

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

October 22, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Agenda

9:00 am	Call to Order	Action
	Review and approve agenda	Action
	Requests to appear	Information
	October 8, 2026 Minutes	Action
	Financial Report as of October 21, 2026	Action
	Certificate of Deposit Renewal	Information
	Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179	
	Temporary and Permanent Easements	Info/Action
	R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc. Contract	Info/Action
	RLWD Project 149A, Thief River 1W1P, Thief River Streambank 2026 Sites	
	Set Final Payment Hearing Date:	
	November 12, 2026 @ 9:30 am	Info/Action
	Clearwater River Bank Stabilization, RLWD Project No. 149B	
	Pay Estimate No. 3	Action
	Houston Avenue – Crookston	Information
	RLWD Project No. 178, TRF Westside FDR Release of Declaration	Information
	Moose River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 13	Information
	RLWD Permit No. 26124: Badger 7, Polk County	Info/Action
	Permits: 26101 and 26129 - 26138	Action
	MN Watersheds October 2026 Drainage Workgroup Meeting	Information
	1W1P Coordinator	Information
	Minnesota Paid Leave Policy	Info/Action
	Administrator's Report	Information
	Legal Counsel Update	Information

Managers' Updates

Information

Adjourn

Action

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

October 22, 2026	RLWD Board Meeting, 9:00 am
October 28, 2026	Clearwater 1W1P Policy Committee Meeting, 9:00 am
November 11, 2026	HOLIDAY-RLWD Closed
November 12, 2026	RLWD Board Meeting, 9:00 am
November 17, 2026	RRWMB Meeting, 10:00 am, Ada
November 24, 2026	RLWD Board Meeting, 9:00 am
November 26-27, 2026	HOLIDAY-RLWD Closed

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Managers Minutes
October 8, 2026

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

Managers Present: Gene Tiedemann, Tom Anderson, Brian Dwight, Terry Sorenson, LeRoy Ose, Al Page, and Grant Nelson. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Elaine Rychlock, Tony Olson, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, and passed by a unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda, with additions as noted. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the September 24, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the September 24, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report as of October 7, 2026. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the Financial Report as of October 7, 2026. Motion carried.

A quote from Frontier Precision was reviewed for renewal of the annual software maintenance contract for the Trimble survey equipment. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve the payment of \$3,976.20 to Frontier Precision for the annual software maintenance contract. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed correspondence from the League of Minnesota Cities, announcing that the District received a \$1,377.00 dividend on our Workers Compensation.

The Board reviewed the Final Pay Estimate for the Flage Erosion Control, RLWD Project No. 174, Red Lake River 1W1P, in the amount of \$26,466.05, to Quality Spray Foam LLC dba Anderson Excavating. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve the Final Pay Estimate for the Flage Erosion Control, RLWD Project No. 174, Red Lake River 1W1P, to Quality Spray Foam LLC dba Anderson Excavating. Motion carried. Administrator Audette noted that repairs need to be performed around the second structure that was not part of the quote from Quality Spray Foam LLC, as minor erosion has taken place.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 3 for the 2026 Thief River Bank Stabilization Sites, Project, RLWD Project No. 149A, Thief River 1W1P, in the amount of \$166,996.70, to Northern Harbor, LLC. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Ose, to approve Pay Estimate No. 3 for the 2026 Thief River Bank Stabilization Sites, RLWD Project No. 149A, Thief River 1W1P, to Northern Harbor, LLC. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette and Tony Nordby, HEI Engineer, discussed the Clearwater River Bank Stabilization, RLWD Project No. 149B.

At 9:30 a.m., President Tiedemann stated that the bid opening for the construction of the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179, would be conducted. Legal Counsel Sparby noted the time and that no further bid proposals would be accepted after the 9:30 a.m. bid submittal deadline. Bids were opened and bid amounts were publicly announced and are on file at the District office. The following bids were received:

Breidenbach Excavating, Reynolds, ND, \$2,506,700.29;
Burski Excavating, Inc., Rice, MN, \$3,117,084.80;
APEX Drainage, LLC, Glyndon, MN, \$3,227,157.00;
R.J. Zavoral & Sons Inc., East Grand Forks, MN, \$2,123,546.70;
The Spruce Valley Corporation, Middle River, MN, \$3,918,530.00;
Baranko Brothers, Inc., Dickinson, ND, \$4,296,608.90;
Gladen Construction, Laporte, MN, \$2,825,832.08; and
Davidson Construction, Inc., Newfolden, MN, \$3,330,540.00

Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Nelson, and passed by unanimous vote to accept the apparent low bid from R.J. Zavoral & Sons Inc. in the amount of \$2,123,546.70 for construction of the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179, contingent upon the audit by staff and review of the bids and approval by Legal Counsel Sparby, District staff, and Project Engineer, Pribula Engineering, PLLC. Motion carried.

Dylan Nelson, HDR Engineering, presented information on JD 4, RLWD Project No. 101, Peatland Restoration. A meeting will be scheduled with the new Clearwater County Engineer, to discuss the proposed project.

Dylan Nelson, HDR Engineering, updated the Board on the JD 60 Outlet and Red Lake/Polk County Line Outlet Stabilization Project, Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149.

Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, discussed the Brule Bank Stabilization, RLWD Project No. 149. Nordby presented the three quotes received for the Cultural Review proposal. The lowest quote came from Duluth Archaeology Center LLC in the amount of \$9,737.72. Motion by Page, seconded by Ose, to proceed and approve the low quote from Duluth Archaeology Center LLC in the amount of \$9,737.72, for the Brule Bank Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 149. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the Improvement to JD1, RLWD Project No. 184. There was a landowner meeting held on October 7, 2026, at 5:00 pm. There will be a Joint Ditch meeting relating to the project on November 12, 2026, at 1:00 pm.

Administrator Audette updated the Board on Mud River, RLWD Project No. 180C. Audette received word that we have been recommended for Phase 2 funding of the project through the Lessard Sam Outdoor Heritage Council in the amount of \$3.2 million. Final approval of the funds will take place in late 2026.

Administrator Audette discussed the upcoming Houston Avenue Crookston meeting on October 26, 2026, at 9 am.

RLWD permit no. 26125 was discussed. The proposed work is in Section 6, Terrebonne Township, in Red Lake County. Motion by Page, seconded by Nelson, to withdraw RLWD permit no. 26125. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the following permits for approval. Motion by Ose, seconded by Anderson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 26126, MnDOT, Shooks Township, Beltrami County; No. 26127, Mike Hanson, Fairfax Township, Polk County; and No. 26128, Belgium Township, Belgium Township, Polk County.

Administrator's Report:

- **State Ditch 83:** Gates on right-of-way for SD 83 were installed on the Mickelson property last week. Gates will also be installed on the Rodahl property once the construction is complete.
- **Drainage Work Group:** Included in the packet is a draft Drainage Work Group Assessment Report.
- **MN Watersheds Abstracts:** Our Clearwater River Project was selected to be presented at the 2026 MN Watersheds Annual Conference and Trade Show.

Legal Counsel Sparby has completed an draft General Statement of Temporary and Permanent Easement for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179. Pribula Engineering will prepare Exhibit A and Exhibit B to be included with the easement, which will identify the temporary and permanent right-of-way. Sparby will continue to work with Greg Widseth relating to the easements with Polk County for RLWD Project No. 114.

