

BUFFALO-RED RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

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MINUTES FOR MANAGERS' MEETING May 11, 2015

The Board of Managers, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), held their regular meeting on Monday, May 11, 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, 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: Jenny Mongeau, Clay County Commissioner, Cash Aadland, Wayne Ulven, Ivan Nelson, Gloria Nelson, Kelly Nelson, Scott McCaslin, Gary Landsem, Delyle Fankhanel, Sherwood Peterson, John D. Peterson, Tim Winkelman, Roger Burnside, Dwight Hanson, and Duane Hanson.

Chairman Van Amburg called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 04/27/15 regular meeting. **Motion** by Affield to approve the minutes. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.**

Treasurer's Report. The Board reviewed the BRRWD's monthly financial statements, including the project account balance sheet, administrative disbursements, summary of income, and the accounts receivable report. Cash on hand is currently \$1,481,469.32. Income since the last meeting totaled \$23,705.39, primarily from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for reimbursement for the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) (\$22,715.95), and other income came from Otter Tail County for 2014 delinquent ditch and property tax proceeds (\$724.01). To date, our total income is \$1,709,557.31. Administrative disbursements for the year total \$122,646.25. Total current accounts receivable total \$3,624,656.66. The BRRWD should start to receive the 2015 first-half property tax proceeds from the counties in early June. **Motion** by Anderson to approve the Treasurer's Report. **Seconded** by Hanson. **Approved.**

Business brought before the Board included:

Erdman/Fankhanel Complaint. The Board discussed a complaint regarding Ivan Nelson's work to install 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. According to the Board's request, Ivan Nelson was invited to tonight's meeting to explain his work. Delyle Fankhanel explained that when Nelson rented the NE1/4, Section 22, Atherton Township, he installed a ditch that drained south across the Fankhanel property and across Nelson's property directly into Deerhorn Creek. In 2014, Ron Erdman started renting the Fankhanel property, and last fall, Nelson installed a dike on the line, blocking Fankhanel's flow to the south, causing water to back up on the property. Nelson filled in about 2' of dirt across the ditch outlet. Using the overhead monitors, Jones displayed a LiDAR aerial map of the area.

Ivan Nelson commented that when he farmed the land, the ditch wouldn't drain completely out to the north. To improve drainage, he decided to route the water across his land south to Deerhorn Creek. He discussed the possibility of installing a tile line to the Creek (approximately 300') with Arnold Fankhanel and farming through the ditch, but Fankhanel never made a decision about the proposal. After Nelson lost the land, he said that Fankhanel had indicated that the new renter, Ron Erdman, planned to improve their ditch to the

north, so he closed the ditch on his property. Nelson said that he didn't know about any drainage problems on the Fankhanel's property until he received the BRRWD's letter. Nelson said he had also offered to install a "snorkel tube" (4" tile drop inlet pipe) to drain the excess water in the ditch on the south end through his tile system. Fankhanel never made a decision about this option because he felt that a tile line larger than 4" would be needed to handle the residual water in the ditch. A discussion followed between the landowners regarding the various proposed drainage alternatives. Jones clarified that most of the water on the Fankhanel property should drain north, except for the last of the water in the bottom of the existing ditch blocked by the diking installed by Nelson. He thought that a tile line south to the Creek would provide an adequate drainage outlet for the south part of the existing ditch. Albright observed that Erdman is working on repairing the drainage outlet to Wilkin County Ditch (C.D.) No. 42. The BRRWD could work with him to install a new gated 18" dia. inlet culvert at the proper grade to provide drainage to the north, as a ditch system expense. He thought that this culvert plus the proposed 4" tile line on the south end of the ditch would be a good compromise. Nelson agreed that he could connect a 4" tile line to his existing tile system so the water on the south end of Fankhanel's ditch could drain to the Creek. Albright suggested that Fankhanel discuss the proposal with his brothers and their renter, Ron Erdman.

