

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

BARNESVILLE, MINNESOTA 56514

1303 4th AVE NE  
Email: [general@brrwd.org](mailto:general@brrwd.org)

PO BOX 341

PHONE 218-354-7710  
Website: [www.brrwd.org](http://www.brrwd.org)

---

DATE: Wednesday, February 14, 2018  
TO: Clay County Board of Commissioners  
FROM: Bruce E. Albright, BRRWD Administrator  
RE: 2018 Petitions for Taxing Authority Per M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3

---

Attached, please find two (2) separate petitions for use of the above referenced taxing authority by the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) in 2018. The funding was discussed at our 2018 Budget Hearing held in Barnesville on 08/28/17. In accordance with said Statute, use of the funds must be petitioned for by a political subdivision.

## **Watershed Funding History.**

The BRRWD was created in 1960, enlarged in 1976, and enlarged again in 2012. In 1981, the BRRWD joined the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) which was formed in 1976. Under this joint powers legislation, the BRRWD was able to tax up to a 2 mil levy (now determined as a percentage of the taxable market value). The BRRWD retained half the funds to be used for local projects/programs. The other half was sent to the RRWMB. In 1981, the total taxation for the RRWMB funding was approximately \$190,000. By 2002, the total RRWMB taxation had grown to approximately \$1.4 million. In 2002, the BRRWD made a decision (for a variety of reasons) to no longer belong to the RRWMB. During the years we were a member of the RRWMB, the funding half retained by the BRRWD was used to support a variety of projects/programs, including the development of four detention sites: Stony Creek, Hay Creek, Spring Creek, and Stinking Lake. For 2018, the RRWMB set their levy at 100% (0.0004836) based on their proposed budget, and the status of projects they are funding. The taxable market value for the BRRWD in 2018 is \$8,155,348,431. If we were a RRWMB member in 2018, their total taxation would amount to \$3,943,927. Of this amount, one half of the proceeds (\$1,502,527) would be kept by the BRRWD for projects/programs, and the other half remitted to the RRWMB for them to redistribute back to MN Watershed Districts with flood control projects that meet their criteria.

## **RRWMB Policies.**

The funding that member districts send to the RRWMB is eligible to be returned to them for projects/programs that benefit the Red River of the North. During our tenure with the RRWMB, the BRRWD remitted \$6,102,024, and received \$2,185,455, or about a 36% return on our investment.

There were several factors that led to the BRRWD's resignation. One issue involved a local flooding problem on Turtle Lake and a request made to the RRWMB to help the people on Turtle Lake develop a project. Other concerns include the return on our investment and some of the expenditures made by the RRWMB. Recent meetings have been held with the RRWMB to discuss the possibility of rejoining that organization. Those discussions continue today. The BRRWD realizes that we are part of the Red River Basin, and therefore need to be involved if we are ever going to address the overall problems on a comprehensive basis for the Red River

**2018 Taxing Authority.**

At our 08/28/17 annual budget hearing, we discussed two (2) separate petitions for use of the M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3, taxing authority in 2018. The first petition (\$650,797), which is the maximum allowable by law (0.00798%), will be used for a variety of projects/programs, as listed on the attached budget. The second petition (\$500,000) will provide funding to help finance local costs associated with the construction of Project No. 79, Wolverton Creek Restoration. In 2017, the total BRRWD general taxation was \$1,425,162. For 2018, the total proposed BRRWD general fund taxation is \$1,422,797, or a 0.99% decrease from 2017. This total will be spread over an increased TMV because of the newly added areas in Wilkin and Otter Tail Counties that have been taxed since 2016.

**Summary.**

We truly want to thank the Clay County Board of Commissioners for your past support regarding our use of the M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3, taxing authority. We again request your support for the use of these funds in 2018. As noted, discussions **will continue** with representatives from the RRWMB regarding the possibility of rejoining that organization. Until then, we need to use these types of levies on an annual basis to continue the valuable project/program work in the BRRWD.

If you should have questions or comments concerning the above or attached, please feel free to contact this office.

