

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

December 12, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Agenda

9:00 a.m.	Call to Order	Action
	Review and approve agenda	Action
	Requests to appear	Information
	November 25, 2024 Minutes	Action
	Financial Report dated December 11, 2024	Action
	Cardinal Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129BB Funding Update	Info/Action
	Payment Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129BC Funding Update	Info/Action
	Moose River/JD 11 Engelstad SWI - Thief River 1W1P HEI Channel Stability Study	Action Information
	Clearwater Stabilization Project, Clearwater River 1W1P RLWD Project No. 149C	Information
	Thief River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS)	Info/Action
	Tabled Permit: RLWD Permit No. 24159, East Valley Twp, Marshall Cty.	Info/Action
	Permits: 24027, 24226, 24228-24230, and 24233	Info/Action
	River Watch Scholarships	Information
	2025 Budget & Salary/Personnel Policy	Info/Action
	Corporate Technologies Computer Purchase	Action
	RLWD Logo	Action
	2024 Minnesota Watersheds Annual Conference & Trade Show Summary	Information
	Administrators Report	Information
	Legal Counsel Update	Information

Managers' Updates

Information

Adjourn

Action

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

December 12, 2024	RLWD Board Meeting, 9:00 am
December 13, 2024	Thief River 1W1P Advisory & Policy Committee Meeting, 9:00 am
December 17, 2024	RRWMB, Ada, 10:00 am
December 18, 2024	Thief River Area Subwatershed Project Team Meeting, 9:00 am
December 18, 2024	Red Lake River 1W1P Policy Committee Meeting, 1:00 pm
December 25, 2024	RLWD Office Closed – HOLIDAY
December 30, 2024	RLWD Board Meeting, 9:00 am
January 6, 2025	UL/RL 1W1P – BWSR Northern Region Committee Meeting, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
January 7, 2025	RRWMB, Ada, 10:00 a.m.
January 14-16, 2025	42 nd Annual RRBC Land & Water International Summit Conference, Grand Forks
January 22, 2025	UL/RL 1W1P – BWSR Board Meeting
January 28, 2025	BWSR Watershed Manager Training, 1-4 pm

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
November 25, 2024

President, Gene M. Tiedemann, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District Office, Thief River Falls, MN.

Managers Present: Grant Nelson, Terry Sorenson, Allan Page, Brian Dwight, Tom Anderson, LeRoy Ose, and Gene Tiedemann. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Lindsey Deselich, Elaine Rychlock, Erick Huseeth, Nate Koland, Tony Olson, and Melissa Bushy. Absent: Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Nelson, and passed by a unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the November 14, 2024, minutes. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the November 14, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated November 22, 2024. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Nelson, to approve the Financial Report dated November 22, 2024, as presented. Motion carried.

Staff member Elaine Rychlock discussed Certificates of Deposits (CDs). After much discussion, a motion was made by Page, seconded by Anderson, to approve the purchase of two \$500,000 CD's at Unity Bank in Red Lake Falls, MN, for 5 months at a rate of 4.9%. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a Resolution to Submit and the Implementation Agreement for the Upper/Lower Red Lake Watershed Comprehensive Management Plan, RLWD Project No. 149C. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Sorenson, to authorize President Tiedemann the authority to sign the Resolution to Submit. Motion carried. A motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Anderson, to authorize President Tiedemann the authority to sign the Implementation Agreement for the Upper/Lower Red Lake Watershed Comprehensive Management Plan. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette stated that the MnDNR will be making the revisions to the MnDNR Public Waters Inventory maps.

Administrator Audette stated that the contractor the Thibert Dam Project, RLWD Project No. 50G had submitted all the necessary documents to close out the project.

A pre-construction meeting was held with Quality Spray Foam/Anderson Excavating, for the Chiefs Coulee Project, RLWD Project No. 46. The Contractor stated that the Performance/Payment Bond should be in hand within the next several days.

Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to schedule the Final Payment Hearing for the Drees/Stock Sites, Thief River Streambank Project, RLWD Project No. 149A for December 30, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at the RLWD office. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Change Order No. 1 for the Payment Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129BC in the amount of \$21,383.40. A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Ose to approve Change Order No. 1 for the Payment Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129BC. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Final Pay Estimate for the Payment Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129BC, in the amount of \$32,650.06. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to approve the Final Pay Estimate for the Payment Ring Dike RLWD Project No. 129BC. Motion carried.

Staff member, Tony Olson, presented pictures and discussed RLWD Project No. 174, Chuck Flage Erosion Control.

A motion was made by Page, seconded by Sorenson, to approve tabling RLWD Permit No. 24213 and 24214, Smiley Township, Pennington County, and No. 24231, Godfrey Township, Polk County, to allow for further review by District staff. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permits for approval. Motion by Page, seconded by Anderson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 24190, Louis Ulrich, Gervais Township, Red Lake County; No. 24195, Dan Aandal, Grand Plain Township, Marshall County; No. 24202, Joel Gasper, Polk Centre Township, Pennington County; No. 24204, Trevor Berg, Whiteford Township, Marshall County; No. 24206, Charles Carlson, Wyandotte Township, Pennington County; No. 24210, Earl Pederson, Grove Park Township, Polk County; No. 24218, Richard Schmitz, Louisville Township, Red Lake County; No. 24221, Steiger Farms, Black River Township, Pennington County; No. 24222, Pennington County Highway Dept., Wyandotte Township, Pennington County; No. 24223, Jon Sigerud, Reiner Township, Pennington County; No. 24224, Scott Tersteeg, Terrebonne Township, Red Lake County; and No. 24225, PARJIM Farmland GP, Winsor Township, Clearwater County. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette presented sample logos produced by Red Canoe Creative. Audette and staff would like to hire an outside firm to develop a new logo for the Red Lake Watershed District. A sample cost sheet was shared and discussed.

Administrator Audette discussed the need for a RLWD website update. HEI is currently hosting our website. Audette noted that we are still using the old website that Jim Blix created. HEI doesn't design websites anymore and would like to move it off their servers.

Administrator Audette discussed the proposed purchase of four new computers for staff along with quote from Corporate Technologies.

The proposed 2025 Budget and Salary recommendations and proposed revisions to the Personnel Policies were presented by Administrator Audette and discussed.

Administrator's Report:

- **MN Watersheds Conference:** Most of the staff will be participating in portions of the MN Watersheds conference next week in Nisswa. On Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 10:00 am, one of the concurrent sessions will be a demo on MS4 Front. This is the database program that District staff is interested in purchasing for managing the District's permit program and potential 1W1P projects. Administrator Audette encouraged Board and staff members to take part in this session.
- **Culvert Inventory:** Tony Olson and Administrator Audette participated in a meeting with staff from Pennington County and Pennington SWCD demonstrating their culvert inventory database.
- **RRWMB:** Administrator Audette participated virtually in the RRWMB meeting on Tuesday, November 19th. Included in the packet is information on the RRWMB Legislative Open House scheduled for December 17th at 10:00 a.m. in Ada.
- **Red River Basin Commission Conference:** If any Board members wish to attend the Red River Basin Commission Conference in January in Grand Forks, please inform staff member Bushy.
- **Thanksgiving Holiday:** A reminder was given that the District office will be closed November 28 and 29th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- **Legislative Open House:** Board members were advised that they are invited to attend the 7th Annual Legislative Open House in Ada on December 17, 2024 from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm.

Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

LeRoy Ose, Secretary

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Financial Report for December 11, 2024

Ck#	Check Issued to:	Description	Amount
online	EFTPS	Withholding FICA,Fed & Medicare(12/04/24 pp)	\$4,591.56
online	MN Department of Revenue	Withholding Taxes (12/04/24 payroll)	\$789.89
online	PERA	PERA (12/24/24 pp)	\$2,781.26
41555	Kim Nordheim	Catering for FDRWD Meeting & Board Mtgs.	\$485.00
41556	Brault Construction	Euclid Impoundment beaver dam removal	\$576.00
41557	Charles Perry	CCRP Pilot Incentive Program	\$275.00
41558	Farmers Union Oil	Fuel for vehicles	\$598.07
41559	Frontier Precision	Engineering Supplies	\$239.61
41560	Hugo's	Board Meeting Food	\$233.59
41561	Jeremy Rychlock	Moose River Impoundment Read/Observe Pools	\$970.02
41562	Kelly Dahlen	Good Lake maintenance & beaver removal	\$9,231.00
41563	Kristie Huseth	Cleaner	\$630.00
41564	VOID	wrong vendor	\$0.00
41565	L & M Fleet	Engineering supplies	\$96.30
41566	Lynn Vad	CCRP Pilot Incentive Program	\$5,000.00
41567	Marco	Copy machine expense	\$284.32
41568	Mark Kelly	CCRP Pilot Incentive Program	\$5,000.00
41569	Marshall SWCD	Admin, Project Dev. and T&E Fees	\$58,047.98
41570	Pennington SWCD	***see details below	\$11,525.58
41571	Red Lake County SWCD	***see details below	\$29,805.18
41572	Sand Hill Watershed District	Boundry Review-Onsted Twshp-(board approve 6-25-20)	\$3,962.81
41573	Steven Szymanski	CCRP Pilot Incentive Program	\$5,000.00
41574	Kyle Page	CCRP Pilot Incentive Program	\$4,018.00
online	Northwest Service Coop	Health Insurance Premium	\$12,055.16
online	Card Member Services	BWSR Academy Expenses, Forestry Suppliers Paint	\$2,741.65
online	WEX	FSA Medical	\$500.00
online	Aramark	Office Rug Rental	\$75.62
online	Aflac	Staff paid insurance	\$326.24
online	Delta Dental	Dental Insurance Premium	\$597.05
online	NCPERS	Staff Life Insurance	\$128.00
online	City of Thief River Falls	Utilities	\$504.12
direct	Staff Salaries	Staff & Board pp 12/4/24	\$16,221.78
Total Checks			\$177,290.79

#41570	CW1W1P - 2023 Project 149B	\$27.35
**Pennington	RL1W1P - 2024 Project 149	\$8,604.45
SWCD	RL1W1P - Midpoint	\$101.07
	TR1W1P - 2022 Project 149A	\$815.61
	RL1W1P - 2022 Project 149	<u>\$1,977.10</u>
		\$11,525.58
#41571	RL1W1P - 2022 Project 149	\$25,164.00
**Red Lake Co.	RL1W1P - 2022 Project 149	\$3,141.18
SWCD	RL1W1P - Match	<u>\$1,500.00</u>
		\$29,805.18

Northern <u>State</u> <u>Bank</u> <u>TRF</u>	Balance as of October 23, 2024		\$562,397.04
	Total Check Written		-\$177,290.79
	Receipt# 12292	RT Nelson Brothers Permit Hearing Invoice	\$2,283.41
	Receipt# 12293	Red Lake County Taxes	\$118,808.96
	Receipt# 12295	November Interest	\$1,959.33
	Receipt# 12296	Thibert Dam 50G NRCS Equipment Reimbs.	\$47,794.34
	Receipt# 12297	Itasca County Taxes	\$389.42
	Receipt# 12298	Dakota Heritage CD Monthly Interest	\$8,366.19
	Receipt# 12299	Polk County Taxes	\$687,452.71
	Receipt# 12300	State - Swagg Invoice #9	\$23,102.10
	Receipt# 12301	Roseau County Taxes	\$33.75
	Receipt# 12302	Paul Hoff - Land Rent Louisville Parnell	\$6,231.63
	Receipt# 12303	Pennington County Taxes	\$294,739.99
	Receipt# 12305	Clearwater County Taxes	\$199,204.03
	Receipt# 12306	Marshall County Taxes	\$6,392.87
	Receipt# 12307	Koochiching County Taxes	\$5,760.20
	Receipt# 12308	Mahnomen County Taxes	\$2,426.49
	Balance as of December 11, 2024		
	Current interest rate is 3.25%		\$1,790,051.67
American Federal Fosston	Balance as of November 30, 2024		\$ 4,385,147.84
	Receipt# 12294	November Interest	\$11,713.75
	Receipt# 12304	Beltrami County Taxes	\$85,519.40
	Balance as of December 11, 2024		
	Current interest rate is 3.30%		\$ 4,482,380.99
<u>CD's</u>	Edward Jones	12 month CD 4.85%	\$ 237,000.00
		Expiry 12-20-24	
	Edward Jones	12 month CD 4.55%	\$ 50,000.00
		Expiry 1-2-25	
	Edward Jones	12 month CD 4.75%	\$ 237,000.00
		Expiry 1-2-25	
	Edward Jones	12 month CD 4.9%	\$ 238,000.00
		Expiry 1-30-25	
	Edward Jones	12 month CD 4.9%	\$ 237,000.00
		Expiry 2-14-25	
	Dakota Hertitage	7 month CD 5.17%	\$ 500,000.00
		Expiry 2-24-25	
	Dakota Hertitage	9 month CD 5.25%	\$ 500,000.00
		Expiry 4-24-25	
	Edward Jones		

	12 month CD 5.2%	\$ 243,000.00
	Expiry 5-09-25	
Edward Jones		
	12 month CD 5.15%	\$ 237,000.00
	Expiry 5-09-25	
Dakota Hertitage		
	7 month CD 5.17%	\$ 500,000.00
	Expiry 5-9-25	
Dakota Hertitage		
	9 month CD 5.25%	\$ 500,000.00
	Expiry 7-9-25	
	Total CD Investments	\$ 3,479,000.00

Total Cash (NSB + AFB + CD's)	\$ 9,751,432.66
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Cash that has been received and earmarked for projects:

2022 Grant Thief River 1W1P Project #149A	\$ 279,677.31
2023 Grant Clearwater 1W1P Project #149B	\$ 1,016,044.43
2024 Grant Red Lake River 1W1P Project #149	\$ 321,779.72
2025 Grant Clearwater 1W1P Project #149B	\$ 742,941.00
Mid Point Grant Project #149	\$ 24,867.92
Chief Coulee Project #46S	\$ 214,375.00
2025 CRP Payment Red Lake 1W1P	\$ 100,000.00
	\$ 2,699,685.38

Payables committed to by board action:

Chief Coulee Proj. #46S	\$ 800,000.00
	\$ 800,000.00
Total accessible cash (Est.)	\$ 6,251,747.28

Cardinal Ring Dike

RLWD Project 129 BB

Project Cost Breakdown

Applicant(s): Jason and Sabrina Cardinal

Contractor: Higher Ground

Original Contract Amount: \$ 28,216.60

Contract Changes: Misc +/-: Excav., Common Embank., Common Borrow
at time of change order, quantities were unknown \$ 5,506.00

New Contract Amount: \$ 33,722.60

Engineering Fees: \$ 25,193.00

RLWD Staff Time: \$ 5,347.56

Legal: \$ 400.00

Project Total: \$ 64,663.16

Estimated project total on MnDNR application: \$ 79,545.00

Project Total Shares:

State of MN (50%)

State share approved: \$ 39,772.00 \$ 32,331.58

RRWMB (25%) \$ 16,165.79

RLWD (12.5%) \$ 8,082.90

Landowner (12.5%) \$ 8,082.90

Landowner share received \$ 10,691.52

Landowner Due: \$ 2,608.63

Payment Ring Dike

RLWD Project 129 BC Project Cost Breakdown

Applicant(s): Danny & Jami Payment

Contractor: Olson Construction

	Estimate
Original Contract Amount:	\$ 75,519.80
Contract Changes:	
True North-culvert ends/grates (paid directly not to Contractor)	\$ 4,840.24
Change Order No. 1	\$ 21,383.40
Misc +/- : Aggregate, culvert revision, pipe	\$ 933.20
New Contract Amount:	\$ 102,676.64
Engineering Fees:	\$ 38,604.50
RLWD Staff Time:	\$ 11,346.08
Legal:	\$ 320.00

Project Total:	\$ 152,947.22
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Estimated project total on MnDNR application: \$ 163,460.30

Project Total Shares:

State of MN (50%)		
State share approved:	\$ 81,730.15	\$ 76,473.61
RRWMB (25%)		\$ 38,236.81
RLWD (12.5%)		\$ 19,118.40
Landowner (12.5%)		\$ 19,118.40
Landowner share received:	\$ 22,153.54	
Landowner Due:		\$ 3,035.14

PERCENT BASED CONSERVATION PRACTICE ASSISTANCE CONTRACT

General Information

Organization Beltrami SWCD	Contract Number BSWCD_TRWBIF_24_01	Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Date(s):	Canceled <input type="checkbox"/> Date:
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*If contract amended, attach amendment form(s) to this contract.