Scott McCaslin Tiling Outlet Concerns. The Board discussed a drainage/tiling dispute in the NW¼, Section 24, Hamden Township, Becker County, with landowners Scott McCaslin and Duane and Dwight Hanson. In 2013, McCaslin replaced 8" dia. clay tile lines with a 12" dia. line on his property and installed a new overflow ditch, outletting north along 220th ST and eventually to Becker C.D. No. 15. He attempted to direct as much of the tile discharge along the east side of the road as possible, but about 10% of the tile water cannot drain north. Because of the flat ditch grade, this water needs to go west through the road, across the Hanson property via their tile system. Last fall, the outlet of McCaslin's tile was plugged with concrete on the Hanson property in the NE¼, Section 23, Hamden Township. Albright sent a letter to Duane and Dwight Hanson, inviting them to the 05/11/15 BRRWD meeting to discuss the issue.

Duane Hanson objects to the amount of water entering his tile system. He said that in addition to two old 4" dia. tile lines, McCaslin added another 12" dia. tile line. Hanson claims that McCaslin didn't tell him about the newly replaced 4" dia. lines. McCaslin thought that Hanson was aware of the original tile lines. The original 8" dia. line still exists through 220th ST, which McCaslin hooked up to. He claims that the amount of water entering the Hanson property hasn't increased, and has actually been reduced because of his work. For nearly 100 years, the tile has carried all the water from this quarter to the west. Now he has diverted approximately 90% of it down the east side of 220th ST road ditch to Becker C.D. No. 15. Hanson has now blocked the historic outlet through the road to his existing tile system. Hanson maintained that McCaslin didn't get a BRRWD permit to replace the existing tile. McCaslin said he didn't have a BRRWD permit for the work, but he did file Form No. 1026 with the Becker County Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), who inspected and approved the project. Dwight Hanson said that the increased flow from McCaslin's tile is saturating their property, creating standing water that impacts crops. An extended discussing followed regarding area land profiles, tile elevations, ditch grades, etc. McCaslin offered to lower the north ditch and add an approach with a culvert/flapgate to keep the waterway from backing into the road ditch if Hanson would agree to open the tile outlet to his property. Duane Hanson said he would not open the tile.

Albright discussed the history of the tile system on the property. He explained that several decades ago, the property was owned by two brothers who installed the clay tile to drain low spots. Several years later, a road was constructed with no culverts, which acts a dike for the upstream area. The area has a 60' fall to the property in approximately 0.5 miles, and the only drain through the road is the tile line, which Hanson has now blocked with concrete. Van Amburg observed that it might not have been legal for Hanson to plug an existing tile outlet that has been in place for nearly 100 years. Jones thought there should actually be less pressure on Hanson's tile system with McCaslin's ditch to the north. Albright suggested that the Board could authorize HEI to conduct an elevation survey of the area to determine if all the water could drain

north to the waterway and ask McCaslin to provide his drain tile plans for the Board's review. Once that information is available, the Board can make a decision based on the scientific facts in regards to the area drainage. **Motion** by Anderson to authorize HEI to conduct the referenced elevation survey and to analyze McCaslin's tile project design for the Board's review at a future meeting. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.** Dwight Hanson asked to be present when the survey is conducted.

Stakke Lake Elevations. Albright gave a brief history of the concerns the property owners on Stakke Lake have regarding the fluctuating lake elevations, which first came to the BRRWD's attention in 2013. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) agreed to place a gauge to monitor Stakke Lake elevations, and Association Chairman Gary Landsem is recording that data. Some lake homeowners would like to see the lake elevation raised, while area agricultural landowners object to raising the lake because it would encroach on their cropland, impact tile outlets, etc. There was also a proposal to channelize a portion of the lake to improve access to a bay area on the northwest corner of the lake to allow for boating, etc. On June 9, 2014, Jones completed a preliminary investigation of the various options for addressing the lake elevation concerns, which analyzed the impacts of raising the lake, dredging a channel to connect the bay with the rest of the lake, and possible next steps in the legal process to create a stabilized elevation.

