request No. 4	Hawley Buffalo River	\$ 29,918.51
RMB Laboratories, Inc.	#261922, WQ analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3	\$ 500.00



RMB Laboratories, Inc.	#261929, WQ analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3	\$ 601.00
RMB Laboratories, Inc.	#262786, WQ analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3	\$ 628.00
RRVCPA	04/10/15-05/10/15 service (3)	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 251.47
Terracon	#T645050, slump analysis	Clay C.D. Nos. 10, 11, 32, 33, 41	\$ 8,191.00
Vogel Law Firm	#153309, April Billing	Pj. 30, Clay/Wilkin J.D. No. 1	\$ 1,587.00
Vogel Law Firm	#153310, April Billing	COE Diversion	\$ 2,139.00
Vogel Law Firm	#153311, April Billing	Pj. 77, Clay 51-Lateral Rev.	\$ 3,203.93
Vogel Law Firm	#153575, April Billing	Pj. 39, Georgetown	\$ 1,955.00
			<b>\$ 97,910.01</b>

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

**2014 Draft Annual Report.** The Board received a copy of the Report at their 4/27/15 meeting for review. The Board briefly commented on the Report's contents. Albright noted that Clay County Commissioner Jenny Mongeau has asked that the BRRWD present the Annual Report to her Board, and he suggested that we do the same for the other Counties. Harold Rotunda, CPA, expects to have the 2014 Audit ready for the Board's review at their 06/08/15 meeting. Once the Board has accepted the Audit, it will be added to the Annual Report, and the Report will be ready for distribution.

**Ecofootprint Grant Program.** Jones explained that Enbridge Inc. in association with the Minnesota Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils, Inc. (MARC&D) is offering a grant opportunity for natural resource enhancement (nre) projects along the corridor of their pipeline in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. The Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee Restoration would be eligible for funding, and Jones wanted the Board to consider submitting a grant application. **Motion** by Anderson to authorize Jones to submit an application for the Enbridge grant program. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

**Special Agenda.** The Board reviewed a summary of their short, medium, and long term goals. Albright discussed the short-term goals.

- RWMP. Albright stressed that we need to focus on completing the RWMP. Jones estimated that it could be ready for the Board's review by the last meeting in June.
- Project No. 39, Georgetown. Completion needs to take priority.
- Rules and By-Laws should be updated before next winter.
- Minutes. There is still some catch-up work to be done on older hearing/meeting minutes
- iCloud/LaserFiche data retention. Decision about these issues could wait until next winter.
- Elkton Township Wetland Restoration. Albright will meet with the landowners to get the remaining revised easements signed.
- QuickBooks. For now, the new system is working well.
- Ditch/Project repairs. Albright meets with the HEI staff on a regular basis to review the workload. We will try to get as much done in this regard as possible during the construction season. A coding system has been added to the workload list, documenting the number of meetings at which the work was discussed and a priority rating (A,B,C).
- Whiskey Creek Restoration. Albright will work with the landowners to obtain easements for the project.
- Meeting scheduling. Albright will work on getting meetings scheduled.
- Viewers Workload. The next two systems slated for redetermination of benefits are Becker C.D. No. 9 and Clay C.D. No. 16.
- Staffing needs. Following the resignation of Justin Johnson, HEI hired two new technicians: Cody Zarak and Aaron Kalberer. Wade Opsahl, Technician, HEI, will supervise the field work. Albright discussed adding a third administrative assistant for office work.

The Board discussed the short term goals list. **Motion** by Anderson to approve the priority work items, and start the process of hiring another part-time office staff person. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.**

#### Intermediate Goals.

- South Branch of the Buffalo River. Working with the landowners on a Phase 1 concept.
- Barnesville Township Area Drainage Study. A landowner informational meeting is scheduled for 5/28/15.
- Stony Creek. Potential comprehensive project to incorporate redetermination of benefits, two stage channel, etc.
- Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee. Continuing work on the restoration: wmd establishment, outlet buffers, and grade stabilization.
- Wilkin/Otter Tail J.D. No. 2. Possible redetermination of benefits. Outlet repairs. Jones noted that survey and design work for the J.D. No. 2 outlet was included in the recent MPCA 319 grant application.
- Project No. 30, Clay/Wilkin J.D. No. 1 Diversion. Albright is working with landowners to develop a draft petition for a diversion at the county line.
- Southern BRRWD Boundary. We need to complete work with the BDSWD on finalizing the alignment of our shared border.

Anderson thought that the Board needed to make revising the agricultural tiling rules a priority for this year. The Board discussed a landowner who has objected to the BRRWD telling him he can't operate his tiling system during downstream flood events. Albright suggested that the Board should schedule a special meeting to work on their Rules revision this summer.

#### Long Term Goals

- RRWMB membership. Albright explained that if the Board wants to develop a number of large retention projects, it is going to take major funding to help pay for them. The RRWMB would be a significant source of funding. He suggested that the Managers could bring up the topic of RRWMB membership when we visit the Counties to present our 2014 annual report. Albright pointed out that the BRRWD wasn't eligible for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) funding because we aren't RRWMB members, which would have provided about \$500,000 for project planning. Funding for the Stony Creek project from the City of Fargo for upstream retention in conjunction with the F-M Diversion is being delayed for the same reason. Albright will prepare some information regarding "pros and cons" of membership and the cost of RRWMB membership to the District taxpayers.
- HEI Staff. Albright noted that HEI is adding new engineers to the staff dedicated to BRRWD projects.

**MEI Award Recognition.** Affield proposed that the Board recognize Albright and Jones for their work on the MEI Award winning Manston Slough Restoration project. **Motion** by Affield as referenced. **Seconded** by Anderson. **Approved.**

**Next Meeting.** The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, June 8, 2015, at 7:00 PM in our Barnesville office.

**Adjournment.** Chairman Van Amburg adjourned the meeting at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hanson, Secretary