Motion by Page, seconded by Nelson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

LeRoy Ose, Secretary

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Financial Report as of October 21, 2026

Ck#	Check Issued to:	Description	Amount
online	EFTPS/MN Withholding	Withholding FICA,Fed, Medi, & MN Tax (10/21/26 pp)	\$5,473.55
online	PERA	10/21/26 pp	\$3,372.30
42466	Northern Harbor	Pay Est #3 - Thief River Stab. 1W1P #149A(board appv. 10/7/26)	\$166,996.70
42467	Quality Spray Foam/Anderson Excavating	Pay Est #2 Flage Stabilization (board approved 10/7/26)	\$26,466.05
42468	Budget	TV for Board Room	\$549.98
42469	East Polk SWCD	Reimburse RMB Lab Costs for Lake Monitoring #46	\$6,094.53
42470	Kristie Huseth	Building Cleaning	\$472.50
42471	Mike Illies	Gopher Trap Project #113, 41A & 04	\$275.00
42472	void		\$0.00
42473	League of MN Cities	Workmens Comp	\$195.00
42474	Les Cota	Sept Mowing Proj. #171A	\$570.00
42475	Quick Print	Shipping for Water Quality Equipment	\$102.24
42476	RMB	Lab Analysis & Courier Fees #46	\$854.00
42477	void		\$0.00
42478	Marco	Monthly Telephone	\$371.32
42479	L&M Fleet	Gates 16' & 20' for SD#83 Project #14	\$684.15
42480	HDR	Red Lake /Polk Co. Line Stabilization Eng. Fees #149	\$718.50
42481	Houston	***see details below	\$7,774.50
42482	Higher Ground	Dozer Leveling Spoil Proj. #166 Ditch 11	\$805.00
42483	void		\$0.00
42484	Frontier Precision	Trimble Annual Software	\$3,976.20
42485	Ihle Sparby & Haase PA	Legal Fees	\$13,520.00
42486	Tony Olson	Fall Mowing	\$1,200.00
42487	Jessica Olson	Summer Mowing	\$1,400.00
42488	void		\$0.00
42489	Pennington SWCD	***see details below	\$43,412.55
online	Aflac	Staff Insurance	\$358.58
online	City of Thief River Falls	Utilities	\$477.95
online	Les's Sanitation	Garbage Services	\$36.46
online	Sun Life Financial	Staff Life Insurance	\$144.64
online	MSRS/Voya	Staff Health Care Savings Plan	\$455.46
online	WEX	Medical Care Reimbursement	\$550.00
online	Intuit Quick Books	Monthly fee	\$636.00
online	Leroy Ose	Mileage	538.08
direct	Tom Anderson	Mileage	\$182.40
direct	Board & Staff Payroll	10/21/26 pp	\$18,293.11
	Total Checks		\$306,956.75

Houston	Thief River/SD 83 T&E Services	\$777.00
	Clearwater River Channel Stab.	\$2,690.50
	Thief River FRD T&E Services	\$957.00
	Brule Streambank Stab. T&E	<u>\$3,350.00</u>
		\$7,774.50

Penn	Red Lake River Admin #149 1W1P	\$9,258.64
SWCD	Thief River Admin #149A 1W1P	\$712.96
	Clearwater Admin #149B 1W1P	\$240.95
	Ag Practices (cover crop) #149 1W1P	<u>\$33,200.00</u>
		\$43,412.55

NSB	Balance as of October 7, 2026		\$318,138.05
	Total Checks Written		-\$306,956.75
	Receipt #12576	Paul Hoff - Land Rent Lousiville Parnell #121	\$6,231.63
	Balance as of October 21, 2026	Current interest rate is 2.75%	<u>\$17,412.93</u>

American	Balance as of October 7, 2026		\$4,038,038.71
Federal			
Fosston			
	Balance as of October 21, 2026	Current interest rate is 3.3%	<u>\$4,038,038.71</u>

<u>CD's</u>	Dakota Heritage	7 month CD 3.89% Expiry 11-12-26	<u><u>\$ 500,000.00</u></u>
	Ultima Bank	3 month CD 4.06% Expiry 11-20-26	<u><u>\$ 500,000.00</u></u>
	Ultima Bank	6 month CD 4.0% Expiry 11-29-26	<u><u>\$ 237,000.00</u></u>
	Dakota Heritage	12 month CD 4.04% Expiry 2-11-27	<u><u>\$ 250,000.00</u></u>
	Ultima Bank	12 month CD 3.75% Expiry 2-27-27	<u><u>\$ 500,000.00</u></u>
	Dakota Heritage	12 month CD 4.04% Expiry 3-4-27	<u><u>\$ 500,000.00</u></u>
	Dakota Heritage	12 month CD 4.04% Expiry 3-4-27	<u><u>\$ 250,000.00</u></u>
	Dakota Heritage	12 month CD 4.04% Expiry 5-06-27	<u><u>\$ 500,000.00</u></u>
	Ultima Bank	9 month CD 4.06% Expiry 5-20-27	<u><u>\$ 500,000.00</u></u>
	Edward Jones	12 month CD 4.05% Expiry 6-23-27	<u><u>\$ 239,000.00</u></u>
	Dakota Heritage	12 month CD 4.14% Expiry 8-19-27	<u><u>\$ 250,000.00</u></u>

	Total CD Investments	\$4,226,000.00
	NSB, AFB +CD's	\$8,281,451.64
	Cash that has been recvd and earmarked for projects: (taken from remaining balance on financials)	
10% pmt coming - no reconciliation needed	2023 Grant Clearwater 1W1P Project #149B	-\$136,475.20
	2024 Grant Red Lake River 1W1P Project #149	-\$82,074.13
	2024 Grant Thief River 1W1P Project #149A	\$7,866.56
	2025 Grant Clearwater 1W1P Project #149B	\$665,569.57
	2024 CRP Payment Red Lake 1W1P	\$2,132.00
	2025 CRP Payment Red Lake 1W1P	\$100,000.00
	2026 Grant Red Lake River 1W1P Project #149	\$856,311.50
	2026 Grant Thief River 1W1P Project #149A	\$352,474.00
	2026 MIDPOINT Red Lake River Project #149	\$10,000.00
	2025 MIDPOINT Thief River Project #149A	\$21,809.15
		\$1,797,613.45
	Payables committed to by board action:	
	City of Grygla	\$12,500.00
	Mud River 180C	<u>\$500,000.00</u>
		\$512,500.00
	Total accessible cash (Est.)	\$5,971,338.19

GENERAL STATEMENT OF TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT EASEMENT

Date: October 22, 2026.

WHEREAS, the Red Lake Watershed District, a political subdivision under the laws of the State of Minnesota, Chapter 103D, did conduct hearings in regard to an improvement petition related to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Ditch No. 17, Red Lake Watershed District Project No. 179, (hereinafter “improvement project”), that was submitted to the Red Lake Watershed District under Minnesota State Statute section 103E.215; and

WHEREAS, as part of said statutory improvement proceedings a detailed survey report was prepared by a licensed engineer in the State of Minnesota and the benefits and damages associated with said improvement project were properly determined by board appointed viewers; and

WHEREAS, the detailed survey report approved by the Red Lake Watershed District Board of Managers designated certain temporary and permanent easement areas associated with the construction, placement and operation of said improvement project as set forth in the attached Exhibit A and B; and

WHEREAS, said improvement project was established by the Red Lake Watershed District Board by written Order dated July 9, 2026, and the time for appeal of said improvement project, detailed survey report and viewer’s report has expired.