Landsem asked what the landowners could do to move a project forward. He reported that the lake has dropped 19" since the DNR installed the gauge. The property owners in the bay area on the north end of the lake have problems accessing the Lake. He said that they would like to get enough freeboard through the channel to allow boat passage from the bay to the main body of water. The Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL) is elevation 1366.1, and currently the lake is at elevation 1364. The highest known elevation was determined to be 1366.7. This 500 acre lake is the headwaters of Hay Creek and has a watershed area of about 4.8 square miles. Last year, the lake elevation was slightly higher than the current reading, and they were able to get through the bay area with boats. Albright explained that last year there had been discussions about stabilizing the lake outlet to raise the lake elevation. The landowners would be satisfied if the lake could be raised to at least 6" below the OHWL, which would bring the channel elevation up to allow for boat passage. According to Landsem, the outlet has actually eroded over the last few years, which is also contributing to the lower lake levels.

Jones' report was distributed to a number of Stakke Lake property owners, and they are now requesting direction about how to proceed with a project. Albright discussed options to develop a project. He suggested that it might be less expensive for the property owners to get a DNR permit and do the work than to petition the BRRWD for a project according to Watershed Law. Landsem noted that the outlet still might need to be stabilized to maintain the lake elevation if they clean the channel. He thought that the outlet condition should be addressed before any work is done on the channel. Jones pointed out that according to DNR records, the outlet has only lowered by 0.2' in about 61 years. Albright suggested that he and Manager Hanson could attend the next Lake Association meeting to discuss these issues with the property owners. The new DNR Area Hydrologist, Rodger Hemphill, could also be invited to their meeting. Landsem also had questions about how the project could be financed. There is one landowner, Matt Bjerke, who has agricultural land that would be affected if the lake elevation were raised. Landsem suggested that there may need to be some type of outlet control structure installed. Landsem will contact Albright when the Association decides on a meeting date.

Army Corps of Engineers (COE) F-M Diversion. Clay County Commissioner Jenny Mongeau and Richland-Wilkin Joint Powers Authority members Cash Aadland and Wayne Ulven attended the meeting to check the status of the Board's vote on the 2015 Diversion Authority (DA) budget. Albright reported that the Board voted on 03/23/15 to approve the funding (\$1.5 million) allocated in the budget for the DNR Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and to wait until the preliminary EIS is completed (August/September) before addressing the rest of the 2015 DA budget. The DA has accepted the Board's decision to wait to formally approve the entire budget until the EIS is completed later this year.

Stony Creek Comprehensive Project. Sherwood and John Peterson were in attendance to check on the status of the Stony Creek Project. Jones noted that the soil borings are done, but the analysis will be completed in about 30 days. Albright reported that at the 05/07/15 Mediation Project Team (PT) meeting, the group discussed alternative pool designs (Pool A & Pool B). The south pool (B) would be developed for the Stony Creek project and the north pool (A) would be developed only if a project were ever developed for Hay Creek. Peterson commented that the BRRWD minutes reflect that the area landowners were in support of the proposed project. He pointed out that he is not encouraging the BRRWD to move forward with a project on his land (SE¼, Section 32, Elkton Township). Albright said that while we don't currently have any signed easements, the renter of a majority of the property in this area is interested in a project. Using the overhead monitors, Jones described the proposed south pool alternative for Stony Creek, which does not include Peterson's property, located in Pool A. Peterson noted his concerns that a retention site on his cropland would cause the nitrates in the soil to leach into the nearby waterway and eventually into the water supply. Van Amburg commented that would be an issue that BRRWD would take under advisement. He explained that when nitrogen loaded soils undergo anaerobic conditions, as in a water retention site, most of the nitrogen will be lost to the atmosphere. However, with land that is tilled, there is a nitrogen leaching affect that takes place. Anderson talked about how the amount of surface area of the retention site might affect the leaching effects. The group talked about the methods that need to be followed in selecting a retention site. Albright pointed out that this project is still in the very early stages of development, and the Board will keep the affected landowners notified. He briefly discussed the project development history.