Applicant

Land Occupier Name Reed Engelstad	Address 1125 River Drive	City/State Red Lake Falls, MN	Zip code 56750
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* If a group contract, this must be filed and signed by the group spokesperson as designated in the group agreement and the group agreement attached to this form.

Conservation Practice Location

Township Name Northwoods	Township 157	Range 39	Section 6	1/4, 1/4 S 1/2 & E 1/2, NE 1/4
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Contract Information

I (we), the undersigned, do hereby request assistance to help defray the cost of installing the following practice(s) listed on the second page of this contract. It is understood that:

1. The land occupier is responsible for full establishment, operation, and maintenance of practice(s) and upland treatment criteria applied under this program to ensure that the conservation objectives are met and the effective life, a **minimum of 10 years**, is achieved. The specific operation and maintenance requirements for the conservation practice(s) listed are described in the Operation and Maintenance Plan prepared for this contract by the technical assistance provider.
2. Should the land occupier fail to maintain the practice(s) during the effective life, the land occupier is liable to the organization for up to **150%** of the amount of financial assistance received to install and establish the practice(s) unless the failure was caused by reasons beyond the land occupier's control, or if conservation practices are applied at the land occupier's expense that provide equivalent protection of the soil and water resources.
3. If title to this land is transferred to another party before expiration of the aforementioned effective life, it shall be the responsibility of the landowner who signed this contract to advise the new owner that this contract is in force and to notify other parties to the contract of the transfer.
4. Practice(s) must be planned and installed in accordance with technical standards and specifications of the: **MN-EFOTG**
5. Increases in the practice(s) units or cost must be approved by the organization through amendment of this contract as a condition to increase the financial assistance payments.
6. This contract, when approved by the organization, will remain in effect unless canceled or amended by mutual agreement. If the practice(s) covered by this contract have not been installed by **12/31/25**, this contract will be automatically terminated on that date.
7. Items of cost for which reimbursement is claimed are to be supported by invoices/receipts for payments and will be verified by the organization as practical and reasonable. The invoices/receipts must include: the name of the vendor; the materials, labor or equipment used; the component unit costs; and the date(s) the work was performed. The organization has the authority to make adjustments to the costs submitted for reimbursement. Reimbursement requests must also be supported by a completed Percent Based Voucher Form.

Applicant Signatures

The land occupier's signature indicates agreement to:

1. Grant the organization's representative(s) access to the parcel(s) where the conservation practice(s) will be located.
2. Have all required legal land rights, including but not limited to: access and authority to both construct and maintain the conservation practice(s) agreed upon in this contract for the effective life of the practice(s).
3. Obtain any permits required in conjunction with the installation and establishment of the practice(s) prior to starting construction of the practice(s).
4. Be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the conservation practice(s) applied under this program in accordance with an Operation and Maintenance Plan prepared by the technical assistance provider.
5. Not accept financial assistance funds, from state sources in excess of **75** percent, or state and non-state sources that when combined are in excess of **100** percent of the total cost to establish the conservation practice(s).
6. Provide copies of all forms and contracts pertinent to any other state or non-state programs that are contributing funds toward this project.

Date	Land Occupier
Date	Landowner, if different from applicant Address, if different from applicant information:

Conservation Practice

The primary practice for which assistance is requested is 410

Practice standard(s) or eligible component(s) Grade Stabilization Structures/Side Water Inlets (SWIs)	Total Project Cost Estimate \$41,410.71
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Technical Assessment and Cost Estimate

I have the appropriate technical expertise and have reviewed the site where the above-listed practice(s) will be installed and deem the practice(s) needed and that the estimated quantities and costs are practical and reasonable.

Date	Technical Assistance Provider
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Amount Authorized for Financial Assistance

The organization has authorized the following for financial assistance: total not to exceed **75** percent of the total cost to establish the conservation practice.

Approval Date	Authorized Signature	Total Amount Authorized \$31,058.03
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Reed & Ron Engelstad Side Water Inlets (SWIs)
T157N, R39W, Section 6 Beltrami County

6/17/2019
by: Darren Carlson
Beltrami County



NAIP 2017

Legend

- Side Water Inlets (SWIs)
- ▭ Townships
- ▭ Sections

1 inch = 800 feet

1:9,600

0 400 800

1,600 Feet



Preliminary Opinion of Cost
 Reed Engelstad For Sw.Ds 1, 2, 4, 5, 6
 Beltrami County; Northwood Township; T157-R38-SEC6
 Prepared By: Justin Muller
 Date: 11/5/2024

Item	Quantity		Unit Price	Amount
Mobilization	1	Lump Sum	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Salvaging and Spreading Topsoil	267	Cu.Yd.	\$7.00	\$1,869.00
Compacted Earthfill (CV)	522	Cu.Yd.	\$7.00	\$3,654.00
Trench Sloping and Compacting Under Embankments	5	Each	\$500.00	\$2,500.00
18" Dia. Corrugated Metal Pipe	190	Lin.Ft	\$70.29	\$13,355.10
18" Dia. Flared Metal Apron	5	Each	\$325.00	\$1,625.00
Rock Riprap, MNDOT Class II	50	Cu.Yd.	\$150.00	\$7,500.00
Geotextile NRCS Class I	180	Sq.Yd.	\$6.00	\$1,080.00
Seeding.	0.5	Acre	\$1,200.00	\$600.00
Erosion Control Blanket	1321	Sq.Yd.	\$3.00	\$3,963.00
Subtotal				\$37,646.10
10% Contingency				\$3,764.61
Total				\$41,410.71

Reed Engelstad For SWDs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6
Beltrami County; Northwood Township; T157-R36-SEC6
Prepared By: Justin Muller
Date: 11/5/2024

Beltrami County; Northwood Township; T157-R36-SEC6

Prepared By: Justin Muller

Date: 11/5/2024

Total _____

Date: _____

Bidder's Contact Information:

Technical Memorandum

To: Red Lake Watershed District
Board of Managers

From: Tony Nordby, PE
Houston Engineering, Inc.

Subject: Moose River/Judicial Ditch (JD) 21 Channel Stability –
Summary of Opinions Memo

Date: January 23, 2024

Project: HEI Project No. 3655-0103

I hereby certify that this plan, specification, or report was prepared by me or under my direct supervision and that I am duly Licensed Professional Engineer under the laws of the State of Minnesota.

 1/23/24
Tony A. Nordby Date
Reg. No. 51392

INTRODUCTION

During the April 14, 2022, Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) board meeting, the board directed Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI) to prepare a summary of opinions outline for the above referenced project on the Moose River/JD 21 east of Marshall County Road 54 NW (MCR 54) to identify potential stream restoration and stabilization opportunities. Due to high water levels within the Moose River due to discharge from the Moose River Impoundment in 2022, detailed survey and sight review were not possible until late 2022 and into the 2023 growing season.

BACKGROUND

The Moose River was altered during establishment of JD 21 in 1915 and overtime the channel has the appearance of degradation, areas of unstable banks, and field erosion from adjacent lands contributing to sediment deposit within the channel. The channel was flown with a drone to capture video, LiDAR, and imagery in the fall of 2022 to identify unstable and erosive areas. Staff from HEI and the RLWD met to review GIS maps that were created to identify these problem areas. On June 6, 2023, Corey Hanson of the RLWD and I conducted a field inspection to ground truth the areas mapped and the remainder of the channel east of MCR 54 to confirm the identified problem areas and prioritize locations for further investigation and opportunities to implement best management practices (BMPs) or channel stabilization strategies.

SURVEY AND DITCH RECORD INVESTIGATION

The RLWD staff performed detailed survey of the channel bottom in late fall of 2023 east of MCR 54 to get a better understanding of degradation within the channel bottom where water levels limited the drone LiDAR survey abilities in the fall of 2022. That surveyed profile was then compared to the original 1915 design ditch grade and the 1981 ditch grade on file for outlet adequacy for the Moose River Impoundment Project. The vertical datum of these ditch grades differs from today's North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88), so adjustment was necessary to compare the current profile to historical ditch grades. One technique to determine the as-constructed grade in a modern vertical datum is to collect soil borings during the field survey to determine the as-built grade. This

technique only works for ditch systems that have changed due to sediment deposition. Multiple locations along JD 2 east of MCR 54 are degraded, or have experienced erosion over time, and the soil boring technique cannot be utilized. Instead, the 1915 design ditch grade and 1981 ditch grade were adjusted to represent NAVD 88 datum by overlaying the cut profile from 1915 and the 1981 surveyed natural ground profile with the south natural ground field profile from the 2022 drone LiDAR flight. The 1915 and 1981 ditch grades were adjusted proportionately along with the natural ground profiles and therefore give a good representation of those ditch grades in NAVD 88 datum. See **Sheet 1** comparing these grades.

MOOSE RIVER BMP PRIORITIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS

BMP 1 – SIDE WATER INLETS

Multiple agricultural fields have open channels with direct agricultural drainage that enters the Moose River/JD 21. Some fields have existing culverts that are either too short or beyond life expectancy where erosion is occurring on the downstream ends. These side water inlets are shown on **Sheets 2-8**. In the open channel locations, head cutting is occurring into the adjacent fields causing gully erosion along the riverbank/adjacent field and transferring sediment downstream.

Example Side Water Inlet Need



A conceptual cost range per site for implementing this practice would be approximately \$4,000 to \$5,000. If landowner cooperation can be achieved, it is recommended that this practice be the highest priority as it will be the most cost-effective approach for achieving immediate sediment load reduction.

BMP 2 – GRADE CONTROL STRUCTURES / BANK STABILIZATION

The drone video showed multiple stretches of the Moose River/JD 21 where bank stabilization issues were occurring. The field investigation and channel bottom survey as shown on **Sheet 1** proved this correct where the channel bottom has degraded, and the channel toe areas are eroding and causing the banks to become unstable. I recommend that grade stabilization measures be addressed between Stations 660+00 to 756+00 and potentially between 882+00 to 972+00 where the 2023 surveyed channel profile is below the 1981 Moose River flow calculation profile. Since 1981, it seems evident that areas just downstream of locations where degradation has taken place, some aggregation is occurring within the channel bottom where the 2023 surveyed channel profile is above the 1981 Moose River flow calculation profile as shown on **Sheet 1**. It should be stated that the 1915 original grade is likely unfeasible to redevelop in most locations due to the excessive degradation and adequate outlet capacity grade identified in 1981 for the Moose River Impoundment Project. It is recommended that rock riffles be strategically placed to stabilize the 1981 ditch grade by acting as a control structure allowing the sediment capture upstream of the structures, allowing long term reestablishment of the ditch grade, prevention of further channel degradation (downward erosion), and improvement of streambank stability. Streambank stabilization could then be incorporated into the project at the potential locations outlined on **Sheets 2 – 8** where degradation is occurring.

Channel Degradation Potential



A conceptual cost range per site for implementing this practice would be approximately \$10,000 to \$15,000. This practice could be implemented with BMP 1 as this practice will reduce channel velocity and in channel sediment transfer downstream.

BMP 3 – RESTORATION OF HISTORICAL CHANNEL MEANDERS

It is evident that the Moose River was straightened removing historic meanders when JD 21 was constructed. The attached **Sheets 2 - 8** show multiple locations where the old meanders are evident on both the north and south sides of the existing Moose River/JD 21 channel and adjacent roadway. Reestablishing the historic meanders on the north side of the roadway is likely not feasible due to the cost of large waterway openings needed to convey flow under the roadway within a public water but multiple locations along the south side of the channel provide opportunity for channel restoration and/or floodplain access. Reintroducing these historic meanders would increase flow travel time, reduce channel velocities, reduce in channel sediment transfer downstream, and improve road safety while addressing multiple bank stabilization locations identified on **Sheets 2 - 8**. Locations along the channel that seem the most practical and beneficial are along the Eric Sundberg and Timothy Foss properties in Section 5 of Northwood Township, Matthew Hennen property in Section 4 of Northwood Township, and multiple State lands in Northwood and North Beltrami Unorganized Townships.

The roadway adjacent to the Timothy Foss property has an extremely steep road slope into the Moose River/JD 21 channel where bank stabilization is an issue and large tree growth along the south road shoulder makes traffic safety a Beltrami County Highway Department concern. The historic meander at this location appears to be cut off from flow on the upstream end and has a culvert on the downstream end where the historic meander returns to the existing Moose River/JD 21 system. This culvert appears to be in poor condition with a flap gate that is silted shut and not in operation. Reintroducing flow into this historic meander would not only be a water quality benefit, but also allow the road authority to improve the road slope for traffic safety.

Timothy Foss Historical Meander Culvert (**Sheet 3**)



Multiple historic meander locations along the Erick Sundberg property and state properties have been cut off from flow south of the Moose River/JD 21. These meanders are still evident today and could be used as floodplain locations to help slow velocities in the channel or full restorations of the meanders to lengthen the channel.

Erosion was evident in the agricultural field adjacent to the historic channel in the Hennen field east of the Northwood church. The historic meander is currently being farmed on the west side of the Northwood church driveway but is more evident on the east side and wasn't farmed through in June of 2023. Culverts were evident along this property where the historic meanders exit the Moose River/JD 21 system, providing an agricultural drainage outlet.

A conceptual cost range per channel restoration site for implementing this practice would be approximately \$100,000 to \$200,000. Cost would be dependent on the overall length of the restoration and if it's a full or partial restoration where all water is diverted to the historic meander or only partial high flows and the existing channel is still used adjacent to the roadway.