NOW THEREFORE, The Red Lake Watershed District does hereby give notice of established temporary and permanent construction easements as shown on the attached Exhibit A and Exhibit B related to said improvement project.

TERM. The permanent easement term shall be permanent and perpetual. The temporary construction easement shall expire after completion of construction, but in no case shall it extend beyond the date of November 1, 2027.

USE OF EASEMENT BY THE RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT. The Red Lake Watershed District and its successors shall have the full and complete right, power, privilege, and easement to provide drainage and/or flow channels on or over said real property. The Red Lake Watershed District shall have the right to enter on said real property from time to time and clear, destroy, or otherwise dispose of any timber or other natural growth and any obstructions, accumulations, or any other thing that would in any way interfere with said flowage, construction, drainage and channel easement. The Red Lake Watershed District shall have the right to extract soil for the construction of this project. The Red Lake Watershed District shall have the right to remove or prevent the construction of any buildings or permanent structures located on that portion of said real property described below, and any other structures or appurtenances located on that portion of said real property described below, if any. The Red Lake Watershed District shall have the right to enter upon, remove and dispose of all trees, natural or artificial structures or obstructions, to deposit soil and/or other excavated material, and to remove and/or excavate soil and/or other types of material, install dikes, dams, culverts, drainage and/or flowage channels, and other controls, or structures and to do any other act as may be necessary or convenient in direct connection with the construction, improvement, operation, repair, and maintenance of the said improvement project. The Red Lake Watershed District shall have the right to grant use of its easement area, temporary or permanent, to any other utilities that have utilities that are required to be moved due to the construction and/or establishment of the said legal drainage project.

LANDOWNER(S)' USE. The Landowner(s)' use of the easement area is subordinate and subject to the Red Lake Watershed District's use of the easement area, and the Landowner(s) shall not disturb the easement area or erect any structures thereon without the prior written consent of the Red Lake Watershed District.

GOVERNING LAW. This statement of easement shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Minnesota and shall bind the parties hereto, their heirs, personal representatives, successors, and assigns and is a covenant running with the land for the term set forth above.

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

By: _____
Its: President

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF PENNINGTON)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 22 day of
October, 2026, by Gene Tiedemann, the President of the Red Lake Watershed District, a
Minnesota political subdivision.

Notary Public

Exhibit A

Temporary Easement

Sullivan Township (Twp. 152 N., R. 49 W.)

The southerly 125 feet of the northerly 285 feet of the West Half of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 18**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West lying easterly of the thread of the Grand Marais Creek EXCEPT the easterly 36 feet thereof.

The southerly 125 feet of the northerly 285 feet of the easterly 36 feet West Half of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 18**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West AND The southerly 95 feet of the northerly 160 feet of the westerly 30 feet of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 18, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

The southerly 125 feet of the northerly 285 feet of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 18**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West AND The southerly 95 feet of the northerly, EXCEPT the westerly 30 feet thereof.

The southerly 125 feet of the northerly 285 feet of the Northwest Quarter of **Section 17**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

The southerly 125 feet of the northerly 285 feet of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 17**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

The southerly 110 feet of the northerly 255 feet of the North Half of the Northwest Quarter of **Section 16**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

The southerly 110 feet of the northerly 255 feet of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 16**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

The southerly 80 feet of the northerly 205 feet of the North Half of the Northwest Quarter of **Section 15**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

The southerly 80 feet of the northerly 205 feet of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 15**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

The southerly 80 feet of the northerly 190 feet of the Northwest Quarter of **Section 14**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

The southerly 80 feet of the northerly 190 feet of the westerly 810 feet of the northerly 710 feet of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 14**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

The southerly 80 feet of the northerly 190 feet of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 14**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West EXCEPT of the westerly 810 feet of the northerly 710 feet thereof.

The southerly 80 feet of the northerly 190 feet of the West Half of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 13**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

The southerly 80 feet of the northerly 190 feet of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 13**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

Exhibit A-continued

Keystone Township (Twp. 152 N., R. 48 W.)

The southerly 80 feet of the northerly 190 feet of the Northwest Quarter of **Section 18**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

The southerly 80 feet of the northerly 190 feet of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 18**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

The southerly 80 feet of the northerly 195 feet of the Northwest Quarter of **Section 17**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

The southerly 80 feet of the northerly 195 feet of the West Half of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 17**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

The southerly 80 feet of the northerly 195 feet of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 17**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

The southerly 80 feet of the northerly 195 feet of the West Half of the Northwest Quarter of **Section 16**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

The southerly 80 feet of the northerly 195 feet of the East Half of the Northwest Quarter of **Section 16**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

The southerly 80 feet of the northerly 195 feet of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 16**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

The southerly 80 feet of the northerly 195 feet of the Northwest Quarter of **Section 15**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

The southerly 80 feet of the northerly 195 feet of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 15**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

The southerly 70 feet of the northerly 180 feet of the Northwest Quarter of **Section 14**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

The southerly 70 feet of the northerly 180 feet of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 14**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

Exhibit B

Permanent Easement

Sullivan Township (Twp. 152 N., R. 49 W.)

The southerly 95 feet of the northerly 160 feet of the West Half of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 18**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West lying easterly of the thread of the Grand Marais Creek EXCEPT the easterly 36 feet thereof.

The southerly 95 feet of the northerly 160 feet of the easterly 36 feet West Half of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 18**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West AND The southerly 95 feet of the northerly 160 feet of the westerly 30 feet of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 18, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

The southerly 95 feet of the northerly 160 feet of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 18**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West AND The southerly 95 feet of the northerly, EXCEPT the westerly 30 feet thereof.

The southerly 95 feet of the northerly 160 feet of the Northwest Quarter of **Section 17**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

The southerly 95 feet of the northerly 160 feet of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 17**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

The southerly 80 feet of the northerly 145 feet of the North Half of the Northwest Quarter of **Section 16**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

The southerly 80 feet of the northerly 145 feet of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 16**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

The southerly 60 feet of the northerly 125 feet of the North Half of the Northwest Quarter of **Section 15**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

The southerly 60 feet of the northerly 125 feet of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 15**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

The southerly 45 feet of the northerly 110 feet of the Northwest Quarter of **Section 14**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

The southerly 45 feet of the northerly 110 feet of the westerly 810 feet of the northerly 710 feet of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 14**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

The southerly 45 feet of the northerly 110 feet of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 14**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West EXCEPT of the westerly 810 feet of the northerly 710 feet thereof.

The southerly 45 feet of the northerly 110 feet of the West Half of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 13**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

The southerly 45 feet of the northerly 110 feet of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 13**, Township 152 North, Range 49 West.

Exhibit B - continued

Keystone Township (Twp. 152 N., R. 48 W.)

The southerly 45 feet of the northerly 110 feet of the Northwest Quarter of **Section 18**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

The southerly 45 feet of the northerly 110 feet of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 18**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

The southerly 50 feet of the northerly 115 feet of the Northwest Quarter of **Section 17**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

The southerly 50 feet of the northerly 115 feet of the West Half of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 17**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

The southerly 50 feet of the northerly 115 feet of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 17**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

The southerly 50 feet of the northerly 115 feet of the West Half of the Northwest Quarter of **Section 16**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

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The southerly 50 feet of the northerly 115 feet of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 16**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

The southerly 50 feet of the northerly 115 feet of the Northwest Quarter of **Section 15**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

The southerly 50 feet of the northerly 115 feet of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 15**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

The southerly 45 feet of the northerly 110 feet of the Northwest Quarter of **Section 14**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

The southerly 45 feet of the northerly 110 feet of the Northeast Quarter of **Section 14**, Township 152 North, Range 48 West.