Permit No. 15-034, Jean Ward. Applicant proposes to install a field approach with a culvert in the SE¼, Section 29, Spring Prairie Township, Clay County. The Township recently purchased a parcel of land from Ernie Oberg for a new township hall at the intersection of County Road (C.R.) No. 18 and Trunk Highway (T.H.) No. 9. They need to provide Oberg with a new field access, as his old approach will be the entrance to the proposed Township Hall. **Motion** by Hanson to approve Permit No. 15-034, subject to County approval to work within their road right-of-way (r-o-w). **Seconded** by Kobiela. **Approved.**

Permit No. 15-035, City of Barnesville. Applicant proposes to install a fish ramp and bypass pipe over the existing spillway and remove the accumulated sediment from the upstream sediment pond in Whisky Creek in Section 19, Humboldt Township, Clay County. The fish ramp will restore fish passage across the existing structure, and the bypass pipe will restore full functionality of the existing spillway. The sediment pond maintenance is a requirement of an agreement between the City of Barnesville and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) to ensure that sediment does not accumulate in the upstream box culvert under T.H. No. 34, and the DNR has issued a permit for the work. **Motion** by Anderson to approve Permit No. 15-035. **Seconded** by Affield. **Approved.** The BRRWD has determined that an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) is not needed for the project, and the office will forward a letter to Rodger Hemphill, DNR, regarding the Board's comments.

Permit No. 15-036, Jerry Butenhoff. Applicant proposes to remove a field approach with a 24" dia. culvert along 110th ST S on the west line of Section 12, Alliance Township, in the SW¼, and add a field approach without a culvert on 140th AVE S in the southwest corner of Section 12 to make field access more convenient and accommodate larger equipment. **Tabled**, pending Manager field review.

Jim Braton Drainage Complaint. Braton called the office today with a drainage complaint on the Clay/Wilkin County line road along Sections 5 and 6, Prairie View Township, Wilkin County, south of Barnesville. Albright conducted a field review this afternoon and took photographs for the Board's review. Braton wants to clean the ditches on both sides of the township road (100th ST). There are a number of residences and an area wetland that could be impacted if drainage is routed west along the County line road. More investigation will be necessary before the Board can address these concerns. **Tabled.**

Curt Stubstad Drainage Complaint. The Board reviewed a map showing the location of three tile lift stations in Sections 27 and 34, Alliance Township, Clay County, along C.R. No. 2 that the Spring Prairie Hutterite Colony installed in conjunction with their tiling projects. Stubstad asked Albright to conduct a field review and get photographs of his concerns about plugged culverts and other drainage problems in this area. The Colony had a BRRWD permit to route the tile drainage to the C.R. No. 2 road ditch, but the project was not completed according to the permit conditions and has caused drainage issues on neighboring cropland. Albright will contact the Colony to schedule a meeting with the Clay County Highway Department and the Colony.

Phillip Rogers DNR Irrigation Well Permits. Albright explained that Rogers plans to install two irrigation wells to irrigate approximately 190 acres in Section 5, Humboldt Township, Clay County. The BRRWD has the opportunity to comment on the pending DNR permit applications. The Managers discussed possible ground water impacts and decided they would have no comment.

Project No. 77, Clay C.D. No. 51-Lateral No. 3. At their 04/27/15 meeting the Board accepted the Detailed Engineer's Survey Report and appointed the Viewers. Jones distributed his Report to the appropriate agencies for their review and comment. Albright has contacted the Viewers (Ron Ringquist, Rick Battles, and Rod Knutson), who expect to start their work by the end of May or early June. BRRWD Attorney Tami Norgard, Vogel Law Firm, suggested that the BRRWD invite the two opposing Attorneys, Roger Minch and Zenas Baer, to the first Viewers' meeting to provide them with an opportunity to meet with the Viewers.

Project No. 75, Wilkin C.D. No. 31-Lateral. Albright met with landowner Sharon Josephson and her son to discuss their concerns regarding their easement. He modified the easement, which will be forwarded to her family for review. As soon as Josephson signs her easement, there are a number of landowners who will also sign. The Whitfield Trust (WFFN LLC) signed their easement, and it is listed with tonight's bills.