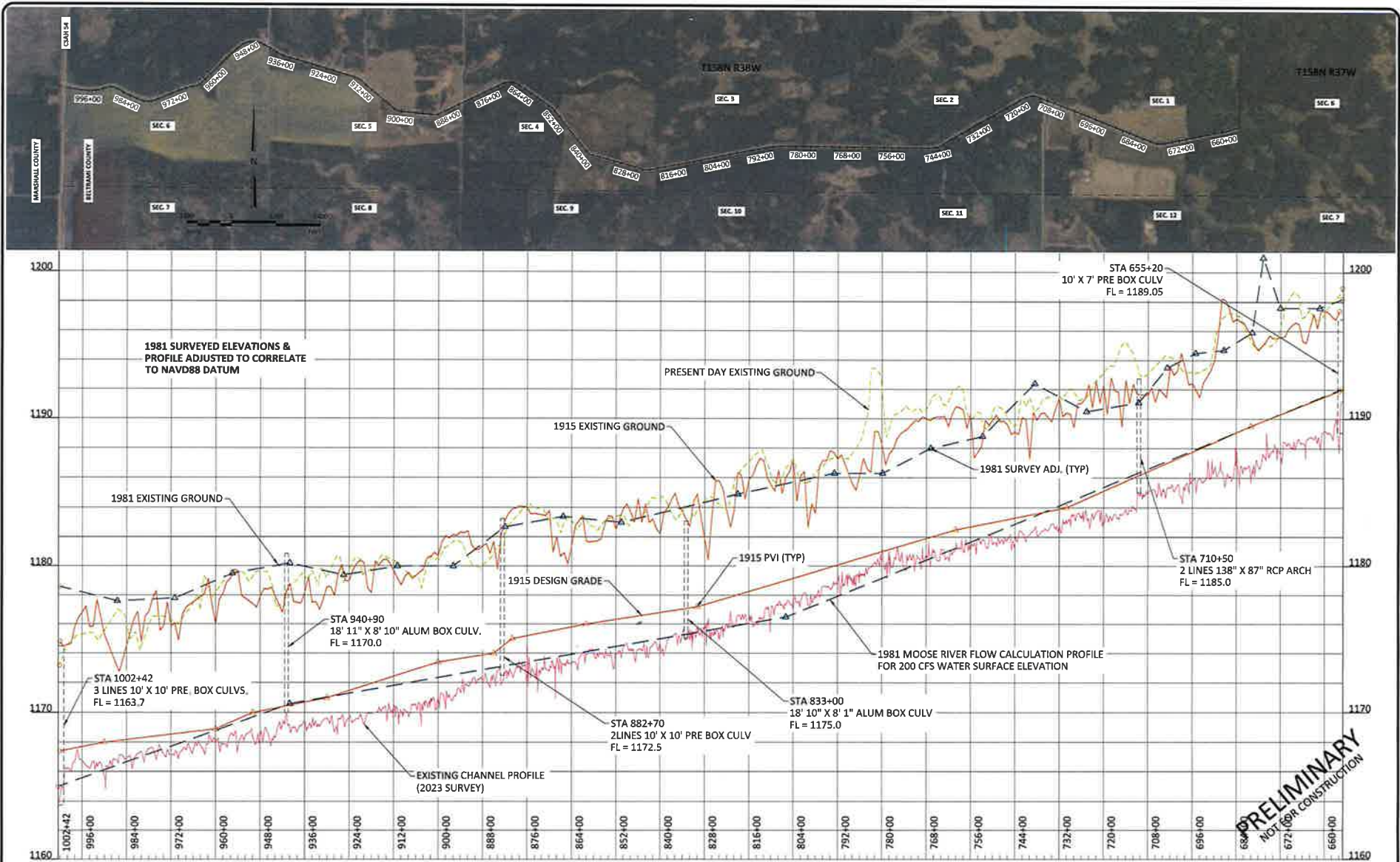
Matthew Hennen Historical Meander East of Northwood Church (**Sheet 4**)



CONCLUSION

The original proposal discussed 5 types of stream restoration/stabilization practices, but through field review it appears that subsurface seepage drains, and channel slope armoring of high velocity channel areas are not a fit for this system. It's recommended that the RLWD and project partners pursue moving forward with BMP 1 and 2 listed above while investigating interest from adjacent landowners and the Department of Natural Resources on the potential of implementing BMP 3 where feasible.

H:\M\136001\36551\36551-01 JD 21 Channel Stability\CAD\JD 21 - TPO.dwg P & P 1-15/2024 11:29 AM (tdm)



PRELIMINARY
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

No.	Revision	Date	By

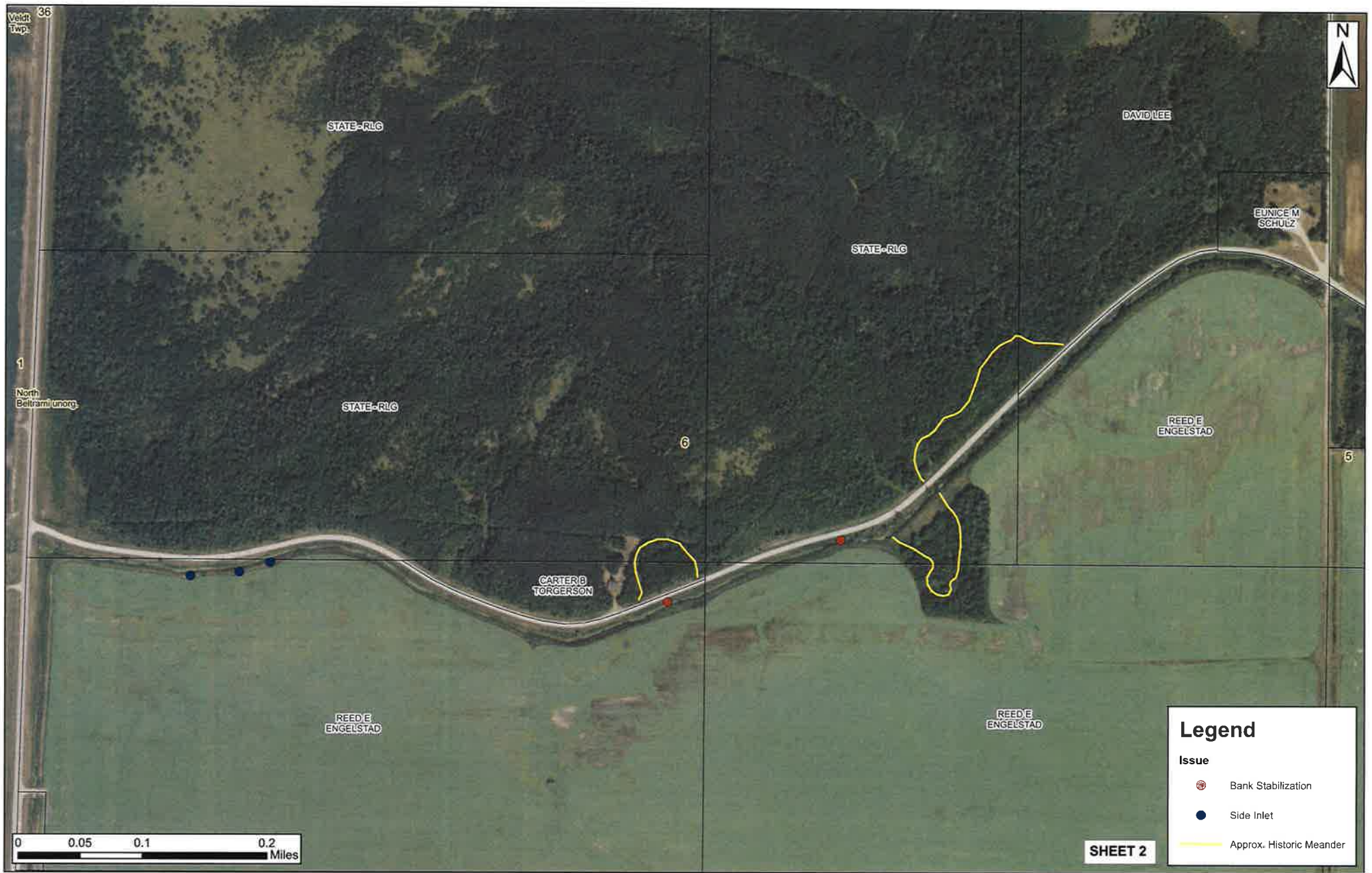
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engineering, inc.

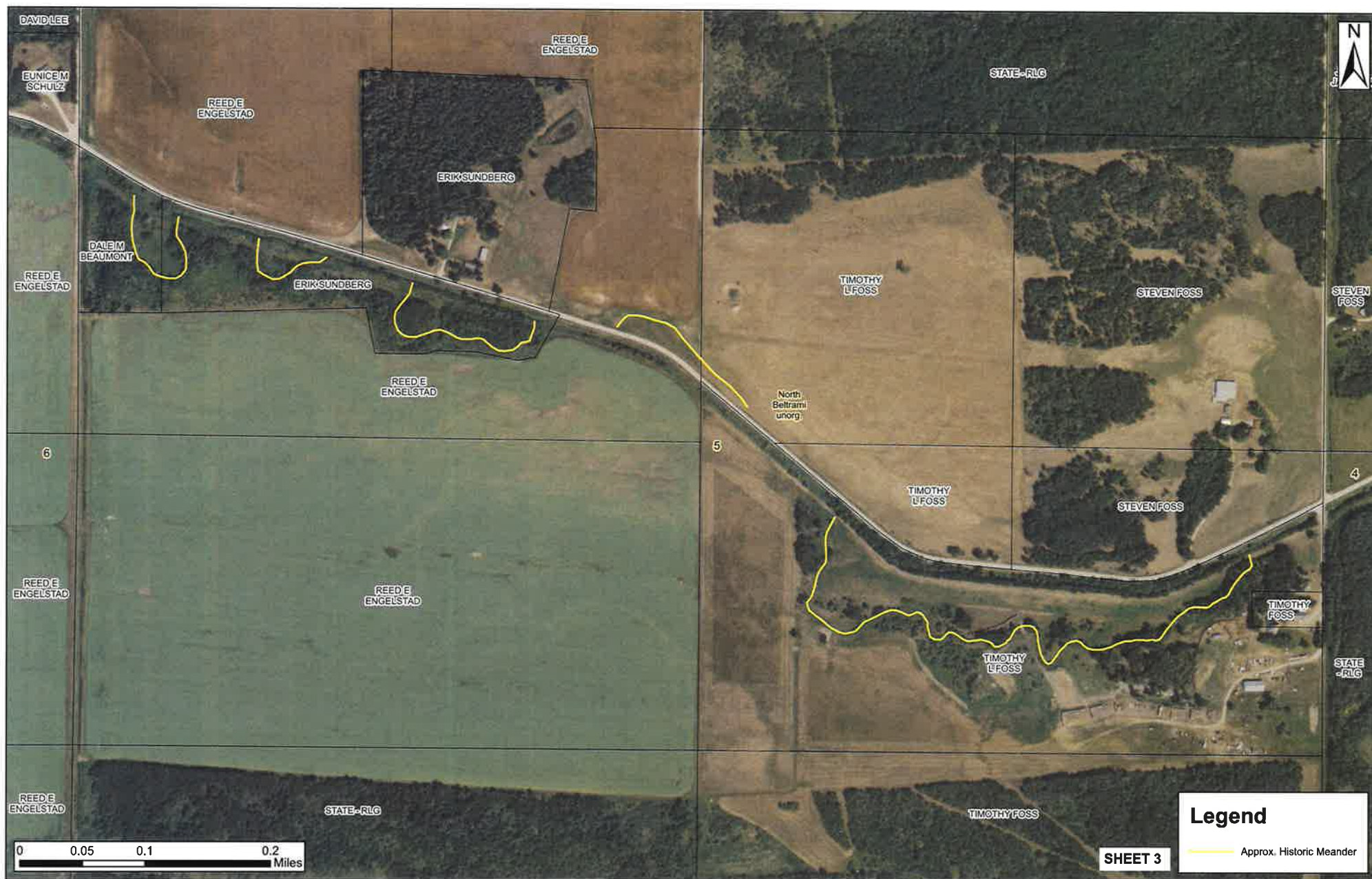
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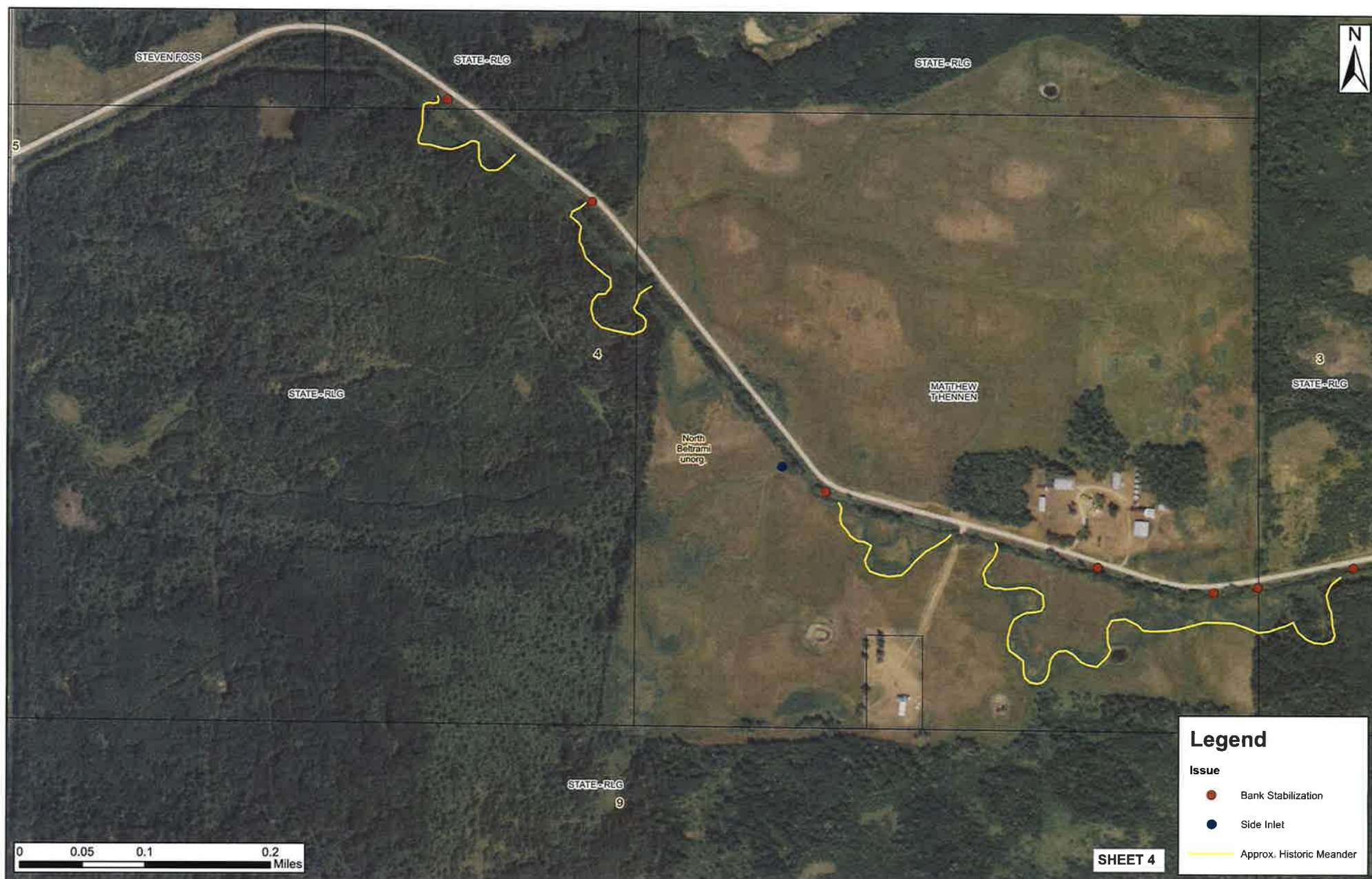
JD 21 CHANNEL
RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
MOOSE RIVER