CONTRACT

[illegible]

THIS AGREEMENT, made this _____ day of October, 2026, by and between RJ Zavoral and Sons, Inc. of PO Box 435, East Grand Forks, MN 56721 party of the first part and the Red Lake Watershed District, party of the second part.

WITNESSETH, that whereas the Red Lake Watershed District on the day of 8th day of October, 2026 order certain work, to wit;

CONTRACT FOR THE: Construction of the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, Red Lake Watershed District Ditch No. 17, Project No. 179.

WHEREAS at a public contract bid of the job of the Construction of Red Lake Watershed District Ditch No. 17 held on the 8th day of October 2026, the Party of the second part did duly award to the party of the first part, the job of: the Construction of Red Lake Watershed District Ditch No. 17, in accordance with the plans and specifications theretofore filed in the proceedings, said firm being the lowest and best responsible bidder, therefore;

The party of the first part further covenants and agrees that it will complete the same in every respect to the satisfaction and approval of the Engineer and of the Board of Managers of the Red Lake Watershed District and in accordance with the plans and specifications on file in said proceedings. **I further agree to commence work on or before May 1, 2027 and to complete all work on or before November 1, 2027 (commence shall mean active excavation on site).**

The party of the first part further agrees **part of this project (Schedule 2 items) is subject to Minnesota prevailing wages and statutes. The Minnesota Prevailing Wage Act requires the Contractor that is awarded the contract to construct this project to pay prevailing wages and abide to all sections of Chapter 177 (Labor Standards and Wages) of the 2026 Minnesota State Statutes for Schedule 2 items (See Appendix A included in this document and which shall be made part of this contract).**

The party of the first part further covenants and agrees that it will guarantee all work performed under this contract for a period of one (1) year beyond the date the Engineer determines that all work has been completed.

The party of the first part, further agrees that time shall be of the essence in this contract and that if there is a failure to perform any of the work herein described according to the terms of this contract, and within the time limits herein, and according to the plans and specifications, that it shall forfeit and pay to the party of the second part the sum of \$500.00 for each calendar day after May 31, 2027 that work has not been started (started shall mean active excavation on site) and \$500.00 for each calendar day after November 1, 2027 that work has not been completed, and that no extension of the time within which to complete said work shall affect the right of the party of the second part to enforce such forfeiture.

The engineer has the right, with consent of the party of the second part's Board of Managers, to modify the detailed survey reports, plans and specifications as the work proceeds and as circumstances require. In this event, the increased cost resulting from the changes will be paid by the second party at a rate not greater than the amount for similar work in the contract.

Upon the completion of said work according to the terms hereof and the inspection and approval thereof by the Engineer, the party of the second part agrees to pay the party of the first part for said work, the sum of \$2,123,546.70, (two million, one hundred twenty-three thousand, five hundred forty-six and 70/100 dollars).

Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the advertisement for bids, and as a condition precedent to the enforceability of this contract, the party of the first part, has furnished and attached hereto a corporate surety bond in the sum of \$2,123,546.70, One Hundred (100%) percent of the contract price for the purpose of guaranteeing the party of the first part's performance hereunder, together with a payment bond attached hereto in the sum of One Hundred (100%) percent of the contract price for the purpose of guaranteeing payment to all persons, firms and corporations furnishing materials for or performing labor in the prosecution of the work provided for in this contract.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the party of the first part has caused this instrument to be executed by its President and its Secretary with its seal affixed, (if required), and the party of the second part has caused this instrument to be executed the day and year first above written.

R.J. Zavoral and Sons, Inc.
PO Box 435, East Grand Forks, MN 56721

By _____
President

and _____
Secretary

Red Lake Watershed District
1000 Pennington Avenue South, Thief River Falls, Minnesota 56701

By _____
President

and _____
Secretary

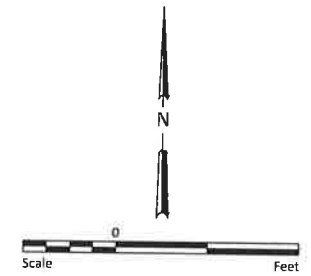
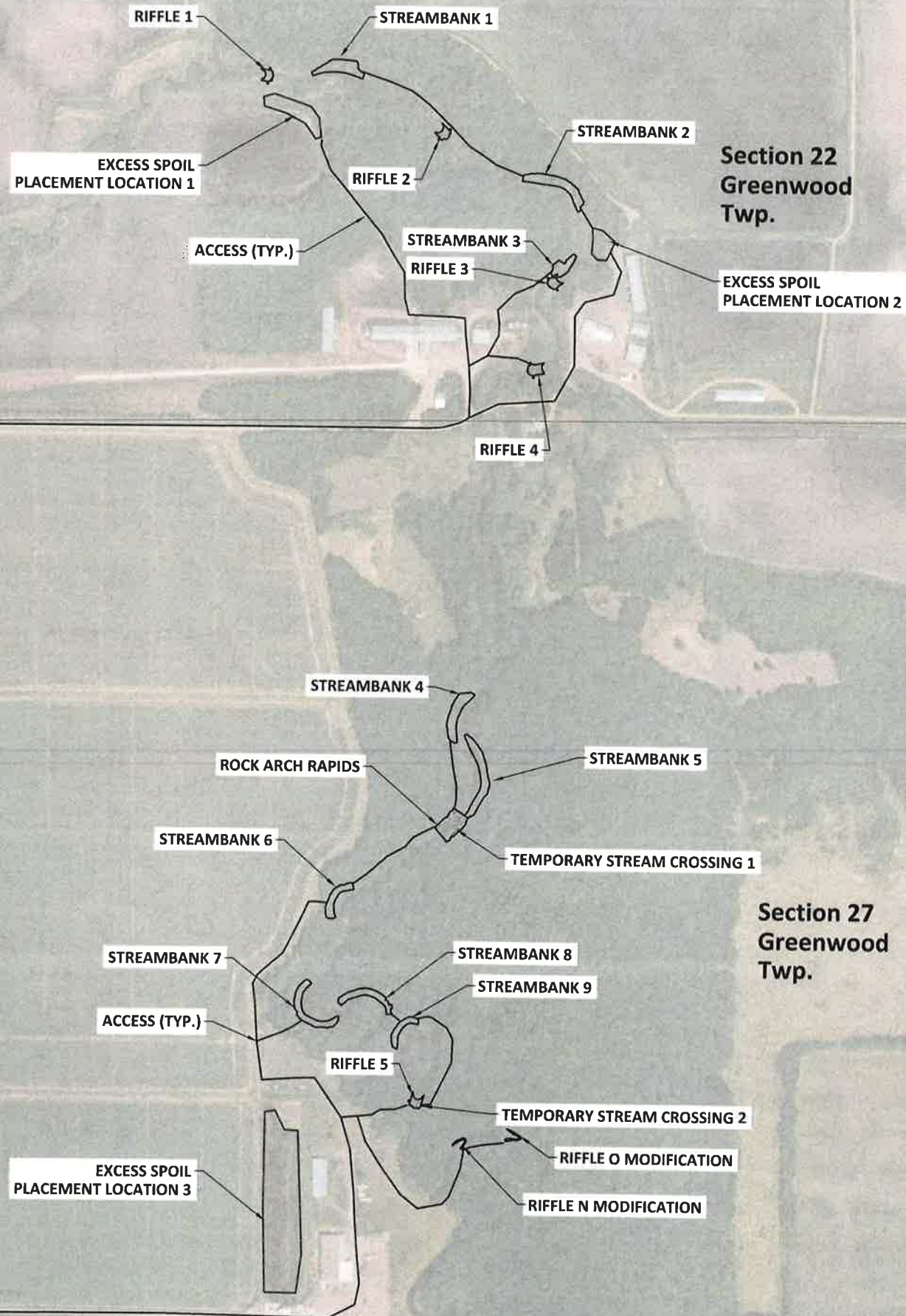


H:\JBN\3600\3655-0105 Clearwater River\3655-0105-002\CAD\Plans\3655-0105_Clearwater_River_Cover.dwg Site Map-5/15/2026 12:08 PM-(bsteinhauser)

Section 21
Greenwood
Twp.