Wilkin County is working on another ditch repair, which they expect to finish in the next 4-6 weeks, and then they will move on to the Wilkin C.D. No. 1C repair, assuming the Whiskey Creek project is ready to go.

Project No. 56, Manston Slough Restoration. Albright and Josh Kadrmas, HEI project inspector, met with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and DNR personnel on 05/07/15 to conduct a field review to put together a punch list for the contractor. Native grass seeding has been delayed because of the wet weather conditions. The Board reviewed and approved the seeding contract with B&J Landscaping at the 04/13/15 meeting. **Motion** by Fjestad to authorize Van Amburg to sign the contract. **Seconded** by Anderson. **Approved.**

Managers Van Amburg and Fjestad, plus Albright and Jones are planning to attend the Minnesota Environmental Initiatives (MEI) awards ceremony, scheduled for 05/21/15 in Minneapolis in the Nicolet Island Pavilion, Minneapolis, MN at 5:30 PM.

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 if the Governor calls for a Special Session.

Project No. 39, Georgetown Levee. Manager Van Amburg, Albright, and Wade Opsahl, Technician, HEI, and attended the Georgetown Council meeting on 05/04/15. Albright presented a project status report. They discussed their project assessments, clean up list items, and the project completion timeline. The City has invited the BRRWD to attend their next meeting (06/01/15) to answer more questions about project costs.

The 60-day review period for the Greywind house appraisal for the BRRWD's Resolution of Condemnation ends on June 18. Albright has requested that Attorney Norgard ask for a hearing to get permission to start demolition as soon as possible after that date. Reiner Construction, Inc., the project contractor, is anxious to complete the project.

Jones reported that HEI conducted the elevation survey for Josh Wambach's property. The survey showed that the property is still not high enough to submit a Letter Of Map Revision (LOMR) application to remove the lot from the floodplain. The surveyors left stakes showing how much more fill Wambach will need to add to raise the lot to the correct elevation.

Project No. 30, Clay/Wilkin Judicial Ditch No. 1 (J.D. 1). Attorney Norgard has suggested that the Board consider using a 1991 update to Minnesota Statutes Annotated (M.S.A.) 103E.227, describing an Impoundment Petition, which might make it easier to get enough signatures on a petition to create a diversion on the County line to Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee. Albright thought that changing the law upon which the petition is based could make it easier to obtain the required 26% landowner signatures to move the project forward. Anderson observed that once the Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee restoration project is started, it will make it easier to obtain support from the landowners on the proposed outlet. Albright will redraft the petition and then meet with the petitioners to discuss their efforts to obtain the required number of signatures for a diversion.

Project No. 24, Wilkin C.D. No. 44. Albright described the original ditch alignment along the north side of 170th ST in Section 3, Manston Township. He explained that in the 1980s, Dave Yaggie was issued a BRRWD permit to install a ditch on the south side of the road. This ditch is not a legal part of the C.D. No. 44 system. Yaggie also removed a road centerline culvert on C.D. No. 44, and the BRRWD subsequently ordered him to reinstall it, as the pipe was still part of the official ditch alignment. Yaggie reinstalled a new culvert at his own expense. The new culvert is too short, and the road is currently caving in, creating a road hazard. Allan Jerger, Manston Township Supervisor, contacted Albright with a request to remove the culvert. Albright asked the neighboring landowners about the Township's plan to remove the culvert. Jim Haick agreed that the road is dangerous at the culvert and agreed that it should be removed. Albright suggested that in order to remove the culvert, the ditch on the north side of the road would need to be abandoned, and the south ditch would need to be made a part of the new legal ditch, which is the way the ditch system has functioned for the last several decades. Albright explained that since most of the land along the ditch is now in the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and no longer farmed, the north ditch may not be needed for drainage. Anderson thought the Board should move forward with the legal process to remove the culvert. Albright explained that the process would be to abandon the north ditch, remove the centerline pipe, and make the ditch on the south side of 170th ST part of the legal ditch system. Albright will investigate the process and report back to the Board at a future meeting.