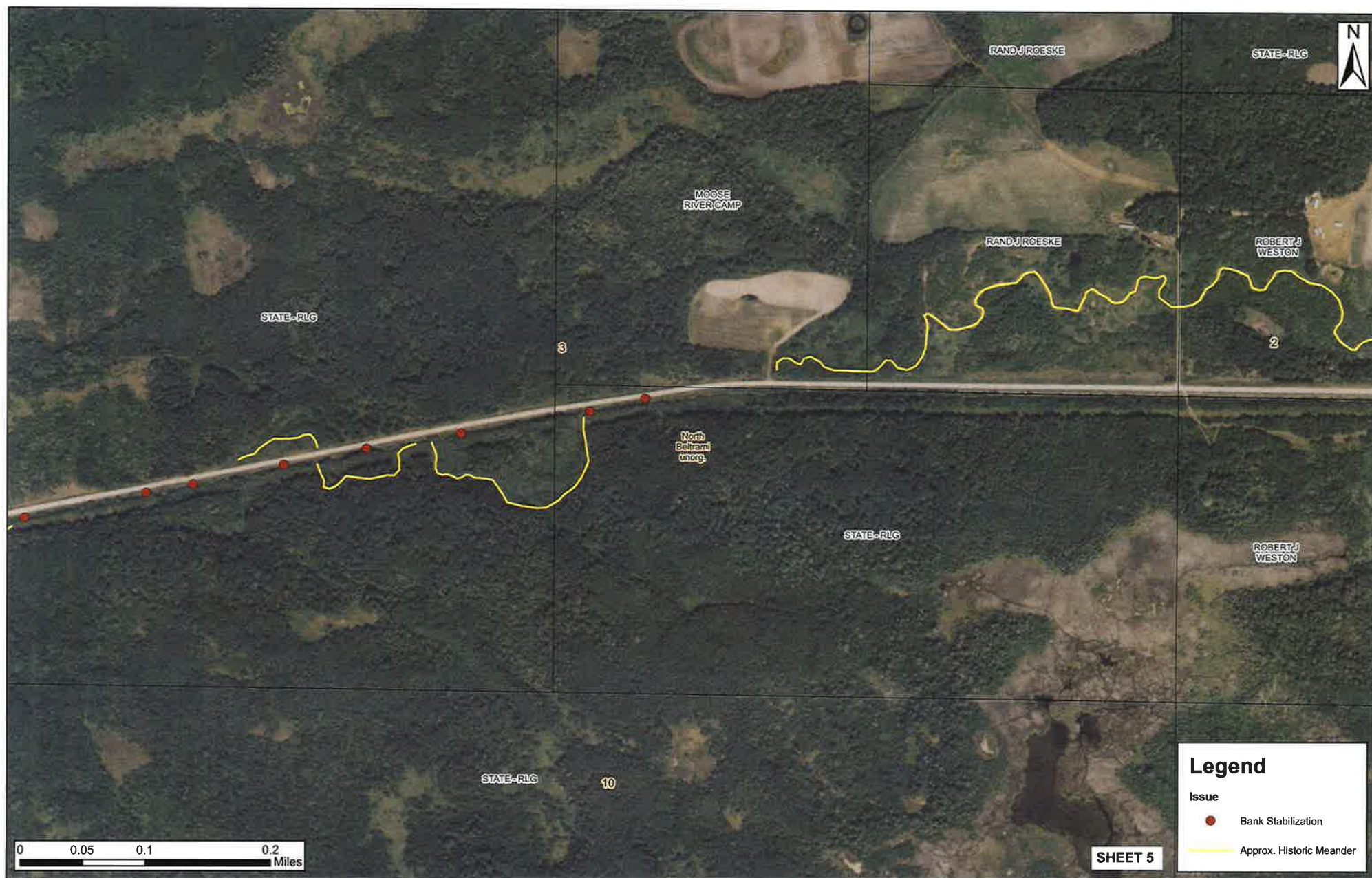
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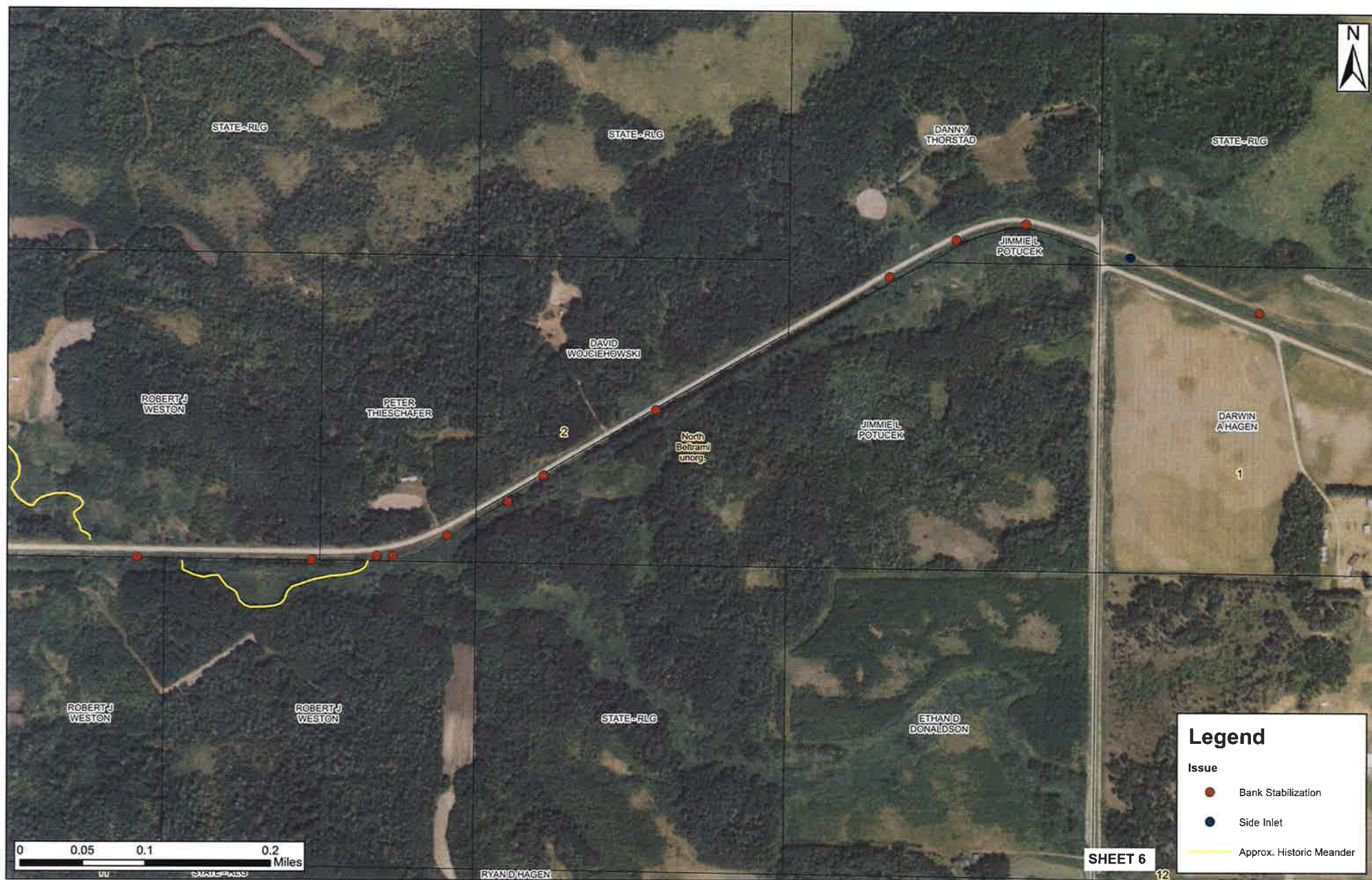
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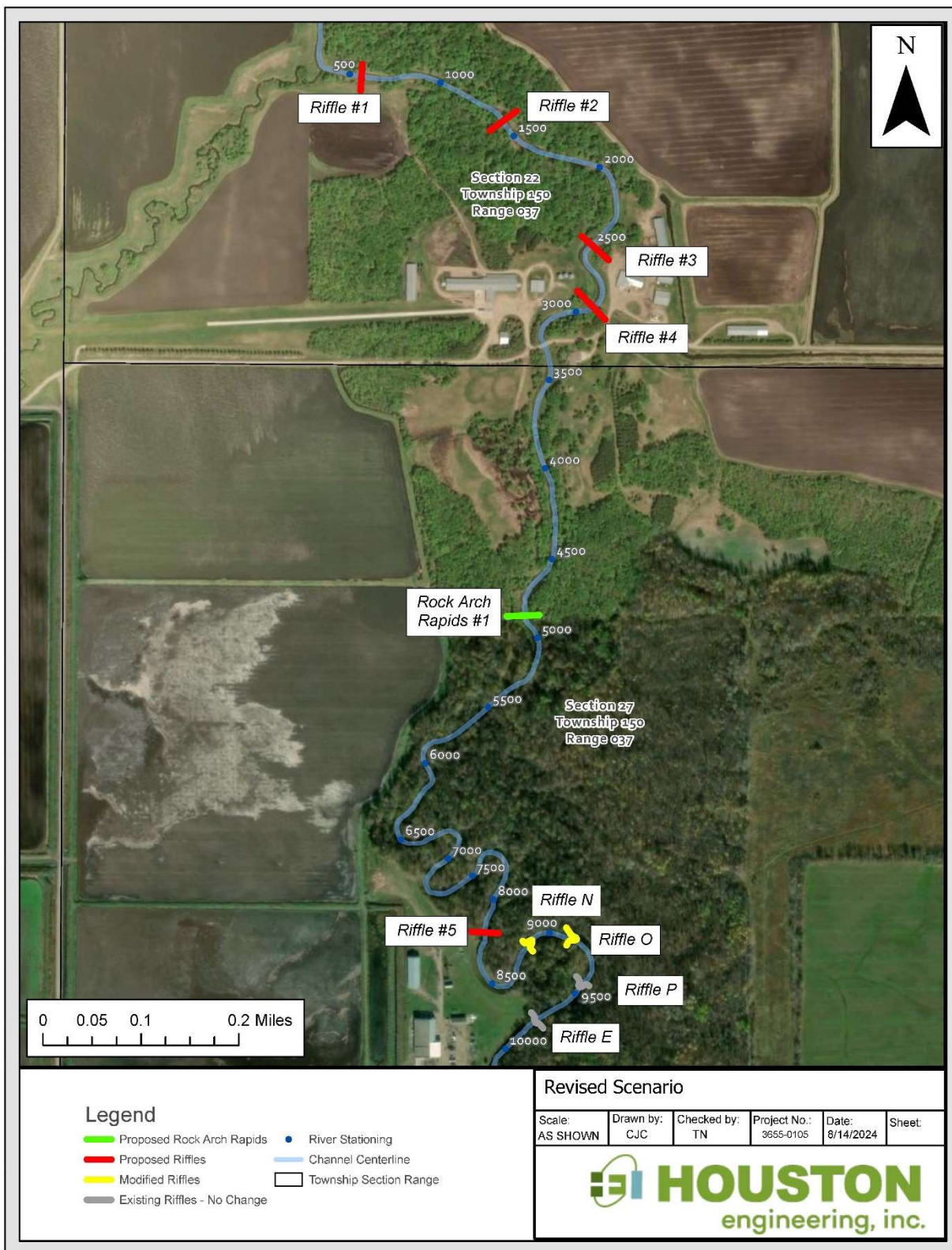


Clearwater River Greenwood Stabilization Project 2024 Grant Application

Abstract

The historic channelization of the Clearwater River created agricultural opportunities along the river, but also caused severe channel stability problems. The Clearwater River flows from Clearwater Lake through a pristine, meandering channel, but becomes an unstable erosive force throughout the steepened slope where the natural channel transitions to the channelized reach. In the early 2000s, the RLWD was able to acquire Nonpoint loan and Challenge Grant funding to install five grade stabilization structures and stabilize three sections of streambank along the upper portion of this transition zone. An intensive geomorphology study of the area in 2014 discovered that the river and its banks were relatively stable upstream of the previously completed work but were extremely unstable downstream. Evidence of channel degradation (headcutting) includes deep gouges in the channel bottom, a historical layer of pebbles and shells that can be seen far up within the streambanks, and a comparison of current and historical survey data/profiles. Due to the continued degradation of the river since the initial construction, the furthest downstream structure now has an unacceptably steep slope.

Staff from the RLWD, DNR, and Houston Engineering collaborated to discuss solutions to the problems, collect multiple rounds of additional survey data, conduct hydrologic modeling, review iterations of project concepts, and settle on a final concept. Five individual grade stabilization structures and one rock arch rapids will be strategically placed to reduce velocities in areas with degradation and streambank failures. This is necessary to ensure the longevity of bank stabilization efforts. The structures are being strategically placed to achieve velocity reduction (4 fps or lower) and slope (fish passage) goals with minimized disturbance to the riparian forest habitat. Three actively eroding streambanks will be stabilized using a toe-wood sod mat technique. This project will allow for streambank stabilization efforts to continue downstream through the Clearwater River confluence with Ruffy Brook by addressing the underlying cause of the channel/bank instability and providing assurance that projects will not be undercut by channel degradation.



1. Active CWF Grants

The RLWD has one active CWF grant: Chief's Coulee Stormwater Project. This project was awarded funding from an FY2023 Projects and Practices – Drinking Water CWF Grant. The City of Thief River Falls and the RLWD have been funding the design phases of the project. The project is designed. We have right-of-way documents drafted and are pursuing landowner signatures. Lastly, we are awaiting approval from the USACE for their 404 permit. It is our hope to bid the project out in 2024 for a potential start in 2024 and completion in 2025.

2. Water Resource

This project is meant to improve water quality in the Clearwater River, particularly the upper portion of the channelized reach (09020305-647). This reach is impaired by turbidity (excess sediment) and river eutrophication (excess phosphorus).

3. Prioritization – Relationship to the Plan (local)

a. Why was it identified?

Water quality and geomorphology investigation revealed dramatic changes in water quality and streambank stability in the project area.

Clearwater River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL):

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-iw5-19e.pdf>

This project is recommended in Section 4.1.2, Figure 4-13 and Section 9.2.3 of the TMDL.

Clearwater River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS):

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-ws4-80a.pdf>

This project is recommended in Section 2.3 and Table 3-12 of the Clearwater River WRAPS. AUID 09020305-647 of the Clearwater River was categorized as “Nearly Restored” for TSS in Table 3-5 and Figure 3-1 of the WRAPS and prescribed in Table 3-12 (strategies and actions). Figure 2-22 shows a large increase in TP between the crossings that bracket the project area (CSAH 11 and CSAH 5).

Clearwater River Watershed Fluvial Geomorphology Report:

<https://wrl.mnpals.net/islandora/object/WRLrepository%3A3453>

The geomorphology study found a dramatic change in stability ratings above and below the existing rock riffles. The upstream Pfankuch rating was “good.” Downstream of the existing structures, the Pfankuch rating was “poor.” Very high Bank Erosion Hazard Index Ratings were recorded in the project area.

Clearwater River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP):

<https://clearwatershed.org/management-plan>

Figure 4.2 of the CWMP shows locations prioritized for stream stabilization. Section 5 of the CWMP, Middle Clearwater Planning Region Projects and Practices, shows that the project area lies within a 1st Priority subwatershed for targeting projects to reduce sediment/phosphorus. Section 5 of the CWMP, Capital Improvement Projects, lists channel/bed stabilization as an action and sets a stabilization goal of 12.5 miles. Section 6 of the CWMP, Capital Improvement Implementation Program, specifically lists this project (“Grade Stabilization in the Clearwater River”).

4. Prioritization – Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan

a. Statewide priorities:

This project fits the high-level state priority for the use of CWF implementation money to restore those impaired waters that are closest to meeting state water quality standards. Nearly restored streams are the “low-hanging fruit” of local (and state) prioritization of water resources. Investment in projects that improve water quality in rivers such as this will lead to a quicker water quality restoration and delisting from the 303(d) List of Impaired Waters. The project is located directly upstream of AUID 09020305-647, which the WRAPS classified as “nearly restored” for TSS.

b. Public benefits

Improving water quality in the Clearwater River will allow it to fully support aquatic life, including game fish.

5. Targeting (inventories)

The Clearwater River flows from Clearwater Lake through a pristine, meandering channel, but becomes an unstable erosive force throughout the steepened slope where the natural channel transitions to the channelized reach. An intensive geomorphology study of the area in 2014 discovered that the river and its banks were relatively stable upstream of the previously completed work but were extremely unstable downstream. Evidence of channel degradation (headcutting) includes deep gouges in the channel bottom, a historical layer of pebbles and shells that can be seen far up within the streambanks, and a comparison of current and historical survey data/profiles. Due to the continued degradation of the river since the initial construction, the furthest downstream structure now has an unacceptably steep slope.

Assessment of aggregated long-term monitoring data shows that the river changes abruptly from high quality natural reaches that rarely, if ever exceed water quality standards, to a

channelized reach that exceeds TSS and river eutrophication standards. The project area is bracketed by CSAH 11 (upstream) and CSAH 5 (downstream). August 5, 2016 longitudinal sampling found that TSS increased from 4 mg/L to 50 mg/L and TP increased from 0.043 mg/L to 0.192 mg/L between those two crossings.