Section 28
Greenwood
Twp.

189th AVE



NOTE:
EXCESS SPOIL SHALL BE PLACED AT THE
LOCATIONS SHOWN ON THE MAP AND SHAPED
IN A UNIFORM EMBANKMENT SHAPE WITH
MINIMUM OF 10' TOP WIDTH AND 3H:1V SIDE
SLOPES. THE HEIGHT OF EACH SPOIL LOCATION
SHALL BE COORDINATED IN THE FIELD WITH
THE ENGINEER.

CERTIFICATION

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

Signature: *Tony A. Nordby*
TONY A. NORDBY

Date: 5-20-26
License Number: 51392

CLEARWATER RIVER STABILIZATION PROJECT
RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
SECTIONS 22 AND 27, GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP, CLEARWATER COUNTY



Drawn By
BLS

Checked By
TAN

Date
5-20-26

Scale
As Shown

Project No.
3655-0105

SHEET
2

SITE MAP

No. Revision

Date

By

PARTIAL PAYMENT ESTIMATE

Client Project No.

HEI Project No.

3655-0105

PAYMENT NUMBER: 3

Project: Clearwater River Stabilization

Location: Sections 22 & 27, Greenwood Twp. Clearwater County, MN

PERIOD OF ESTIMATE:

FROM 9/23/2026 TO 10/20/2026

CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER SUMMARY

ESTIMATE

Change Order		AMOUNT	
NO.	DATE	ADDITIONS	DEDUCTIONS
TOTALS		\$ -	\$ -
NET CHANGE		\$ -	

1. Original Contract	\$	897,705.13
2. Change Orders	\$	-
3. Revised Contract (1+2)	\$	897,705.13
4. Work Completed*	\$	667,065.66
5. Stored Materials*	\$	-
6. Adjustments*	\$	-
7. Subtotal (4+5+6)	\$	667,065.66
8. Retainage 5.00%	\$	33,353.28
9. Previous Payments	\$	346,014.76
10. Amount Due (7-8-9)	\$	287,697.62

*Detailed Breakdown Attached if Non-Zero Value

CONTRACT TIME

Completion Date Contract

Original (days)	N/A	On Schedule? Yes	Starting Date: <u>8/17/2026</u>
Revised	N/A		Final Completion: <u>7/30/2027</u>
Remaining	N/A		

CONTRACTOR'S CERTIFICATION:

The undersigned Contractor certifies, to the best of his/her knowledge, the following:

(1) All previous progress payments received from Owner on account of Work done under the Contract have been applied on account to discharge Contractor's legitimate obligations incurred in connection with the Work covered by prior Applications for Payment;

(2) Title to all Work, materials and equipment incorporated in said Work, or otherwise listed in or covered by this Application for Payment, will pass to Owner at time of payment free and clear of all Liens, security interests, and encumbrances (except such as are covered by a bond acceptable to Owner indemnifying Owner against any such Liens, security interest, or encumbrances); and

(3) All the Work covered by this Application for Payment is in accordance with the Contract Documents and is not defective.

Contractor: **Quality Spray Foam LLC/dba Anderson Excavating**

By: _____

Date: _____

OWNER'S APPROVAL:

Owner: **Red Lake Watershed District**

By: _____

Date: _____

ENGINEER'S RECOMMENDATION:

I have reviewed the progress of the work, and to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, in accordance with the terms of the Contract, the Contractor is entitled to a partial payment in the amount requested.



HOUSTON
engineering, inc.

Engineer: _____ engineering, inc.

By: James A. Nash

Date: 10/21/2026

REMIT PAYMENT TO:

Quality Spray Foam LLC/dba Anderson Excavating
11374 215th St. NW
Thief River Falls, MN 56701



Client Project No.
HEI Project No. 3655-0105
Project: *Clearwater River Stabilization*
Location: *Sections 22 & 27, Greenwood Twp. Clearwater County, MN*
Contractor: *Quality Spray Foam LLC/dba Anderson Excavating*