Project No. 23, Becker C.D. No. 15 Repair. The contractor is working on the C.D. No. 15 repairs through the Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Opsahl will work with the subcontractor, Higher Ground Construction, to possibly also do the repair work south of the NWR on the remaining portions of the ditch system, including the SW¹/₄SE¹/₄, Section 11, Audubon Township repair, filed for by Kraig Nelson.

Mediation PT. Albright briefly discussed the last PT meeting topics, which was held on 5/07/15. The next PT meeting will be held on July 9, 2015.

Upper South Branch of the Buffalo River Erosion Concerns. Albright observed that we will probably have to revise our approach to this project since the upstream retention site in Section 11, Manston Township, is no longer available. Jones will explore other options to meet the same goals that we have set for Phase 1, which is to restore the channel from Wilkin C.R. No. 30 upstream to T.H. No. 9, including potential upstream flood control retention sites

Barnesville Township Area Drainage. The staff will mail notices tomorrow for the upcoming landowner informational meeting to be held Thursday, May 28, 2015, at 7:00 PM in the BRRWD office.

WRP Sites. The staff will mail notices tomorrow for an informational meeting regarding the proposed Haick/Peppel WRP site scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2015, at 8:00 AM in the Barnesville office. Plans are to review current information with the landowners and get their input about continuing the project development.

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. Manager Hanson said he has visited with the Jacobsons, and they would be interested in a shorter term easement (20-30 years).

Revised Watershed Management Plan (RWMP)/Watershed District Enlargement (WDE). A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting will be held tomorrow, May 12, 2015, at 1:00 PM, in our Barnesville office. The meeting will include primarily agency personnel and will focus on the natural resource enhancement (nre) features of the Plan for the new area. Managers are invited.

MAWOCP. Albright distributed a copy of an article with a summary of the Programs' current status for Wilkin County. Don Bajumpaa, District Manager, Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), reported to Albright that he has about four more contracts ready to be certified in the near future. Bajumpaa also said the even though the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has now agreed to allow the pilot areas to expand their work areas, he wasn't ready to expand our program at this time.

Elkton Township Wetland Restoration. Albright reported that landowners Josie Lamb and the Poehls family have resigned their revised easements. Bruce Manston and Chuck Anderson have received their revised easements, but they have not yet signed them.

Buffalo River TMDL Study. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) noticed completion of the Buffalo River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)/Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) Reports in the Minnesota State Register the week of March 30, 2015. The comment period ended on 04/29/15. They only received comments from two agencies: the MDA and the Tamarac NWR. Since the BRRWD currently has no contract with MPCA for this work, Albright thought it would be up to MPCA to address the agency comments.

Upper Red River TMDL/WRAPS Study. Work is progressing, and we are nearly at the stage to write the draft TMDL\WRAPS report. Public informational meetings will be scheduled to review those documents. The Study deadline is June 30, 2016.

Wolverton Creek/Comstock Coulee. Albright provided the Managers with a memo summarizing the discussions at the agency meeting held on 04/02/15 to review the project with the NRCS and other agencies. We are ready to start working on setting up the watershed management district (wmd) to provide a local funding/matching source for the project. Albright thought the next steps should be to identify potential funding sources for the project, including BWSR and the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) Conservation Partners Legacy Grants (CPLG) Program. Jones discussed the Wild Rice Watershed District's successful LSOHC grant application (\$2.2 million) for a similar project. Jones visited with Mark Johnson, Executive Director, LSOHC, about our Wolverton Creek project. Johnson thought that the project sounded like a good fit for the grant program. Van Amburg has also talked with Henry Van Offelen, Red River Basin Coordinator, DNR, about the project, who also thought this project sounded like a good candidate for LSOHC funding. Jones explained that LSOHC will also analyze the grant application to determine if the project would be a good fit for other Clean Water Fund (CWF) grants and will actually lobby for a project they feel merits funding on our behalf. The application will also be sent to other funding sources, and will include details according to each agency's requirements. **Motion** by Fjestad to

authorize HEI to prepare and submit a LSOHC grant application for the Wolverton Creek Restoration project. **Seconded** by Kobiela. **Approved.** Jones mentioned that the application will include letters of support from the SWCDs and other local agencies involved with the project. Albright thought that the PT members would be willing to provide signed project consent forms to submit with the application.