The geomorphology study found a dramatic change in stability ratings above and below the existing rock riffles. The upstream Pfankuch rating was “good.” Downstream of the existing structures, the Pfankuch rating was “poor.” Very high Bank Erosion Hazard Index Ratings were recorded in the project area. Staff from the MN DNR advised the concept development process – making recommendations regarding slope through in-channel structures, velocity reduction goals, and promotion of floodplain access.

Long-term monitoring

Investigation, longitudinal sampling,

Geomorphology

Surveying

Consultation with DNR staff

6. Targeting (complementary work)

This project complements efforts being made by project partners to meet pollutant reduction goals of the Clearwater River CWMP. The Red Lake SWCD has been very active in their efforts to implement bank stabilization projects in priority areas within their county. The Clearwater SWCD has been specializing in working with landowners to implement agricultural practices and forest stewardship plans. A major obstacle to getting large projects like this planned is finding funding for project development and engineering services to develop a concept and get far enough along in the design process to produce a cost estimate for construction. Implementation funding for CWMPs (Watershed-Based Implementation Funding, or WBIF) has helped LGUs overcome that obstacle and gain momentum toward project completion and water quality improvements. Clearwater River WBIF was utilized for the planning of this priority project. The CWF grant will be used for construction of the project.

7. Measurable Outcomes and Project Impact

- a. This project will primarily reduce sediment loading along the Clearwater River to address the Clearwater River turbidity and river eutrophication impairments.

- b. Table 5-11 of the Clearwater River Watershed TMDL estimated that the TSS load at the County Road 127 crossing the Clearwater River (S002-916) needs to be reduced by at least 8.87%. To also provide a 10% margin of safety, the TMDL prescribes an annual sediment (TSS) load reduction of 699.35 tons/year for AUID 09020305-647. A phosphorus (TP) load reduction of 18.49 pounds/day is recommended by the TMDL in Table 5-47.

8. Measurable Outcomes and Project Impact

The bank stabilizations completed for this project will reduce sediment loading by 155 tons/year and phosphorus loading by 177 pounds/year. This is equal to 22% of the sediment reduction goal established by the TMDL. The grade stabilization structures will prevent further degradation of the channel bottom. It will ensure the success of the 3 banks that will be stabilized with this grant and make it possible to continue bank stabilization work into the future using WBIF to stabilize at least 5 additional stretches of streambank. It will allow banks with moderate erosion problems to heal themselves.

9. Measurable Outcomes and Project Impact

Staff from the MN DNR have expressed interest in the positive impacts this project can have upon habitat within the Clearwater River. The toe-wood sod mat method for streambank stabilization is a preferred streambank stabilization method due to its fish and macroinvertebrate habitat benefits. The existing structures were installed more than 20 years ago under different design standards. Continued, downstream channel degradation has also affected slopes through the structures. Staff from the MN DNR compared survey data from the project area with current design standards and determined that there are some elevation issues at the second-to-lowest existing structure and there is an obviously excessive drop on the lower structure. The difference is noticeable to someone who was involved with the construction of the existing structures. Standing in the water on the downstream end of the structures and taking photos, looking upstream, was easy when they were first installed. Now, it is difficult to stand downstream of the second-to-lowest structure is treacherous due to high velocities and large gouges in the channel bottom. The blow-hole below the lowest structure is too deep for wading. Surveying was done from a kayak and it was difficult to get measurements before being swept away downstream.

10. Cost effectiveness and feasibility

- a. **Why is this the most cost-effective mean to benefits?**
- b. **n/a (no incentives)**

The problems identified in the project area are directly contributing sediment and phosphorus pollution to the Clearwater River. This project will implement a strategy for

grade stabilization that was polished over multiple years of data collection, multiple modeled scenarios, and much collaboration with experts from the MN DNR. The rock arch rapids, in particular, improves the cost-effectiveness of the project and reduces disturbance of riparian forest habitat by combining the benefits of multiple grade stabilization structures into one location. By stabilizing grade throughout the entire transition from natural-to-channelized transition area, this project makes it possible to implement long-lasting bank stabilizations. This project will use the toe-wood sod mat method of bank stabilization which has been significantly more cost-effective than rock armoring.

11. Project readiness

- a. Steps taken**
- b. General env. Review**
- c. Landowners**

The project has already progressed through multiple rounds of concept and scenario development. Modeling (HED-RAS) has been completed by DNR staff. Houston Engineering staff have completed modeling of scenarios, as well. The final outcome was a grade stabilization scenario that will adequately reduce flow velocities in key areas, prevent future channel degradation, and promote healing of eroding streambanks. The success of the toe-wood sod mat bank stabilizations completed in the Thief River Watershed by the partnership of the RLWD and Houston Engineering will be continued with the stabilization of three portions of relatively severe bank erosion along the Clearwater River within the upper portion of the project area. The design of the project will likely be completed by the time this grant is awarded and construction can begin as early as contractor schedules and flow conditions allow in 2025.

The MN DNR has been involved throughout the entire process, so permitting should not be an issue.

The work planned for this phase takes place within the property boundary of only one private landowner. That landowner has been supportive of this effort throughout the surveying and design process and has a long working relationship with the RLWD.

This will be a long-awaited project, since the urgent need for it was discovered in 2014. The project will be touted on the RLWD website, social media, newsletters, and press releases.

12. Budget

The proposed budget is a complete estimate of construction expenses estimated by the project's engineer. It will fund construction of the rock grade stabilization structures, toe-wood sod mat streambank stabilizations (Streambank and Shoreline Stabilization),

Houston Engineering fees for engineering services, permitting, temporary easements, and a 25% contingency for construction costs.

CONCEPT OPINION OF PROBABLE COST
CLEARWATER RIVER GRADE AND STREAMBANK STABILIZATION PROEJCT
CLEARWATER COUNTY, MINNESOTA
RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
8/13/2024

Item No.	Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Costs
2021.501	MOBILIZATION	LUMP SUM	1	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
2101.501	CLEARING AND GRUBBING	LUMP SUM	1	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
2106.507	EXCAVATION - COMMON (P)	CU. YD.		\$ 8.00	\$ -
2106.507	COMMON EMBANKMENT (P) (CV)	CU. YD.		\$ 12.00	\$ -
2106.601	DEWATERING	LUMP SUM	1		\$ 15,000.00
2511.507	RANDOM RIPRAP CLASS III	CU. YD.	2,000	\$ 130.00	\$ 260,000.00
2573.503	FLOATATION SILT CURTAIN TYPE MOVING WATER	LIN. FT.	350	\$ 25.00	\$ 8,750.00
2575.501	TURF ESTABLISHMENT/EROSION CONTROL	LUMP SUM	1	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
2577.601	TOE-WOOD DEBRIS	CU. YD.		\$ 65.00	\$ -
2577.601	SOD MAT	SQ. YD.		\$ 35.00	\$ -
	STREAMBANK STABILIZATION PER FOOT COST	FT	970	\$ 100.00	\$ 97,000.00
CONSTRUCTION TOTAL					\$ 455,750.00
CONTINGENCY 25%					\$ 113,937.50
ENGINEERING/ADMINISTRATION 25%					\$ 113,937.50
PERMITTING					\$ 10,000.00
TEMPORARY EASEMENTS					\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST					\$ 698,625.00

13. Legacy Fund Restoration Evaluation Report - Describe early coordination efforts

Dating back to the initial grade stabilization efforts along the Clearwater River in Greenwood Township, the RLWD has sought the advice of geomorphology experts at the MN DNR. A team consisting of RLWD staff and DNR staff (Dave Friedl, Jason Vinje, and Lori Clark) intensively studied this area in 2014 during the Clearwater River Fluvial Geomorphology Study. A team of MNDNR staff (Jason Vinje, Lori Clark, Neil Haugerud, and Michael Kelly) have been involved with the planning of this project over multiple meetings and iterations of the project concept. Staff from the DNR (Paul LeClaire) completed HEC-RAS modeling to assist with the concept development. Houston Engineering has been working on designing the project using the final concept that was developed in coordination with the DNR. During the early-2000s stabilization work, the RLWD coordinated with multiple landowners. Now, one landowner owns the land adjacent to the project area.

14. Financial assurance that operations and maintenance funds are available if needed.

The RLWD Board of Managers has voted to approve the matching funds needed for this project. The RLWD has the necessary staff, as well as good working partnerships with local engineering firms (Houston Engineering has been helping with this project). The RLWD staff includes three engineering technicians, two staff members dedicated to water quality projects. In addition to the Administrator and Office Manager, the administrative staff of the RLWD includes an Accounting Officer. The RLWD has had the capacity to be the fiscal

agent for the Red Lake River, Thief River, and Clearwater River planning areas and has completed multiple CWF grants.

15. Non-substitution for traditional state funding:

Traditionally, large river stabilization and restoration capital projects like this require the funding boost that comes from competitive grants like the CWF in addition to local and/or federal contributions to compile the necessary funding. Programs like EQIP, WRP, or CRP are not applicable to this project. The CWF will supplement other work being completed with WBIF funding to address the goals of the Clearwater River 1W1P. The grade stabilization completed for this project is necessary for the stabilization of eroding streambanks in the project area. This phase of the project will stabilize one group of banks and WBIF funding can be used to continue the work downstream in future rounds of funding. The project will provide benefits to the State of Minnesota by reducing sediment and phosphorus in the Clearwater River, making progress toward the restoration of a turbidity-impaired portion of the Clearwater River. The Clearwater River flows to the Red Lake River, which is the drinking water source for the City of East Grand Forks. The Clearwater River is important for the cultivation of wild rice, water recreation (paddling), and fishing.





Extra Information

In the early 2000s, the RLWD was able to acquire Nonpoint loan and Challenge Grant funding to install five grade stabilization structures and stabilize three sections of streambank along the upper portion of this transition zone.

Longitudinal sampling completed for the TMDL and WRAPS found a dramatic degradation in water quality between the two road crossings that bracket the project area.

As recommended by MN DNR staff, the scope of this project was expanded throughout its planning process from an incremental, phased approach to a project that addresses the entire problem area from the previously completed work to the confluence with Ruffy Brook.

The Clearwater River flows from Clearwater Lake through a pristine, meandering channel, but becomes an unstable erosive force throughout the steepened slope where the natural channel transitions to the channelized reach. An intensive geomorphology study of the area in 2014 discovered that the river and its banks were relatively stable upstream of the previously completed work but were extremely unstable downstream. Evidence of channel degradation (headcutting) includes deep gouges in the channel bottom, a historical layer of pebbles and shells that can be seen far up within the streambanks, and a comparison of current and historical survey data/profiles. Due to the continued degradation of the river since the initial construction, the furthest downstream structure now has an unacceptably steep slope.

FY2025 Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices Allocation Table

1	C25-0221	Ditch 20 Wetland Restoration Benefitting Typo & Martin Lakes	Anoka CD	\$ 221,375
2	C25-0158	Swamp Iron Enhanced Sand Filter Implementation	Prior Lake-Spring Lake WD	\$ 443,975
3	C25-0190	Bridgewater Regional Stormwater Filter	Coon Creek WD	\$ 625,000
4	C25-0195	Alimagnet Lake Internal Phosphorus Load Reduction Project	Vermillion River Watershed JPO	\$ 70,000
5	C25-0169	Tier One Priority: Big Swan Lake Phosphorous Reduction	Todd SWCD	\$ 625,000
6	C25-0173	South Branch Wild Rice River Grade Stabilizations - Phase 1	Wild Rice WD	\$ 700,000
7	C25-0172	Red Lake County SWCD Non-structural Land Management Project	Red Lake SWCD	\$ 269,288
8	C25-0226	Plymouth Creek Restoration Project: Dunkirk Ln to 38th Ave. N.	Bassett Creek WMC	\$ 400,000
9	C25-0215	Wetland for the Improvement of St. James Creek	Watsonwan SWCD	\$ 347,072
10	C25-0238	Buffalo Watershed Lakes and Mainstem Region Improvement	Becker SWCD	\$ 800,000
11	C25-0214	Clearwater SWCD Soil Health Expansion	Clearwater SWCD	\$ 100,000
12	C25-0168	Wild Rice River Private Channel Outlet Stabilization	Norman SWCD	\$ 373,000
13	C25-0216	Square Lake Park Bioretention Basins	Washington County	\$ 80,000
14	C25-0242	Redwood Falls WSCBs - Redwood County	Redwood SWCD	\$ 335,279
15	C25-0188	Heath Iron Enhanced Sand Filter	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD	\$ 1,499,000
TOTAL				\$ 6,888,989

FY2025 Clean Water Fund Project and Practices Drinking Water Subprogram Allocation Table

1	C25-0212	Fairmont Drinking Water and Watershed Restoration Phase 2	Martin SWCD	\$ 260,000
2	C25-0186	Verdi Drinking Water Supply Management Area Soil Health Grant 2025	Lincoln SWCD	\$ 282,835
3	C25-0175	2025 Dakota County Well Seal Program	Dakota County	\$ 200,000
4	C25-0178	City of Le Sueur Minnesota Valley Canning Company Well #1 Sealing Project	Le Sueur County	\$ 181,363
5	C25-0191	Enhanced Street Sweeping in SLP for Drinking Water Protection	Spring Lake Park, City of	\$ 290,000
6	C25-0192	2025 Ramsey County Well Sealing Program	Ramsey County	\$ 65,000
7	C25-0236	Phase II: Protecting groundwater quality in Anoka County through targeted well sealing	Anoka CD	\$ 70,000
TOTAL				\$ 1,349,198

FY2025 Clean Water Fund Accelerated Implementation Allocation Table

1	C25-0205	Water Quality Modeling of Lower Mississippi River WMO Priority Watersheds	Lower Mississippi River WMO	\$ 98,000
2	C25-0219	Reeds Lake Sub-watershed Assessment and Ravine Stabilization	Waseca SWCD	\$ 76,500
3	C25-0174	City of Vadnais Heights Greenhaven Drive Green Streets Stormwater BMP Feasibility Study	Vadnais Heights, City of	\$ 250,000
4	C25-0180	FY2025 Phosphorus Source Assessment and Management Plan for a farm on Rush Lake	Chisago SWCD	\$ 36,000
5	C25-0232	Big Eagle Lake Alum Feasibility and Planning Project	Sherburne SWCD	\$ 46,890
6	C25-0202	Upland Best Management Practice Inventory Assessment and Project Recruitment Within the Sub-watersheds of Otter and Campbell Lakes	McLeod SWCD	\$ 121,446
7	C25-0209	Le Sueur County Lakes Subwatershed Assessments	Le Sueur County	\$ 207,075
8	C25-0170	Unnamed Creek (761) Subwatershed Stream Erosion Study	Le Sueur County	\$ 154,000
9	C25-0181	FY2025 Internal Loading Management Evaluation and Planning for Chisago County Lakes	Chisago SWCD	\$ 80,000
10	C25-0176	Joint Chloride Management Plan	Shingle Creek WMC	\$ 47,455
11	C25-0189	Sunrise River Headwaters Project Targeting & Development	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD	\$ 118,000
12	C25-0211	Poplar River Sediment Loading Feasibility Study	Cook SWCD	\$ 88,020
TOTAL				\$ 1,323,386

SWIFT Contract number: **TBD**
Agency Interest ID: 90615
Activity ID: **TBD**

Project title: Thief River Cycle 2 WRAPS Update

1. Project summary:

Organization: Red Lake Watershed District

Contractor contact

name: Tammy Audette

Title: Administrator

Address: 1000 Pennington Avenue South
Thief River Falls MN 56701

Phone: 218.681.5800

Email: Tammy.audette@redlakewatershed.org

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) contact:

MPCA project

manager: Zachrie Gutknecht

Title: Project Manager

Address: 714 Lake Ave, Suite 220
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Phone: 218.846.8146

Email: zachrie.gutknecht@state.mn.us

Brief project summary

The Thief River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy for Cycle 1 was completed in 2019. New findings from 2014-2023 monitoring efforts, findings of aquatic life use assessments (deferred during Cycle 1), findings of recent source investigations, current (One Watershed One Plan) prioritization strategies, will be documented in a WRAPS Update report. The report will focus on new information, changes in water quality, and changes in the watershed since Cycle 1.