BEA/kf

Attch: 2018 Draft General Levy Petitions (2)/2018 Budget/Annual Levy Comparison/Revenue-Expenditure Summary/2017 M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3 transfers

Buffalo-Red River Watershed District  
 2018 M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3, Tax Levy Summary #1-General  
 February 14, 2018  
Proposed Budget

Payable 2018 Taxable Market Value	\$ 8,155,348,431
Current Balance (02/14/18)	\$ 91,534
2018 Levy Not to Exceed 0.00798 percent	\$ 650,797
	\$ 742,331

**2018 Programs**

West Ottetail SWCD-Conservation Marketing	\$ 12,000
Clay SWCD-Conservation Marketing	\$ 12,000
Wilkin SWCD-Conservation Marketing	\$ 12,000
Wilkin SWCD-Technical Assistance	\$ 10,000
Becker SWCD-Landowner Incentive Programs	\$ 20,000
River Keepers (1-year levy)	\$ 55,000
Red River Basin Commission (1-year levy)	\$ 25,000
Survey & Data Acquisition	\$ 24,000
Water Quality (IWI, River Watch, RMB)	\$ 30,000
Mediation PT	\$ 15,000
1W1P	\$ 50,000
CWF Match	\$ 75,000
<b>Estimated 2018 Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 340,000</b>

**Balance for Projects**

\$ 402,331

**2018 Possible project/program levies**

RIM/WRP	\$ 25,000
S. Branch Buffalo River	\$ 25,000
Barnesville Township	\$ 25,000
Whisky Creek	\$ 25,000
Lower Otter Tail River	\$ 25,000
Log Jam Removal	\$ 15,000
Ring Dikes	\$ 5,000
Projects w/o benefit areas	\$ 25,000
Other	\$ 25,000
Manston Slough (bond sale payment)	\$ 185,000
	\$ 380,000

2018 Carryover \$ 22,331

# Buffalo-Red River Watershed District

## BWSR Performance Standards

### Total Revenue/Expenditures

February 14, 2018

YEAR	General Levy		ADMIN		%
	Revenue	Expenditures	Revenue	Expenditures	
2001	\$ 2,022,222	\$ 2,678,034	\$ 115,000	\$ 224,214	1.95
2002	\$ 2,168,898	\$ 1,899,915	\$ 125,000	\$ 226,575	1.81
2003	\$ 893,704	\$ 2,247,577	\$ 250,000	\$ 207,426	0.83
2004	\$ 1,456,783	\$ 1,638,717	\$ 250,000	\$ 233,478	0.93
2005	\$ 1,318,174	\$ 1,918,703	\$ 250,000	\$ 237,044	0.95
2006	\$ 3,503,636	\$ 3,517,947	\$ 250,000	\$ 255,410	1.02
2007	\$ 5,354,263	\$ 5,007,278	\$ 250,000	\$ 262,537	1.05
2008	\$ 4,325,757	\$ 3,544,445	\$ 250,000	\$ 299,889	1.20
2009	\$ 10,325,469	\$ 8,732,269	\$ 250,000	\$ 303,642	1.21
2010	\$ 14,092,374	\$ 14,871,541	\$ 250,000	\$ 311,009	1.24
2011	\$ 7,246,474	\$ 8,829,942	\$ 250,000	\$ 303,067	1.21
2012	\$ 8,303,302	\$ 6,022,850	\$ 250,000	\$ 337,305	1.35
2013	\$ 9,089,914	\$ 7,924,996	\$ 250,000	\$ 366,188	1.46
2014	\$ 6,348,589	\$ 6,724,785	\$ 250,000	\$ 392,530	1.57
2015	\$ 5,273,097	\$ 4,649,596	\$ 250,000	\$ 359,647	1.44
2016	\$ 11,114,715	\$ 9,946,898	\$ 250,000	\$ 394,712	1.58
2017	\$ 3,959,089	\$ 4,116,840	\$ 250,000	\$ 486,349	1.95

Buffalo-Red River Watershed District  
Annual Levy Comparison  
August 28, 2017

**2014**

Administrative	\$ 250,000
Insurance	\$ 23,000
Survey & Data Acquisition	\$ -
M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3 #1	\$ 460,665
M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3 #2	\$ 375,000
<b>TOTAL 2014 Levy</b>	<b>\$ 1,108,665</b>
2014 Projects/Ditch Systems	\$ 980,500