Albright noted that we need to complete the DNR permitted work to install ditch system buffers, repairs, and grade stabilization on the ditch system outlets, which will use up the remainder of the BWSR grant (approximately \$150,000) that expires on 12/31/15. Jones expected to complete the plans for this work this week. Two alternatives will be considered for the ditch system, either using Flexamat or riprap. Buffers and side inlets could also be installed on Wilkin C.D. Nos. 26 and 5A using the BWSR funds.

Clay C.D. Nos. 21/58. Last week, landowner Curt Leach reported some erosion/sloping problems on these ditches. Opsahl contacted Leach today, and HEI will prepare some recommendations for repairs. Jones discussed slumping concerns on C.D. No. 58. Albright noted that a landowner informational meeting should be held to discuss the repairs. The group briefly discussed possible repair options, including one option that would include a new ditch paralleling the Interstate-94 (I-94) r-o-w in Section 12, Elmwood Township.

Otter Tail River Restoration. An agency meeting was held on 05/07/15 in Breckenridge. Luther Aadland, DNR, suggested that the first step for this project should be a channel survey from the Red River to Orwell Dam to obtain baseline data to compare to the data provided by the COE from the 1950s when parts of the river were straightened. The consensus of the agency personnel at the meeting was that the BRRWD should apply for funding from the MPCA's 319 Grant program to see if they would help pay for the survey costs. The application is due May 22, 2015. The grant pays 55% of the project costs with a cost share of 45%. The group discussed possible cost share partners. Albright observed that this will be a long term project. **Motion** by Anderson to submit the 319 Grant application with the understanding that the BRRWD will seek out other partners to share the 45% local costs. **Seconded** by Fjestad. **Approved.**

2014 Draft Annual Report. The Board received a copy of the Report at their last meeting for review. The Board briefly commented on the Report's contents. Albright noted that Harold Rotunda, CPA, expects to have the 2014 Audit ready for the Board's review at their 05/26/15 meeting. Once the Board has accepted the Audit, it will be added to the Annual Report, and the Report will be ready for distribution.

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (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, and Fjestad. The meeting packets were distributed to the Managers who plan to attend.

Jessie Klosterman Complaint. Klosterman has concerns about slumping/erosion problems on his property along the Red River in Section 7, Kurtz Township, Clay County. Albright plans to meet with Klosterman to conduct a field review.

Clay C.D. No. 41-Lateral No. 1 Channel Repair. The Board discussed Jones's recommendations for a channel restoration on Lateral No. 1 at the junction of the Main ditch. The channel bottom has begun downcutting west of the railroad tracks with some scouring in the channel bottom and slope failures from T.H. No. 75 upstream to 34th ST N. The most severe downcutting is located in a 500' stretch near the junction with the Main. Jones recommendations include: restore the channel to the as-built grade; install a 60' long rock drop structure approximately 50' upstream of the junction with the Main channel to provide a 2.5' drop; repair the channel bottom between the rock drop structure and 34th ST N to the as-built gradeline and cross-section (10' bottom width/4:H:1V sideslopes). Locations along the repair reach will also need reshaping and additional riprap. The Opinion of Probable Cost is between \$65,000-\$75,000 for material,

installation, and seeding. **Motion** by Fjestad to approve the referenced repairs. **Seconded** by Anderson. **Approved.**

Project No. 07, Clay C.D. No. 39. Xinhua Jia, Ph.D., P.E., North Dakota State University (NDSU), has filed her final report on the Gerald Zimmerman project. Copies were provided to the Board for their review.

WDE Boundary. Albright reported that John Roeschlein, Bois de Sioux Watershed District (BDSWD) Administrator, forwarded a list of the lands that the BDSWD and the BRRWD will exchange to correct the new southern boundary. By the 05/26/15 meeting, the final petition will be ready for Board approval and submittal to BWSR to adjust the boundary.