2. Workplan detail

Objective 1: The main body of the WRAPS Update will be composed through the use of the current MPCA template/guidance, applicable information from existing reports and studies, and incorporation of new information.

Task A: Compose draft sections of the WRAPS Update

Subtask 1: Executive summary

Subtask 2: Watershed introduction and the watershed approach

Subtask 3: Watershed description

Subtask 4: Water quality assessments

Subtask 5: Watershed conditions

Subtask 6: Water quality trends

Subtask 7: Summary of known sources, stressors, risks, and natural conditions

Subtask 6: Climate change and environmental justice sections

Subtask 7: Water quality goals

Subtask 8: Restoration and protection

Subtask 9: Summary of scientifically and socially supported water quality improvement strategies
Subtask 10: Water quality priorities

Task B: Public Notice and Revisions

Objective 1 Timeline: May 2025 to August 2028

Objective 2: Communication, budget tracking and invoicing, reporting.

Task A: Communication.

Subtask 1: Meetings/project check-ins with the MPCA project manager, semi-annually or as needed.

Subtask 2: Other communications or meetings as necessary.

Task B: Budget tracking and invoicing.

Subtask 1: Progress reports and budget tracking.

Subtask 2: Prepare and submit invoices according to schedule for reimbursement.

Task C: Reporting.

Subtask 1: Submit to the MPCA for review and approval semi-annual reports in a format prescribed by the State. Semi-Annual Reports shall be due to the State each February 1 and August 1 during the life of the Agreement. The January 1 - June 30 reporting period will be addressed in the August 1 report; the July 1 - December 31 reporting period will be addressed in the February 1 report.

Payments shall be withheld if reporting requirements have not been met.

Objective 2 Timeline: April 2025 to September 2028

3. Measurable outcomes

This effort will result in an updated Thief River WRAPS document that will be a resource to inform local implementation and prioritization efforts (One Watershed One Plan). The process of updating the plan will also generate a series of maps that are updated to incorporate new information. New or updated Microsoft Excel documents will also be created.

4. Project budget

Cost Category	Total amount not to exceed:
Total staff cost (see rates below)*	\$79,853.40
Subcontractor	\$0.00
Laboratory analyses**	\$0.00
Mileage***	\$0.00
Lodging	\$0.00
Meals***	\$0.00
Shipping	\$0.00

Equipment and supplies	\$0.00
Total obligation will not exceed:	\$79,853.40

***Staff rates shall not exceed the following hourly rates:**

Staff #1: RLWD Water Quality Coordinator	\$104.25	Staff #3: RLWD Administrator	\$90.34
Staff #2: RLWD Accounting Officer	\$65.16	Staff #4: RLWD Nat. Res. Specialist	\$60.01

*No classifications beyond those listed here shall perform work for the project without prior written approval from the MPCA.

Permit # **24-159**Status Report: **Tabled****Applicant Information**

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Bryan Olson	East Valley Township	30414 170th Ave NE Middle River , MN 56737		tel:218-284-0413 mobile: fax:

General Information

(1) The proposed project is a:

Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification

(2) Legal Description

(3) County: **Marshall** Township: **East Valley** Range: **42** Section: **17 1/4**:(4) Describe in detail the work to be performed. **remove plugged culvert**(5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **road safety****Status**

Status	Notes	Date
Tabled	P.A. #24-159 – East Valley Township/Bryan Olson Marshall County – East Valley Township – Section 17/18 The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) tabled to allow more time to gather information about the plugged culvert. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166) T.O.	Oct. 10, 2024
Received	None	Sept. 16, 2024

Conditions

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT
RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

1000 Pennington Avenue South, Thief River Falls, MN 56701
RLWD@redlakewatershed.org
218-681-5800

TO THE BOARD OF MANAGERS:

Landowner Name:		Telephone Number: 218-684-0417	
Email Address: BRYAN OLSON 2017@gmail.com			
Address (Street, RFD, Box No., City, State, Zip):			
30414 170 th AVE NE Middle River MN 56737			
Project Location:			
Government Lot		Quarter Section(s) N-E Quarter 18	Section(s) 17-18
Township (Name & #) East Valley		Range # 42W	County Marshall County
Type of Work Proposed:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Excavate	<input type="checkbox"/> Install	<input type="checkbox"/> Ditch	<input type="checkbox"/> Dike
<input type="checkbox"/> Fill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remove	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Culvert (Size _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> Erosion Control
<input type="checkbox"/> Drain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Bridge (Size _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tile
<input type="checkbox"/> Construct	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Dam	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Be sure to attach all necessary reports, maps, drawings, photos, other data, etc., to support permit application.

Description of work to be done:
Remove plugged culvert
Estimated drainage area: acres _____ or sq. mile(s) _____
Work is necessary because:
Road Safety

I hereby make application for a permit to proceed with the proposal described above and have attached all supporting maps, plans, and other information submitted with this application. The information submitted and statements made concerning this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Obtaining a permit from the Managers does not relieve the applicant from the responsibility of obtaining any other additional authorization or permits required by law.

Signature of landowner:	Date:
	9-16-2024

RECEIVED

SEP 16 2024

Initial: 

For Office Use Only
P.A. No.

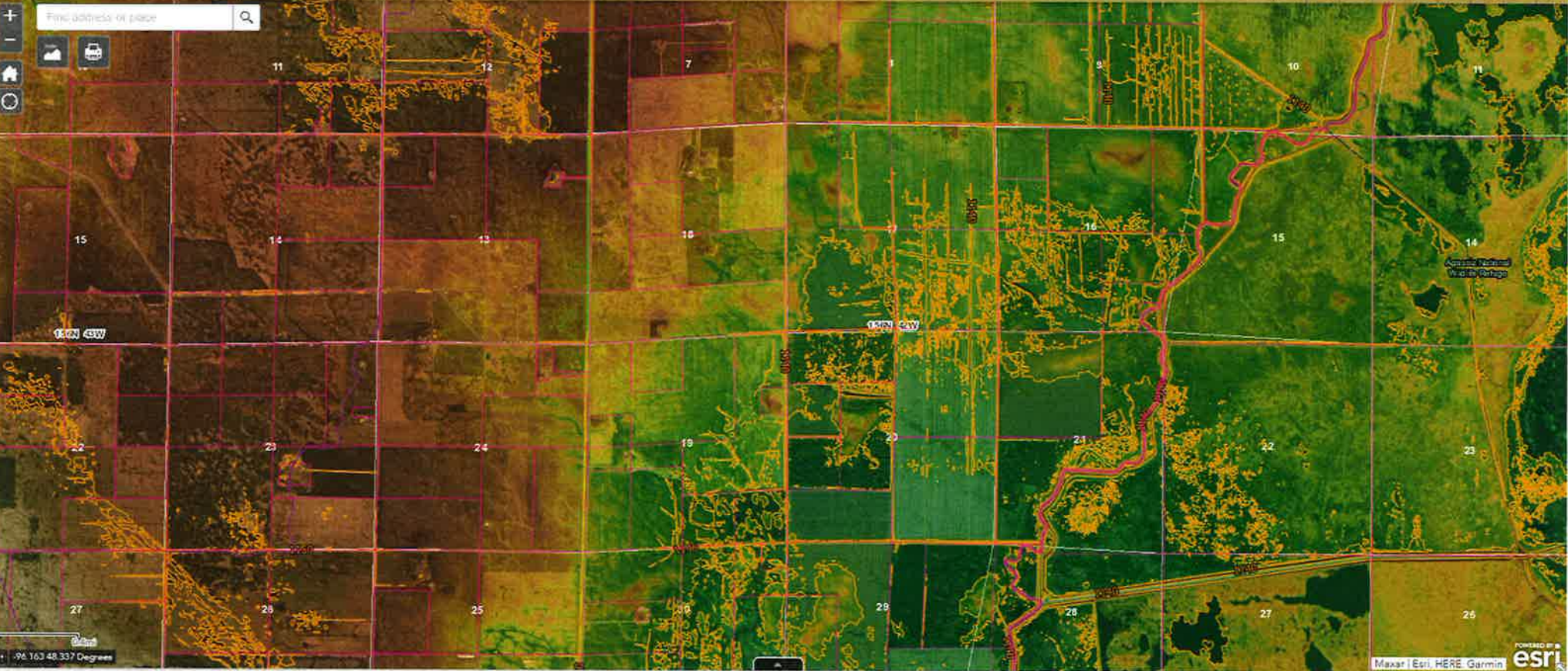
24159



These data are provided on an "AS-IS" basis, without warranty of any type, expressed or implied, including but not limited to any warranty as to their performance, merchantability, or fitness for any particular purpose.

1:16,901	Date: 9/30/2024
This map is not a substitute for accurate field surveys or for locating actual property lines and any adjacent features.	





Tony Olson

From: Tony Olson
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2024 11:17 AM
To: Lon Aune
Subject: RE: Attached Image

Could you send me the road plans for Marshall County Road 121.

Thanks

Tony Olson
Red Lake Watershed District
Engineering Specialist
Office 218-681-5800

From: Lon Aune <lon.aune@co.marshall.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2024 9:58 AM
To: Tony Olson <tony.olson@redlakewatershed.org>
Subject: RE: Attached Image

We do not have anything as it is a township responsibility.

Lon P. Aune

County Engineer
Marshall County Highway Department
447 South Main | Warren, MN 56762
Tel: 218-745-4381
Fax: 218-745-4570

From: Tony Olson <tony.olson@redlakewatershed.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 4:12 PM
To: Lon Aune <lon.aune@co.marshall.mn.us>
Subject: FW: Attached Image

Hey Lon, wondering if you would have any information on this plugged culvert.
I attached the permit for you to reference.
I have looked through our database and found nothing regarding plugging a culvert.
Thanks

Tony Olson
Red Lake Watershed District
Engineering Specialist
Office 218-681-5800

From: copier@redlakewatershed.org <copier@redlakewatershed.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 4:01 PM

Bryan Olson applied for a permit that was received on September 16, 2024

Applicant wants to remove plugged culvert to widen road for truck travel.

October 2nd 2024 emailed Lon Aune to see who's jurisdiction it was since it runs parallel to Marshall County Road 121

October 4th 2024 Lon stated that it was a township responsibility and that the county had no information on it.

Permit 24-159 was tabled at the October 9th 2024 meeting until more information is gathered.

October 10, 2024 I asked for a set of Road plans for Marshall County Highway 121.

December 11, 2024 Visited with adjacent landowner Pat Erickson about the plugged pipe and he said its been plugged for years and hasn't "seen" or "taken" water for quite some time.

Permit # **24-207**Status Report: **Received**
*Approved - T.O.***Applicant Information**

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Donald Carlson		21106 52nd St NE New London, MN 56273		tel: 612-743-8741 mobile: fax:

General Information

(1) The proposed project is a:

Other

(2) Legal Description

(3) County: **Polk** Township: **Queen** Range: **39** Section: **10 1/4**:(4) Describe in detail the work to be performed. **WASCOB**(5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **Gully erosion is present****Status**

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	P.A. #24-207 – Donald Carlson Polk County – Queen Township Section 10 Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approval to install water and sediment control basin to stabilize erosion and reduce sediment run off. If any work is within a public road and/or public ditch Right-of-Way, applicant shall contact the appropriate road/ditch authority for their approval and must meet their specs/conditions. Permit Holder shall contact the road authorities when cutting through roads. Applicant shall install appropriate erosion control measures for energy dissipation at the outlet of pipes. This application does not exempt the permit applicant from local, state, or federal authority that might require their approval. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166) T.O.	Dec. 9, 2024
Received	None	Oct. 23, 2024

Conditions

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.



Permit # 24-226

Status Report: **Received**
*Approved - T.O.***Applicant Information**

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Scott Tersteeg		80829 County Rd 13 Olivia, MN 56277	scott@beavercreektransport.com	tel: 320-579-0314 mobile: fax:

General Information

(1) The proposed project is a:

Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification

(2) Legal Description

(3) County: **Polk** Township: **Badger** Range: **42** Section: **6 1/4**:(4) Describe in detail the work to be performed. **we need an approach to be able to access lift pump when the field is wet. the pump only breaks down when field is wet and then we can't access it.**(5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **to access lift pump****Status**

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	P.A. #24-226 – Scott Tersteeg Polk County – Badger Township – Section 6 The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to install a 24" culvert for a new field crossing for access to property. All excavation shall be consistent with the existing road and ditch slopes and there shall be no vertical excavation faces. Current flow patterns shall remain "as-is" and there shall be no additional drainage area or flows from the adjacent agriculture land routed to the ditch. Applicant shall ensure that all disturbed areas are seeded with appropriate seed mixture and that consideration for rock riprap with filter fabric is placed at the outlet end of the permitted culverts. If any work is within a public road and/or public ditch Right-of-Way, applicant shall contact the appropriate road/ditch authority for their approval and must meet their specs/conditions. Permit Holder shall contact the road authorities when cutting through roads when applicable. Directly downstream of the outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. This permit does not exempt the permit applicant from local, state, or federal authority that might require their approval. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166) T.O.	Dec. 9, 2024
Received	None	Nov. 15, 2024

Conditions

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.

Permit # **24-228**Status Report: ~~Received~~
*Approved - T.O.***Applicant Information**

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Halverson Family Holdings LLLP		4320 18th Ave South Grand Forks, ND 58201		tel: 701-402-2847 mobile: fax:

General Information

(1) The proposed project is a:

Tiling

(2) Legal Description

(3) County: **Red Lake** Township: **Lambert** Range: **41** Section: **30 1/4**:(4) Describe in detail the work to be performed. **pattern tile 1/4 of land to increase productivity and improve drainage.**(5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **improve drainage and productivity.****Status**

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	P.A. #24-228 – Black Gold Farms/Halverson Family Holding LLLP Red Lake County – Lambert Township – Section 30 The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to install “pattern” drain tile with “pumped or lift station” outlet. Outlet will be installed to the northwest part of the project and outlet into Red Lake County Road 129 Ditch. Applicant shall install the pump out of the Road/Ditch Right of Way. If any work is within a public road and/or public ditch Right-of-Way, applicant shall contact the appropriate road/ditch authority for their approval and must meet their specs/conditions when applicable. Permit Holder shall contact the road authorities when cutting through roads. Directly downstream of the tile and/or pump station(s) outlets, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant shall ensure that the tile outlet meets the MN DNR requirements. Prior to any work, we also recommend that you contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) office to inquire about possible wetland concerns. Applicant shall install appropriate erosion control measures for energy dissipation at the tile outlet. ■ Note: Please be aware of and review the ‘bullet points’ on the bottom half of the application. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166) T.O.	Dec. 9, 2024
Received	None	Nov. 18, 2024

Conditions

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.



Permit # 24-229

Status Report: ~~Received~~
*Approved - T.O.***Applicant Information**

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Matt Knutson	Knutson Farms	20616 130th Ave SE Red Lake Falls, MN 56750	mattknu@yahoo.com	tel:218-689-4195 mobile: fax:

General Information

(1) The proposed project is a:

Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification

(2) Legal Description

(3) County: **Red Lake** Township: **Red Lake Falls** Range: **44** Section: **24 1/4**:(4) Describe in detail the work to be performed. **culvert removal**(5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **not usable - water goes around****Status**

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	P.A. #24-229 – Knutson Farms Red Lake County – Red Lake Township – Section 24 The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to remove a culvert as the crossing is no longer used. All excavation shall be consistent with the existing road and ditch slopes and there shall be no vertical excavation faces. Current flow patterns shall remain “as-is” and there shall be no additional drainage area or flows from the adjacent agriculture land routed to the ditch. Applicant shall ensure that all disturbed areas are seeded with appropriate seed mixture and that consideration for rock riprap with filter fabric is placed at the outlet end of the permitted culverts. If any work is within a public road and/or public ditch Right-of-Way, applicant shall contact the appropriate road/ditch authority for their approval and must meet their specs/conditions. Permit Holder shall contact the road authorities when cutting through roads when applicable. Directly downstream of the outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. This permit does not exempt the permit applicant from local, state, or federal authority that might require their approval. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166) T.O.	Dec. 9, 2024
Received	None	Nov. 19, 2024

Conditions

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.