**2015**

Administrative	\$ 250,000	
Insurance	\$ 20,000	
Survey & Data Acquisition	\$ -	
M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3 #1	\$ 522,822	
M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3 #2	\$ 450,000	
<b>TOTAL 2015 Levy</b>	<b>\$ 1,242,822</b>	(+0.0122)
2015 Projects/Ditch Systems	\$ 1,843,500	

**2016**

Administrative	\$ 250,000	
Insurance	\$ 20,000	
Survey & Data Acquisition	\$ 75,000	
M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3 #1	\$ 626,927	
M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3 #2	\$ 450,000	
<b>TOTAL 2016 Levy</b>	<b>\$ 1,421,927</b>	(+0.011)
2016 Projects/Ditch Systems	\$ 2,040,500	

**2017**

Administrative	\$ 250,000	
Insurance	\$ 14,000	
Survey & Data Acquisition	\$ -	
M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3 #1	\$ 661,162	
M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3 #2	\$ 500,000	
<b>TOTAL 2017 Levy</b>	<b>\$ 1,425,162</b>	(+0.010)
2017 Projects/Ditch Systems	\$ 1,593,000	

**RESOLUTION 2018-10**

**APPROVING 2018 GENERAL TAX LEVY PETITION #1-  
BUFFALO-RED RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Annotated (M.S.A.) 103D.905, Subd. 3, and any other applicable statutes, the Clay County Board of Commissioners hereby petitions for a one-year (2018) annual tax levy in an amount not to exceed 0.00798 percent of the taxable market value (\$650,797) to pay the costs attributable to the basic water management features of project/programs within the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD); and

WHEREAS, the BRRWD per M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3, will use these funds for a variety of projects/programs, including: financial support for the Red River Basin Commission (\$25,000) and River Keepers (\$55,000), development and implementation of total maximum daily load (TMDL) and Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) for water quality, waterway log jam removal, flood damage reduction (fdr) projects, farmstead ringdikes, retention studies, development of the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P), and a variety of other fdr and natural resource enhancement projects.

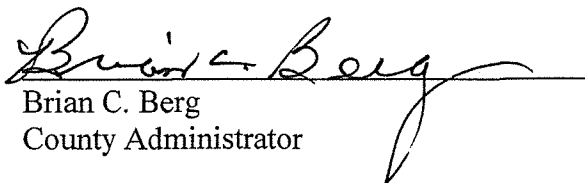
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Clay County Board of Commissioners that the Board does hereby petition for the use of said levy by the Board of Managers, BRRWD, in 2018, as discussed at their August 28, 2017, annual budget hearing.

Passed by the Clay County Board of Commissioners this 20th day of February, 2018.

APPROVED BY:

  
Jenny Mongeau, Chair  
Clay County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

  
Brian C. Berg  
County Administrator

**RESOLUTION 2018-11**

**APPROVING 2018 GENERAL TAX LEVY PETITION #2-  
BUFFALO-RED RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Annotated (M.S.A.) 103D.905, Subd. 3, and any other applicable statutes, the Clay County Board of Commissioners hereby petitions for a one-year (2018) annual tax levy in an amount not to exceed 0.00798 percent of the taxable market value (\$500,000) to pay the costs attributable to the basic water management features of project/programs within the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD); and

WHEREAS, the BRRWD per M.S.A. 103D.905, Subd. 3, will use these funds for the costs associated with the restoration and construction of Project No. 79, Wolverton Creek Restoration.

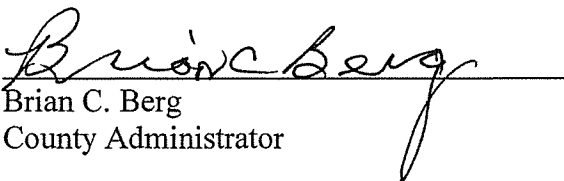
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Clay County Board of Commissioners that the Board does hereby petition for the use of said levy by the Board of Managers, BRRWD, in 2018, as discussed at their August 28, 2017, annual budget hearing.

Passed by the Clay County Board of Commissioners this 20th day of February, 2018.

APPROVED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jenny Mongeau, Chair  
Clay County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian C. Berg  
County Administrator