PAY ESTIMATE

Page 1 of 1

PAY ESTIMATE #:	3
SUBMITTED:	10/22/2026
BEGIN DATE:	9/23/2026
END DATE:	10/20/2026

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	CONTRACT			CURRENT PAY ESTIMATE		PREVIOUS PAY ESTIMATES		PAY ESTIMATES TO DATE	
			QUANTITY	PRICE	AMOUNT	QUANTITY	AMOUNT	QUANTITY	AMOUNT	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
Original Contract Items											
2021.501	MOBILIZATION	LUMP SUM	1.	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00		\$ -	0.645	\$ 45,150.00	0.645	\$ 45,150.00
2501.501	MAINT AND RESTORATION OF HAUL ROADS	LUMP SUM	1.	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	0.34	\$ 8,500.00	0.42	\$ 10,500.00	0.76	\$ 19,000.00
2101.501	CLEARING AND GRUBBING	LUMP SUM	1.	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	0.3	\$ 12,000.00	0.58	\$ 23,200.00	0.88	\$ 35,200.00
2104.604	SALVAGE RIPRAP SPECIAL	S.Y.	58.	\$ 100.00	\$ 5,800.00	58.	\$ 5,800.00		\$ -	58.	\$ 5,800.00
2106.507	EXCAVATION - COMMON (P)	C.Y.	12,148.	\$ 9.00	\$ 109,332.00	3,877.	\$ 34,893.00	6,821.	\$ 61,389.00	10,698.	\$ 96,282.00
2511.507	RANDOM RIPRAP CLASS I	C.Y.	259.	\$ 81.43	\$ 21,090.37	40.	\$ 3,257.20	42.	\$ 3,420.06	82.	\$ 6,677.26
2511.507	RANDOM RIPRAP CLASS II	C.Y.	400.	\$ 88.60	\$ 35,440.00	300.	\$ 26,580.00		\$ -	300.	\$ 26,580.00
2511.507	RANDOM RIPRAP CLASS III	C.Y.	1,829.	\$ 97.00	\$ 177,413.00	738.	\$ 71,586.00	191.	\$ 18,527.00	929.	\$ 90,113.00
2511.507	GRANULAR FILTER MODIFIED	C.Y.	586.	\$ 99.16	\$ 58,107.76	440.	\$ 43,630.40		\$ -	440.	\$ 43,630.40
2511.601	ROCK WEIR (36" TO 60" DIAMETER BOULDERS)	LIN. FT.	308.	\$ 70.00	\$ 21,560.00	231.	\$ 16,170.00		\$ -	231.	\$ 16,170.00
2511.601	ROCK BOULDERS (36" TO 60" DIAMETER BOULDERS)	EACH	14.	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,800.00		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -
2573.503	FLOATATION SILT CURTAIN TYPE MOVING WATER	LIN. FT.	2,620.	\$ 20.00	\$ 52,400.00	300.	\$ 6,000.00	1,480.	\$ 29,600.00	1,780.	\$ 35,600.00
2573.503	SEDIMENT CONTROL LOG TYPE STRAW	LIN. FT.	2,680.	\$ 4.00	\$ 10,720.00	1,472.	\$ 5,888.00		\$ -	1,472.	\$ 5,888.00
2573.601	TEMPORARY STREAM CROSSING	LUMP SUM	1.	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	0.25	\$ 3,750.00	0.75	\$ 11,250.00	1.	\$ 15,000.00
2574.508	FERTILIZER TYPE 3	POUND	500.	\$ 1.00	\$ 500.00	296.	\$ 296.00		\$ -	296.	\$ 296.00
2575.504	ROLLED EROSION PREVENTION CATEGORY 25	S.Y.	12,379.	\$ 3.00	\$ 37,137.00	4,388.	\$ 13,164.00		\$ -	4,388.	\$ 13,164.00
2575.505	SEEDING	ACRE	2.5	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 6,250.00	1.5	\$ 3,750.00		\$ -	1.5	\$ 3,750.00
2575.608	SEED NORTHEAST ROADSIDE (NER)	POUND	65.	\$ 15.00	\$ 975.00	39.	\$ 585.00		\$ -	39.	\$ 585.00
2577.601	TOE - WOOD DEBRIS	C.Y.	2,732.	\$ 65.00	\$ 177,580.00	606.	\$ 39,390.00	2,126.	\$ 138,190.00	2,732.	\$ 177,580.00
2577.601	SOD MAT	S.Y.	1,224.	\$ 25.00	\$ 30,600.00	304.	\$ 7,600.00	920.	\$ 23,000.00	1,224.	\$ 30,600.00
Totals											
Original Contract Amount					\$ 897,705.13						
Extra / Change Order Amount					\$ -						
Work Completed							\$ 302,839.60		\$ 364,226.06		\$ 667,065.66

RELEASE OF DECLARATION OF RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS

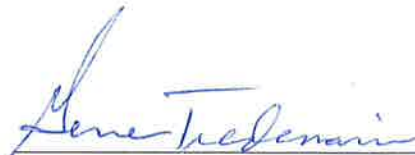
FOR VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the real property and facilities thereon located in the County of Pennington, State of Minnesota, legally described as:

See Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference

is hereby released from the restrictions and covenants created by and contained in that certain Declaration of Restrictive Covenants executed by the Red Lake Watershed District, dated May 29, 2020, and filed in the Office of the County Recorder for the County of Pennington, State of Minnesota on June 12, 2020, at 8:30 a.m., as Document No. 217726.

[The remainder of this page intentionally left blank.]

Date: August 27th, 2026



Red Lake Watershed District

By: Gene Teidemann

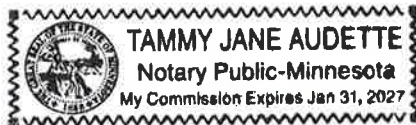
Its: President

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)ss.
COUNTY OF PENNINGTON)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 27th day of August, 2026, by the Red Lake Watershed District, by Gene Teidemann, its President.


Notary Public

(Notary Seal)



[Signature page to Release of Declaration]

Consented to By: MINNESOTA MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

(f/k/a Department of Finance)

By: Erin M Campbell
Erin Campbell
Commissioner

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)ss.
COUNTY OF RAMSEY)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 1st day of September, 2026,
by Erin Campbell, the Commissioner of the Department of Minnesota Management and Budget,
as successor in interest to the Department of Finance.



(Notary Seal)

Linda Mae Dahlquist
Notary Public

My commission expires: 1/31/2030

Consented to By: MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE

By: 
Melissa Kuskie
Director, Division of Ecological and Water
Resources

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)ss.
COUNTY OF Ramsey)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 6th day of October, 2020,
by Melissa Kuskie, the Director of the Division of Ecological and Water Resources within the
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

(Notary Seal)


Notary Public
My commission expires: 1/31/2027

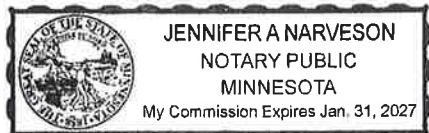


EXHIBIT A LEGAL DESCRIPTION

That part of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Thirty-two (32), Township One Hundred Fifty-four (154) North, Range Forty-three (43) West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the easterly line of said Northwest Quarter, lying South 00 degrees 08 minutes 15 seconds East, a distance of 675 feet from the intersection of the said easterly line and the southerly 75 foot right-of-way line of Minnesota Trunk Highway No. 1; thence continuing South 00 degrees 08 minutes 15 seconds East, along said easterly line, a distance of 143.98 feet; thence North 89 degrees 20 minutes 00 seconds West, a distance 1024.08 feet; thence North 01 degree 14 minutes 00 seconds West, a distance of 110.00 feet; thence North 88 degrees 46 minutes 00 seconds East, a distance of 1026.26 feet to the point of beginning;

and;

That part of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Thirty-two (32), Township One Hundred Fifty-four (154) North, Range Forty-three (43) West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, described as follows:

Commencing at a point on the easterly line of said Northwest Quarter, lying South 00 degrees 08 minutes 15 seconds East, a distance of 675 feet from the intersection of the said easterly line and the southerly 75 foot right-of-way line of Minnesota Trunk Highway No. 1; thence continuing South 00 degrees 08 minutes 15 seconds East, along said easterly line, a distance of 143.98 feet; thence North 89 degrees 20 minutes 00 seconds West, a distance 1024.08 feet; thence South 01 degree 14 minutes 44 seconds East, a distance of 150.00 feet to the point of beginning of that tract to be described herein; thence South 89 degrees 20 minutes 00 seconds East, a distance of 760.00 feet; thence South 51 degrees 34 minutes 30 seconds East, a distance of 130.00 feet; thence South 01 degree 18 minutes 14 seconds East, a distance of 58.00 feet; thence North 88 degrees 46 minutes 00 seconds West, a distance of 858.12 feet to the intersection of a line bearing South 01 degree 14 minutes 00 seconds East from said point of beginning; thence North 01 degree 14 minutes 00 seconds West, a distance of 166.14 feet point of beginning;



October 15, 2026

Tammy Audette, Administrator
Red Lake Watershed District
1000 Pennington Ave South
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

Via U.S. Mail

RE: MMB Consent to Release of Declaration – Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project:
RLWD Project No. 178, Grant Agreement Number 147353/3000140608

Dear Tammy,

Please find Minnesota Management and Budget's ("MMB") and the Department of Natural Resources' ("DNR") consent to the Amendment of Declaration for the above referenced project.

Please assemble MMB's consent page and the DNR's consent page after the signature page to the Release of Declaration and record it in the county real estate records. When it is recorded, please email a recorded copy to me via email (roger.behrens@state.mn.us).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Behrens'.