Permit # 24-230

Status Report: ~~None~~
Approved - T.O.**Applicant Information**

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Matt Knutson	Knutson Farms	20616 130th Ave SE Red Lake Falls, MN 56750	mattknu@yahoo.com	tel: 218-689-4195 mobile: fax:

General Information

(1) The proposed project is a:

Surface Drainage (New Ditch or Improvement)

(2) Legal Description

(3) County: **Red Lake** Township: **Red Lake Falls** Range: **44** Section: **25 1/4**:(4) Describe in detail the work to be performed. **clean ditch**(5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **filled in****Status**

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	P.A. #24-230 – Knutson Farms Red Lake County – Red Lake Township – Section 25 The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to clean a portion of ditch around the St. Joseph Cemetery. All excavation shall be consistent with the existing road and ditch slopes and there shall be no vertical excavation faces. Current flow patterns shall remain “as-is” and there shall be no additional drainage area or flows from the adjacent agriculture land routed to the ditch. Applicant shall ensure that all disturbed areas are seeded with appropriate seed mixture and that consideration for rock riprap with filter fabric is placed at the outlet end of the permitted culverts. If any work is within a public road and/or public ditch Right-of-Way, applicant shall contact the appropriate road/ditch authority for their approval and must meet their specs/conditions. Permit Holder shall contact the road authorities when cutting through roads when applicable. Directly downstream of the outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. This permit does not exempt the permit applicant from local, state, or federal authority that might require their approval. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166) T.O.	Dec. 9, 2024
Received	None	Nov. 19, 2024

Conditions

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.



Permit # 24-233

Status Report: **Approved****Applicant Information**

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Charles and Linda Brice		805 Trail Ridge Road Indianola, IA 50125		tel: 515-450-8712 mobile: fax:

General Information

(1) The proposed project is a:

Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification**Road Grading**

(2) Legal Description

(3) County: **Pennington** Township: **Smiley** Range: **42** Section: **19 1/4**:(4) Describe in detail the work to be performed. **replace collapsed culvert in driveway**(5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **better drainage****Status**

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	P.A. #24-233 – Charles and Linda Brice Pennington County – Smiley Township – Section 19 The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to replace a failed 18" culvert with a new 18" culvert. All excavation shall be consistent with the existing road and ditch slopes and there shall be no vertical excavation faces. Current flow patterns shall remain "as-is" and there shall be no additional drainage area or flows from the adjacent agriculture land routed to the ditch. Applicant shall ensure that all disturbed areas are seeded with appropriate seed mixture and that consideration for rock riprap with filter fabric is placed at the outlet end of the permitted culverts. If any work is within a public road and/or public ditch Right-of-Way, applicant shall contact the appropriate road/ditch authority for their approval and must meet their specs/conditions. Permit Holder shall contact the road authorities when cutting through roads when applicable. Directly downstream of the outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. This permit does not exempt the permit applicant from local, state, or federal authority that might require their approval. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166) T.O.	Dec. 9, 2024
Received	None	Nov. 25, 2024

Conditions

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.

DRAFT

Red Lake Watershed District Scholarship

General Application

Organization: Red Lake Watershed District

Phone number: 218-681-5800

Email: RLWD@redlakewatershed.org

Purpose: To ease some of the financial burden of aspiring natural resource professionals

Focus: Natural Resource Degrees

Qualifications: Applicant must be a senior in high school who attends a high school that resides within the boundary of the Red Lake Watershed District and will be pursuing a natural resources degree. They must be attending college full time with a credit minimum of 12 per semester (standard full-time student).

Required Materials: A letter of application. Which should include 3 topics. First a description of why you chose your field. Second, any career goals that you have and how you may accomplish them. Third, tell us if you have participated in any volunteer work within the natural resource field. Including what company it was with and what you were doing. The letter should be a minimum of 500 words and maximum of 750, Times New Roman, 12 font, 2 spacing.

In addition to the paper, a college class schedule must be sent to RLWD to confirm field of study and credit amount.

Criteria: Selection is based on merit and passion for natural resource work

Funds: \$1,000 for the year

To Apply: Send required materials to RLWD@redlakewatershed.org

Deadline: TBD

Schools within the Red Lake Watershed Boundary:

Bagley High School
Blackduck High School
Clearbrook-Gonvick High School
Crookston High School
East Grand Forks
Fisher high School
Fosston High School
Grygla High School
Kelliher High School
Lafayette High school
Lincoln High School
Newfolden High School
Red Lake County Central
Red Lake Senior High
Win-E-Mac School

DRAFT

Red Lake Watershed District Scholarship

River Watch Application

Organization: Red Lake Watershed District

Phone number: 218-681-5800

Email: RLWD@redlakewatershed.org

Purpose: To ease some of the financial burden of aspiring natural resource professionals

Focus: Natural Resource Degrees

Qualifications: Applicant must be a senior in high school that participates in River Watch and resides within the boundary of the Red Lake Watershed District and will be pursuing a natural resources degree. They must be attending college full time with a credit minimum of 12 per semester.

Required Materials: A letter of application. Which should include 3 topics. First a description of why you chose your field. Second, any career goals that you have and how you may accomplish them. Third, tell us if you have participated in any volunteer work within the natural resource field. Including what company it was with and what you were doing. The letter should be a minimum of 500 words and maximum of 750, Times New Roman, 12 font, 2 spacing.

In addition to the paper, a college class schedule must be sent to RLWD to confirm field of study and credit amount.

Criteria: Selection is based on merit and passion for natural resource work

Funds: \$1,000 for the year

To Apply: Send required materials to RLWD@redlakewatershed.org

Deadline: TBD



We have prepared a quote for you

HP Notebooks 2024

PREPARED FOR





Red Lake Watershed District

PREPARED BY

Brit Skolness

Account Manager

Hardware

Description		Price	Qty	Ext. Price
HP EliteBook 660 G11 16" Touchscreen Notebook - WUXGA - Intel Core Ultra 5 125U - vPro Technology - 16 GB - 512 GB SSD - English Keyboard - Pike Silver - Intel Chip - 1920 x 1200 - Windows 11 Pro - Intel - In-plane Switching (IPS) Technology - Front Camer 		\$1,560.20	3	\$4,680.60
HP USB-C Dock G5 for business - for Notebook - USB Type C - 3 Displays Supported - 4K, QHD, Full HD - 4 x USB Type-A Ports - USB Type-A - USB Type-C - 1 x RJ-45 Ports - Network (RJ-45) - HDMI - DisplayPort - Black - Wired - Ethernet - Windows 10, Windows 		\$259.00	3	\$777.00
HP ZBook Power G11 16" Mobile Workstation - WUXGA - Intel Core Ultra 7 155H - 32 GB - 1 TB SSD - English Keyboard - Intel Chip - 1920 x 1200 - Windows 11 Pro - Intel Arc Graphics with 6 GB, NVIDIA GeForce RTX A1000 - In-plane Switching (IPS) Technology - 		\$2,399.00	1	\$2,399.00
HP Thunderbolt Dock 120W G4 - for Notebook/Desktop PC - 120 W - Thunderbolt 4 - 4 Displays Supported - 4K - 3840 x 2160 - 5 x USB Ports - USB Type-C - 1 x RJ-45 Ports - Network (RJ-45) - 1 x HDMI Ports - HDMI - 2 x DisplayPorts - DisplayPort - Black - Thu 		\$329.00	1	\$329.00
Subtotal:				\$8,185.60

Main: 701.893.4036
Email: Brit.Skolness@gocorptech.com
Web:



HP Notebooks 2024



Prepared by:
Corporate Technologies
Brit Skolness
701.893.4036
Brit.Skolness@gocorptech.com

Prepared for:
Red Lake Watershed District
1000 Pennington Ave
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
Melissa Bushy
(218) 681-5800
Melissa.Bushy@redlakewatershed.org

Quote Information:
Quote #: 032480
Version: 1
Delivery Date: 11/21/2024
Expiration Date: 12/19/2024

Quote Summary

Description	Amount
Hardware	\$8,185.60
Subtotal:	\$8,185.60
Shipping:	\$25.00
Total:	\$8,210.60

ALL SERVICES ARE PROVIDED PURSUANT TO CORPORATE TECHNOLOGIES' TERMS AND CONDITIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO CUSTOMER AND WHICH ARE INCORPORATED HEREIN, AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.GOCORPTECH.COM/RESOURCES/TC/. WITH SIGNATURE, CUSTOMER ACKNOWLEDGES TERMS AND CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN READ AND ACCEPTED AND AGREES TO A CREDIT REVIEW. CUSTOMER WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IF NECESSARY.

A DOWN PAYMENT MAY BE REQUIRED PRIOR TO PLACING THIS ORDER.

PER- THE UPDATED CISCO ORDER CANCELLATION POLICY, ALL NEW CISCO MERAKI ORDERS FOR THE HARDWARE AND ANY ATTACHED SOFTWARE ARE NON-RETURNABLE AND NON-REFUNDABLE.

Corporate Technologies

Red Lake Watershed District

Signature: *Brit Skolness*
Name: Brit Skolness
Title: Account Manager
Date: 11/21/2024
Sales Rep: Brit Skolness

Signature: _____
Name: Melissa Bushy
Date: _____



ESTIMATION OF DESIGN HOURS

The estimated hours listed below include Creative conception, Design, Project management, and Communication within the scope of the project.

Custom photography, illustration and writing (content creation) can be added to the scope of a project, but will add hours to the overall time. These additional services are estimated per project requirements. The cost of printing, web hosting, voice recording etc... is not included within this overview, and is not part of the fiscal responsibility of Red Canoe.

At Red Canoe Creative we charge \$65 per hour for our creative services.

PRINT ADVERTISING

Infographic Poster	20 - 35 hrs
2 Sided Rack Card	10 - 15 hrs
Tri-Fold Brochure	15 - 20 hrs
Multi-Page Brochure/Booklet	20 - 30 hrs
Pull-Up Banner	15 - 20 hrs
1/4 Page Ad	8 hrs
1/2 Page Ad	10 hrs
Full Page Ad	15 hrs
2 Page Spread	20 hrs
Direct Mailer/2 Sided Postcard	15 - 25 hrs
Outdoor/Billboard	15 hrs
Vehicle Graphics	10 - 25 hrs
Business Card/Letterhead/Envelopes	15 hrs
Single Page Flyer/Handout	10 hrs
Small Informational Signage	8 hrs

DIGITAL DESIGN | SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook banner	3 hrs
Facebook Post	
Average time per posting)	1/2 hrs

OTHER DESIGN | WRITING

Press Release	8 - 15 hrs
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LOGO DESIGN | BRANDING

Logo design and branding includes 3 design options, revision and adjustment time, and a simple logo usage guide 35 - 40 hrs

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT

Year long calendar of regular social media content. Estimated per post frequency)

WEB DESIGN

Estimated per project as the project scope and requirements dictate. Hours includes design only. Hosting, Maintenance, etc... is outsourced.

RADIO | VOICE OVER

Estimate includes pricing for creative conception, writing and project management.

30 Sec. Ad 8 hrs

60 Sec. Ad 10 hrs

In house voice talent records at \$75 per hour

Outsourced voice talent rates may vary.

WD Manager Orientation



What: 2025 Northwest MN Watershed District Manager Orientation/Refresher Training Opportunity

For Whom: New or “Experienced” WD Board Managers and County Commissioners

Hosted By: Brett Arne, Matt Fischer & Pete Waller, BWSR BCs

When & Where: Two different options.

- **Tuesday, January 28, 2025 – Thief River Falls**
 - 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
 - Red Lake Watershed District
 - 1000 Pennington Ave
 - Thief River Falls, MN 56701

- **Southern Option TBD**

What will be discussed?

- Manager Roles and Responsibilities
- Watershed District Law (103D), including recent changes
- Water Management & Conservation Universe
- Essential Responsibilities and Exceptional Attributes of Local Governing Boards
- **Open Meeting Law/Data Practices?**
- Resources – WD Handbook

Do you want to attend?

Please RSVP to Brett, Matt, or Pete with location preference and to ensure we have enough refreshments.

Brett Arne

- brett.arne@state.mn.us Ph: 218-850-0934

Matt Fischer

- matt.fischer@state.mn.us Ph: 218-766-6496

Pete Waller

- pete.waller@state.mn.us Ph: 218-770-3802

Administrator's Report

December 12, 2024

Watershed Manager Orientation: Included in the packet is a draft agenda for the BWSR Watershed Manager Orientation that will be held in the District office on June 28, 2025 from 1:00 – 4:00. More information to come on this orientation.

Thief River 1W1P: There will be a Thief River 1W1P Policy and Advisory Committee meeting here in the District office on Friday, December 13th at 9:00 a.m.

RRWMB: There will be a RRWMB meeting on December 17, 2024 starting at 10:00 a.m., with the Legislative Open House starting at 10:30 a.m. Currently four legislators have confirmed their attendance, with the hopes that others will join.

State Ditch 83 Area Project Team Meeting: Just a reminder that there will be a SD 83 Area Project Team meeting on December 18th at 9:00 a.m. at the District office.

Judicial Ditch 60 Outlet, Red Lake River 1W1P: HDR Engineering has been working with a soil boring company for completion of soil borings and the installation of two water monitoring wells which will be completed in the next month for the JD 60 Feasibility Study.

MN Watersheds Conference:

Location

MS4 Front 12/16/24

Training

Pine Lake

LAKE SCOUT

BY WINTER RECREATION TECHNOLOGIES

LAKE SCOUT Application: Pine Lake, Clearwater County MN



Application: The Red Lake Watershed District manages the level of Pine Lake at the request of the local residents. The lake has an adjustable outlet structure and the goal is to control the level of the lake to within +/- 1 foot. The challenge is that the personnel responsible for adjusting the outlet structure are located an hour away.

Solution: The LAKE SCOUT data buoy with **water elevation** and water temperature measurements was installed for seasonal monitoring.

Benefits: The watershed personnel can monitor the water level remotely to insure that the level is within range and only travel to the site when necessary. The water level portal is posted on the Watershed website allowing local residents to independently monitor the lake level eliminating phone calls inquiring about the lake level.



Visit us on the web at www.winrectech.com for additional product details.
For more information contact us at info@winrectech.com or call 612-229-3941.

At Winter Recreation Technologies, we utilize advanced technologies to develop products that give you unique insights into outdoor environments in the harshest conditions. Our products provide the ability to monitor parameters remotely and in real-time.





Watershed Districts Taking Over as Drainage Authority from a County

Keystone Township v. Red Lake Watershed District

I. Factual Circumstances

In October 2017, a landowner filed a petition with Red Lake Watershed District (“RLWD”) seeking to improve Polk County Ditch 39 (“CD 39”) because it needed enlarging or extending to furnish sufficient capacity or a better outlet. The petition recognized that Polk County had been the drainage authority for CD 39 and requested that, upon completion of the improvement, the operation and maintenance of the entire ditch be turned over to RLWD.

RLWD accepted the improvement petition and appointed an engineer for the project. The engineer submitted a preliminary report in January 2019, opining that the proposed project is necessary, feasible, and practical, and recommending that RLWD proceed with the project. After notifying affected landowners and the county, RLWD conducted a preliminary public hearing in April 2019. RLWD then issued an order finding the proposed improvement necessary and feasible and directing the engineer to move forward with project planning. RLWD also appointed viewers to assess the proposed improvement's benefits and damages.