Project No. 61, Clay C.D. No. 11-North. Albright will have Opsahl field review the site where an outlet culvert on Clay C.D. No. 11 North has been partially filled in from Burlington Northern/Sante Fe (BNSF) Railroad track repair work.

The following bills were presented for approval:

Accounts Payable	Description	Account	Amount
American Enterprises, Inc.	#1378, tree disposal	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 6,545.00
AmeriPride	April billing-office rugs	Admin	\$ 53.44
Barnesville Phone Co.	04/25/15 billing	Admin	\$ 289.36
Breanna L. Kobiela	#15-20, 03/01/15-04/30/15	Varies	\$ 380.81
Bruce E. Albright	#HW54-222, dictation device	Admin	\$ 166.90
Bruce E. Albright	Reimburse-Cody Herbicide, tree spraying	Pj. 08, Stony Creek	\$ 76.95
Catherine L. Affield	#15-15, 03/01/15-04/30/15	Admin	\$ 380.55
City of Barnesville	03/01/15-03/29/15 utilities	Admin	\$ 659.31
Clay County Auditor/Treas.	1st half taxes	Pj. 39, Georgetown	\$ 904.14
Clay County Auditor/Treas.	1st half taxes	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 2,187.00
Clay County Auditor/Treas.	1st half taxes #650436	Clay Co. Buyouts	\$ 42.00
Clay County Auditor/Treas.	Special Assessments	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 1,642.39
CRO'S Custom Services,LLC	#4301, clip cattails	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 1,000.00
Fuchs Sanitation	March/April garbage billing	Admin	\$ 42.12
Gerald L. Van Amburg	#15-21, 03/01/15-04/30/15	Varies	\$ 1,152.26
H.E.	April billing summary	Varies, see attached	\$ 130,657.33
James Nelson	Storage Lease 10/12/14-10/12/15	Pj. 08, Stony Creek	\$ 50.00
John E. Hanson	#15-18, 03/01/15-04/30/15	Varies	\$ 1,183.94
MAWD	Summer Tour reservations (4)	Admin	\$ 740.00
Peter V. Fjestad	#15-17, 03/01/15-04/30/15	Varies	\$ 1,329.62
Premium Waters, Inc.	#366-590-0415	Admin	\$ 33.75
Purchase Power	05/01/15 billing-meter postage	Admin	\$ 102.82
RMB Laboratories, Inc.	#261368, WQ analysis	Pj. 46, Turtle Lake	\$ 29.00
RMB Laboratories, Inc.	#261528, WQ analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3	\$ 500.00
RMB Laboratories, Inc.	#261664, WQ analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3	\$ 632.00
RMB Laboratories, Inc.	#261777, WQ analysis	M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3	\$ 421.00
Roger Lundberg	05/06/15 billing/beaver control	Becker C.D. Nos. 19	\$ 427.76
Roger Lundberg	Beaver/beaver dam removal	Becker C.D. Nos. 10/19	\$ 918.77
SECAP Finance	#2481200-AP15, postage meter rental	Admin	\$ 112.22
Terracon Consultants, Inc.	#T638600, soil borings	Stony Creek Project	\$ 7,792.10
Vogel Law Firm	#152320, March billing	COE Diversion	\$ 1,978.00
Vogel Law Firm	#152321, March billing	Pj. 77, Clay 51-Lat. 3	\$ 2,415.00
WFFN, LLC	Easement	Pj. 75, Wilkin C.D. 31-Lat.	\$ 8,725.50
WREC	03/19/15-04/19/15 service (2)	Pj. 46, Turtle Lake	\$ 178.58

Xcel Energy	03/27/15-04/26/15 billing-office	Admin	\$ 68.33
Xcel Energy	03/28/15-04/27/15 billings (2)	Pj. 49, Oakport	\$ 100.87
			\$ 173,918.82

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

Next Meeting. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2015, at 7:00 PM in our Barnesville office. The meeting date will change because of the Memorial Day Holiday.

Adjournment. **Motion** by Anderson to adjourn the meeting. **Seconded** by Kobiela. **Approved.** Chairman Van Amburg adjourned the meeting at 10:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hanson, Secretary