Roger Behrens
Capital Bonding Coordinator
Minnesota Management and Budget

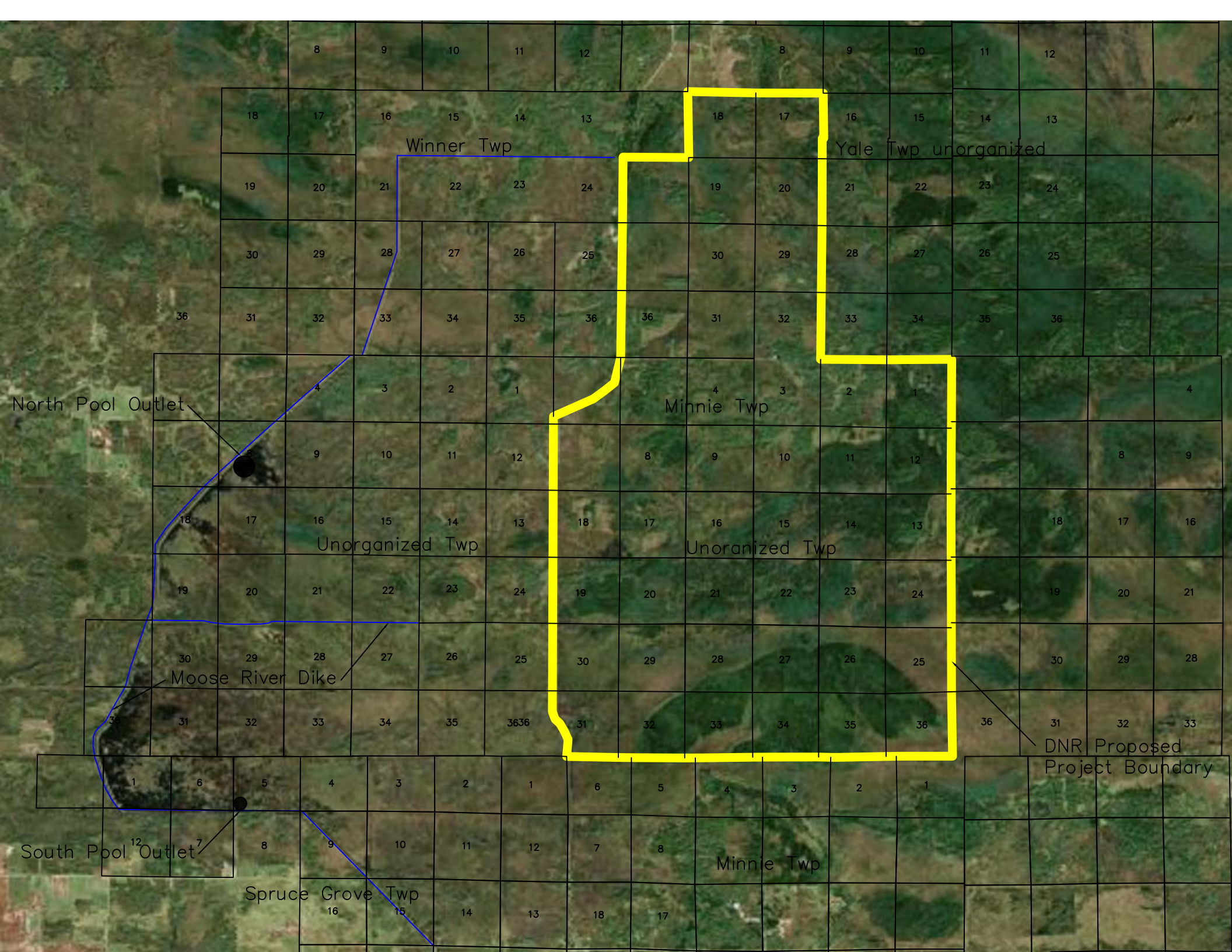
Enclosure

cc: Roger Behrens, MMB
Matthew Bauman, DNR

RECEIVED

OCT 19 2026

Initial: da





Permit # 26-124

Status Report: Tabled

Expiration:

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Neal Pederson		3077 CO HWY 42 BEJOU, MN 56516	pederbro@gvtel.com	tel: 218-790-4112

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Tiling**,
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Polk** Township: **Badger** Range: **42** Section: **7**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: Pattern tile the Southwest quarter of section seven in Badger township.
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **Increase yields and reduce erosion**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Tabled	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) will table this permit to allow adequate time for the redetermination of benefits inclusion for the project.	10/21/2026
Received		09/19/2026

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.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
- Unless otherwise noted, all approved permit applications expire one year from the date of board approval. A permit renewal can be applied for prior to the expiration date by contacting the district office.
- This Permit does not relieve you of any requirements for other permits, which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.
- Please be aware of the requirements of the Rules of the District, found on our web-site at http://www.redlakewatershed.org/PDF_Files/RED%20LAKE%20WATERSHED%20DISTRICT%20RULES_Adopted%208-27-15.pdf