In January 2020, the viewers submitted a report that estimated the benefits of the proposed improvement to nearby land, including privately held tracts, conservation areas, roadways, and upstream Polk County Ditch 66. They opined that the benefits would exceed the damages to be paid for permanent right-of-way easements and temporary construction easements. That same month, the engineer submitted a final report detailing plans and costs for the project. After notifying affected landowners and the county, RLWD conducted a final public hearing on the petition in late July 2020 and approved the improvement project as set forth in the engineer's plan. In its written order, RLWD explained that the matter was “properly before [it]” under Minn. Stat. § 103D.625, subd. 4, and the improvement's estimated benefits exceed its total estimated costs, including damages.

A landowner and Keystone Township appealed to the district court. They challenged RLWD's order on various grounds, including that (1) RLWD lacked jurisdiction to approve the petition under Minn. Stat. § 103D.625, subd. 4, because the county never transferred jurisdiction over Ditch 39 to RLWD; and (2) the proceeding did not “conform to chapter 103E,” as required under Minn. Stat. § 103D.625, subd. 4. The district court granted summary judgment on the first ground. It noted that Minn. Stat. § 103D.625, subd. 4, requires a petition to improve a drainage system “in the watershed district” to be filed with the watershed district but does not define the phrase “in the watershed district.” It concluded that it is unclear whether the phrase refers to the watershed district's physical boundaries or its jurisdiction. The court reasoned that the phrase must refer to jurisdiction because Minn. Stat. § 103D.625, subd. 1, provides a mechanism for a watershed district to “take over” a drainage system, making such a transfer a prerequisite to a watershed district conducting a drainage-improvement proceeding. Since the county did not

transfer jurisdiction over CD 39 to RLWD, the court concluded that RLWD lacked jurisdiction to consider the petition.

The petitioning landowner and RLWD appealed to the Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals reversed the District Court's grant of summary judgment. Keystone Township appealed to the Minnesota Supreme Court.

II. Issues on Appeal

- Did RLWD have jurisdiction to consider the improvement petition under Minn. Stat. § 103D.625, subd. 4?
- Did the improvement proceeding conform to chapter 103E?

III. Court of Appeals Decision

The Court of Appeals found in favor of Appellant Red Lake Watershed District. The Court held RLWD had jurisdiction to consider drainage improvement petition regarding drainage area within physical boundaries of watershed district; requirement that drainage improvement proceedings "conform" with drainage code did not require involvement of county officers for RLWD to consider and grant drainage improvement petition; drainage code did not require RLWD to prepare and mail property owners' reports that addressed individual benefit of proposed improvement to property owners' specific properties; failure of RLWD to prepare reports for individual property owners affected by proposed improvements to drainage area within 30 days of viewers' report did not prejudice property owner and township that objected to proposed improvements; and noncompliance by RLWD regarding procedure for final hearing on drainage improvement did not invalidate RLWD's decision to approve drainage improvement petition.

The Court of Appeals stated that RLWD did have authority to consider the petition because a proceeding to improve an existing drainage system that lies within the physical boundaries of a watershed district must be initiated by filing a petition with the watershed district, regardless of whether the watershed district previously acted as the system's drainage authority. A watershed district conducting an improvement proceeding under Minn. Stat. 103D.625, subd. 4, must "conform" the proceeding to the drainage code. This means it must provide notice of the preliminary and final hearings to affected landowners and political subdivisions, including the county. Minn. Stat. 103E.261, subd. 1, .325, subd. 3.

The Court of Appeals held that the improvement proceeding substantially conformed to the drainage code, and minor deviations from statutory procedures do not invalidate RLWD's decision. An improvement proceeding before a watershed district "conform[s]" to the drainage code when the filing, review, bond, hearing, notice, and other requisite procedures are completed by the appropriate watershed district officers and employees. See Minn. Stat. 103D.315, subd. 3 (listing watershed district officers), .325, subd. 1 (permitting watershed districts to hire engineers and other employees).

IV. At the Minnesota Supreme Court

Keystone Township and other benefited landowners (Appellants) appealed the Court of Appeals decision to the Minnesota Supreme Court. The Supreme Court granted review and certified two issues – whether the Red Lake Watershed District acquired jurisdiction from Polk County, the current drainage authority of the subject ditch system and whether the procedures involving the Subject Petition sufficiently conformed to statutory requirements when such requirements were not performed in literal compliance of the various statutory provisions.

Minn. Stat. § 103D.625, subd. 4 states “Construction of new drainage systems or improvements of existing drainage systems in the watershed district must be initiated by filing a petition with the managers.” Appellants contend that the District Court correctly interpreted the statutory phrase “in the watershed district” to mean within the jurisdiction of the watershed district and correctly held that because RLWD did not yet have jurisdiction over CD 39, the petition was incorrectly filed under the statute. Appellant focused on “canons of statutory interpretation” to support their position. Respondent, and the Court of Appeals, interpreted the same statutory phrase to mean within the physical boundary of the watershed district. Under this interpretation of the statute, Respondent contended that the petition was correctly filed because CD 39 is within the physical boundaries of RLWD. Respondent focused on the legislature’s purpose in creating Watershed Districts and the overall purpose of the statutes in 103D.

Appellants argued the proceedings to establish the improvement project did not strictly comply with the procedures in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103E. Appellants listed eight procedural errors:

1. Petition was not filed with the Polk County Auditor (Minn. Stat. § 103D.625 and Minn. Stat. § 103E.215, subd. 4(b))
2. Improvement Petition was not presented to the Polk County Board (Minn. Stat. § 103E.215, subd. 5)
3. No bond was filed with the Polk County Auditor (Minn. Stat. § 103E.202)
4. The improvement petition was not certified by the Polk County Auditor
5. A property owners report was not made or mailed to the owners of properties benefited by Polk CD 66.
6. Notice of final hearing was defective.
7. The final hearing was not timely as required by statute.
8. The Property Owners report was dated March 24, 2020. The affidavit of mailing of the Property Owners reports indicates they were mailed to the owners on March 25, 2020.

The Court of Appeals determined that these minor, nonprejudicial deviations from the prescribed procedure did not invalidate the decision and RLWD conformed to 103E when Watershed District officers and employees followed the procedures specified in chapter 103E. Respondent contended the majority of procedural errors alleged by Appellants involve the use of RLWD officers instead of Polk County officers to conduct the proceedings that had been initiated with the managers.

Oral Arguments were held on March 5, 2024. The Minnesota Supreme Court has not yet issued a decision on the matter.

Considerations for Other Drainage System Crossings

- What came first: the drainage system or MnDOT's road?
 - What does the record show?
 - Was there a road owned/operated by someone else when the drainage system was established?
 - If MnDOT came first, operating the drainage system across a MnDOT-controlled road was part of the considerations when the system was established.
- If MnDOT's interest came after the drainage system, did MnDOT pay any damages to the drainage system and the benefited landowners?
- Is MnDOT being given the opportunity to discuss the crossing and present evidence as to why they should not be responsible for the crossing.

Drainage System Crossings Underneath MnDOT Roads

Issue Overview

There are numerous drainage systems that cross underneath Trunk Highways around the State of Minnesota. Under the Drainage Code, Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103E, Drainage Authorities are tasked with repairing and maintaining these systems. Under Minnesota Department of Transportation policy, Drainage Authorities are required to jack-and-bore new tile systems underneath MnDOT roads. However, the cost of jack-and-boring tile is exponentially more expensive than the traditional method of open cutting the road and laying the tile. MnDOT's policy does not consider whether the drainage system was there prior to MnDOT's road. MnDOT's policy passes costs that are solely attributable to MnDOT's road onto the drainage system's benefited landowners.

The issue is limited to crossings that are not bridges or culverts. If the crossing is a bridge or culvert, replacement of the crossing is governed by Minn. Stat. §§ 103E.525 and 103E.701.

Re: In the Matter of the Obstruction of Renville County Ditch 59

I. Factual Circumstances

The Renville County Board of Commissioners, as the Drainage Authority for Renville County Ditch 59, received a petition for improvement of CD 59. The engineer determined the improvement required access to a portion of CD 59 obstructed by Trunk Highway 71. MnDOT stated access to the tile must be accomplished by jack-and-bore. The engineer calculated the difference between the cost to install the new tile via an open cut method, the established method of installing the tile for CD 59 at that crossing and the cost to install the new tile via the jack-and-bore method required by MnDOT. The engineer estimated a \$190,000 increase due solely to the jack-and-bore method.

Drainage Authority staff determined CD 59 was established in 1916. At the time of establishment, the Township of Troy was road authority for a primitive dirt road in relatively the same location as where Trunk Highway 71 exists today. On February 6, 2024, the Drainage

Authority issued an obstruction notice to MnDOT pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103E.075 based on Trunk Highway 71 obstructing access to CD 59. The Drainage Authority's position was based on an analysis of *Fischer v. Town of Albin*, which held that a drainage order is a judgment in rem on all the land affected by the order and, because of the judgment in rem, the affected landowners have the right to maintain the drainage system itself and the conditions upon which it was established.

The obstruction notice directed MnDOT to either allow the Drainage Authority to use an open cut method to install the new drain tile within the CD 59 right-of-way or to show cause as to why Trunk Highway 71 does not obstruct access to CD 59. At the hearing on March 5, 2024, a MnDOT representative spoke to the Drainage Authority. MnDOT did not provide any evidence or support to counter the evidence found by Drainage Authority staff that Trunk Highway 71 obstructs access to CD 59, despite being asked to do so. Based on the evidence before it, the Drainage Authority unanimously found CD 59 was established prior to Trunk Highway 71, Trunk Highway 71 obstructed access to CD 59, and the obstruction would result in the drainage system incurring additional expense that is the responsibility of MnDOT. As a result, the Drainage Authority adopted an order directing the additional costs incurred by jacking-and-boring tile underneath Trunk Highway 71, instead of open cutting the area to lay tile, to be assessed against MnDOT.

MnDOT appealed the obstruction order but did not appeal the order establishing the improvement project.

II. Issues on Appeal

- Whether under Minn. Stat. § 103E.075 Trunk Highway 71 obstructs the Drainage Authority's access to maintain, repair, and improve CD 59 in a manner consistent with the rights established for benefited landowners with the establishment of CD 59.
- Whether the Drainage Authority may charge MnDOT for the increased cost of accessing CD 59 to maintain, repair, and improve the drainage system due to the obstruction caused by Trunk Highway 71 pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103E.075.

III. Support for finding Trunk Highway 71 as an Obstruction

The CD 59 was established before Trunk Highway. During the drainage system establishment, the Township was assessed benefits and damages, bringing the Township under the Drainage Authority's jurisdiction. These are the conditions under which CD 59 were established and under which landowners were assessed benefits and damages. The benefits and damages are the basis for which almost all drainage repairs, maintenance, and potential improvements are based on.

The Trunk Highway records show no notice was given to the Drainage Authority or explicitly to the CD 59 benefited landowners. There was no record in the Trunk Highway records of MnDOT paying damages to the CD 59 benefited landowners for modifying their property rights. Existence of Trunk Highway 71 alone has changed the cost dramatically for the benefited landowners and the modification of the landowners' rights have not been paid for.

MnDOT had various options to respect the benefited landowners' interest and right to maintain the conditions under which CD 59 were established. Minn. Stat. § 161.28 authorizes the Commissioner of MnDOT to petition the Drainage Authority to modify a drainage system for the benefit of a trunk highway at the sole expense of MnDOT. MnDOT could have condemned the benefited landowners' interests, as it did in *State by Humphrey v. Byers*. MnDOT could have allowed an open-cut to lay the tile or it could pay for the increased costs.

The right of access is critical to the performance of the drainage authority's statutory duties. Making it hard to fulfill those statutory duties is as much an obstruction as blocking the flow of water. The landowners benefited by the drainage system have a right to access that system without obstruction when MnDOT has not condemned the right.

IV. MnDOT's Position

MnDOT took three main positions in this appeal. First, MnDOT contends that because the Drainage Authority did not make any finding that water is not flowing through the system, Minn. Stat. § 103E.075 is inapplicable. Second, MnDOT contends that as the sovereign over roads in the State, MnDOT has ultimate control over construction and maintenance activities within its right-of-way. Third and final, MnDOT contends that because it was assessed \$0.00 in benefits as a result of the improvement, there is no basis for the Drainage Authority to assess costs against MnDOT for the improvement project.

V. At the Court of Appeals

On November 6, 2024, the Court of Appeals held oral arguments on the appeal. The Court questioned MnDOT about who came first – MnDOT or the Drainage Authority –, about whether the road affects the flow of water through the drainage system, and about whether accessing the ditch is more difficult now when compared to when the ditch was established. The Court was interested in why Renville County considers Trunk Highway 71 an obstruction and how the increased costs impact the benefited landowners. The Court did ask extensive questions about whether Trunk Highway 71 affects the flow of CD 59. The Court is expected to issue an opinion on or by February 5, 2025.

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Minnesota Watershed Specialist Training

Draft Plan, November 2024

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The University of Minnesota Water Resources Center intends to present the Watershed Specialist Training for a learning cohort beginning November 2025. On the next page is a draft schedule to be refined in the coming months.

The cost to deliver the training for a minimum of 25 participants is around \$1,300 per person, including lodging for the in-person session. The WRC is pursuing partner funding to keep registration fees much lower than that.

Instructors will be drawn from the University, and state and local agencies. Government and non-government partner organizations will help review and advise on the curriculum to ensure it meets the needs of their constituents. Partners will help promote the program and provide scholarships or program funding.

The course is designed for early career water resource professionals, especially staff at watershed organizations, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, tribal nations, counties, and cities. A unique aspect of the training is the mix of learners from multiple organizations and multiple educational backgrounds including natural resources, technical fields, social sciences, and administration. This diversity reflects the variety of people and organizations that water professionals need to collaborate with on a daily basis.

The curriculum provides a holistic framework of the skills needed to be successful working in watershed-based conservation. Participants will come away with skills they can apply immediately, plus a strategy for focusing their future professional development.

Month Length Delivery	Modules <i>Key messages</i>	Independent work
October 2 hours <i>on-line</i>	Kick-off meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Build your online profile including an introduction to your work in water resources.
November 2 hours <i>on-line</i>	Policy and Institutions: <i>Understand what authority lies where.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read overviews of Minnesota institutions. ● Interview a leader in water resources to learn how they partner across sectors.
December 2 hours <i>on-line</i>	Communication <i>Start with the audience: Where are they at? Where do you want them to be?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Write a strategic communication plan.
January 2 hours <i>on-line</i>	Watershed Science: <i>How we manage land across the watershed impacts how water and pollutants move. Management approaches and target sites should be selected based on a solid understanding of the unique local hydrology and watershed characteristics.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Write and draw a description of your watershed. ● Consider how to explain the science to people in your community.
February Two days <i>in-person</i>	Civic Engagement: <i>Water is a public issue, therefore engaging the public is essential to water resource management. Before you can engage the public, learn about the people you are working with.</i> Assessment, Monitoring, and Evaluation: <i>Before measuring anything, determine exactly what information you need to understand the problem, the causes, and whether you are moving towards meaningful change. Only then can you identify the right method to collect and analyze information.</i> Implementation Activities: <i>Implementation activities are not endpoints. Ensure implementation activities serve your goals for social and water resource change.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complete an independent project of your choice related to one of the course topics.
March 2 hours <i>on-line</i>	Project and Program Implementation: <i>Pay attention to details. Use the work plan to systematically think through the components and considerations needed to make a project or program successful.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Write a project work plan, such as for a grant proposal. ● Prepare a short presentation of your project to share in April.
April half-day <i>hybrid</i>	Celebrate, reflect, and share	