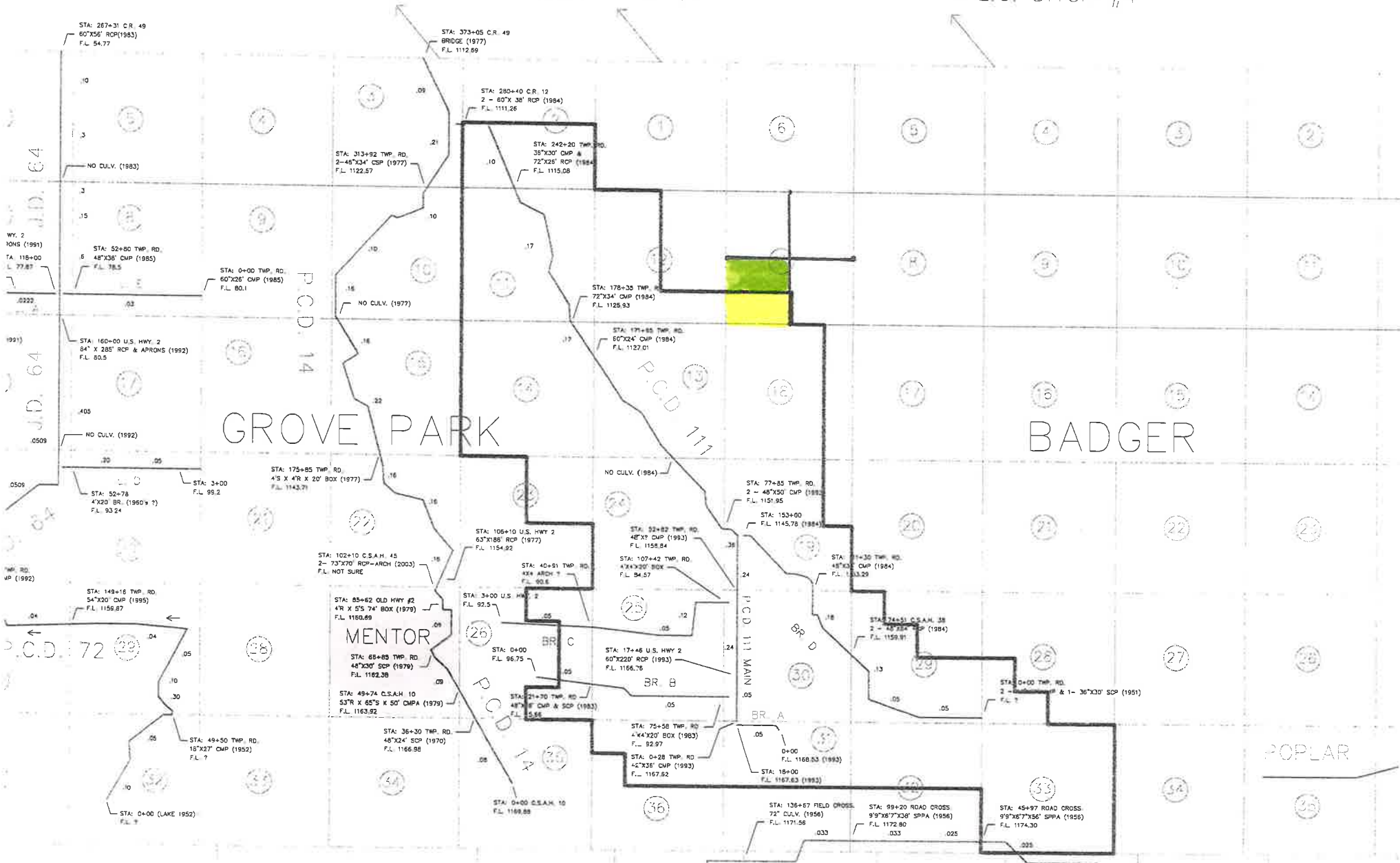
'Not' Included in B.A. of PCD₁₁₁

Included In B.A. of PCD. 111

R.L.C. DITCH #3

R.L.C. DITCH #2

R.L.C. DITCH #4





Red Lake Watershed District

Permit # 26-101

Status Report: Approved

Expiration: 10/21/2027

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Kraig Kainz		25090 230th St NE Goodridge, MN 56725	unkldreg@gmail.com	tel: 218-416-2100

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification**,
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Marshall** Township: **Grand Plain** Range: **41** Section: **28**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: install culvert w/ trap to drain water south through Cty Road 129 into ditch on south side of 230th St.
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **New construction**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to install an 18" culvert through County Road 129 contingent on approval from Marshall County. Install new culvert at the current inverts. 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. Directly downstream of the culvert applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant shall install appropriate erosion control measures for energy dissipation at the tile/culvert outlet(s) to prevent erosion when applicable. Applicant shall install black dirt and re-seed any disturbed land with approved MNDOT seed mixtures. Note: Please be aware of and review the 'bullet points' on the bottom half of the application. 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)	10/21/2026
Received		08/19/2026

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.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
- Unless otherwise noted, all approved permit applications expire one year from the date of board approval. A permit renewal can be applied for prior to the expiration date by contacting the district office.
- This Permit does not relieve you of any requirements for other permits, which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.
- Please be aware of the requirements of the Rules of the District, found on our web-site at http://www.redlakewatershed.org/PDF_Files/RED%20LAKE%20WATERSHED%20DISTRICT%20RULES_Adopted%208-27-15.pdf



Red Lake Watershed District

Permit # 26-129

Status Report: Approved

Expiration: 10/21/2027

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Keith Mack		12308 280th Ave SE Oklee, MN 56742	kmack@gvtel.com	tel: 218-796-5327

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification**,
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Pennington** Township: **Mayfield** Range: **41** Section: **14**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: 20' culvert extension on existing crossing
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **for larger equipment**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to extend an existing 24" culvert to make the crossing wider and safer for equipment. Install culvert at the current inverts. 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. Directly downstream of the culvert applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant shall install appropriate erosion control measures for energy dissipation at the tile/culvert outlet(s) to prevent erosion when applicable. Applicant shall install black dirt and re-seed any disturbed land with approved MNDOT seed mixtures. Note: Please be aware of and review the 'bullet points' on the bottom half of the application. 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)	10/21/2026
Received		09/25/2026

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.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
- Unless otherwise noted, all approved permit applications expire one year from the date of board approval. A permit renewal can be applied for prior to the expiration date by contacting the district office.
- This Permit does not relieve you of any requirements for other permits, which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.
- Please be aware of the requirements of the Rules of the District, found on our web-site at http://www.redlakewatershed.org/PDF_Files/RED%20LAKE%20WATERSHED%20DISTRICT%20RULES_Adopted%208-27-15.pdf



Red Lake Watershed District

Permit # 26-130

Status Report: Approved

Expiration:10/21/2027

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
jerry glanzer		11360 180th Ave NE Thief River Falls,MN 56701	jerry2181@live.com	tel: 218-689-2803

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification**,
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Pennington** Township: **Wyandotte** Range: **42** Section: **17**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: replace culvert
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved.

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to replace a failing 18" culvert to make the crossing safer for equipment. Install culvert at the current inverts. 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. Directly downstream of the culvert applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant shall install appropriate erosion control measures for energy dissipation at the tile/culvert outlet(s) to prevent erosion when applicable. Applicant shall install black dirt and re-seed any disturbed land with approved MNDOT seed mixtures. Note: Please be aware of and review the 'bullet points' on the bottom half of the application. 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)	10/21/2026
Received		09/28/2026

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.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
- Unless otherwise noted, all approved permit applications expire one year from the date of board approval. A permit renewal can be applied for prior to the expiration date by contacting the district office.
- This Permit does not relieve you of any requirements for other permits, which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.
- Please be aware of the requirements of the Rules of the District, found on our web-site at http://www.redlakewatershed.org/PDF_Files/RED%20LAKE%20WATERSHED%20DISTRICT%20RULES_Adopted%208-27-15.pdf



Red Lake Watershed District

Permit # 26-131

Status Report: **Approved**

Expiration: **10/21/2027**

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Josh Krueger		32544 170th St NW Warrem,MN 56762	deerekid11@hotmail.com	tel: 701-740-2885

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Other**,
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Polk** Township: **Belgium** Range: **46** Section: **16**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: Ditch needs to be cleaned preventing water flow from my quarter to the south. I had my ditch cleaned out 3 years ago. It looks like the water is holding up from my quarter to the crossing to the south. After the crossing, the ditch looks like it was cleaned before.
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **Reference the above information.**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to clean a portion of township road ditch along 240th Ave SW. RLWD staff has surveyed. If the cleaning spoil is to be placed back in the field it is required that the spoil gets spread back out in the field, and not left at the top of the ditch to create a berm. 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. Directly downstream of the culvert and or Tile outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant shall install appropriate erosion control measures for energy dissipation at the tile outlet(s) to prevent erosion. Applicant shall install black dirt and re-seed any disturbed land with approved MNDOT seed mixtures. Note: Please be aware of and review the 'bullet points' on the bottom half of the application. 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)	10/21/2026
Received		09/29/2026



Permit # 26-132

Status Report: Approved

Expiration:10/21/2027

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Matthew Bitter	MnDOT	3920 Highway 2 West Bemidji, MN 56601	matthew.bitter@state.mn.us	tel: 218-328-4796

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification**,
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Clearwater** Township: **Pine Lake** Range: **38** Section: **10**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: Replace part of culvert from apron inlet to bituminous shoulder.
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **Existing culvert has failed and created a void in the gravel shoulder.**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to replace a failing 36" necked down to a 30" culvert. Install culvert at the current inverts. 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. Directly downstream of the culvert applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant shall install appropriate erosion control measures for energy dissipation at the tile/culvert outlet(s) to prevent erosion when applicable. Applicant shall install black dirt and re-seed any disturbed land with approved MNDOT seed mixtures. Note: Please be aware of and review the 'bullet points' on the bottom half of the application. 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)	10/21/2026
Received		09/29/2026

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.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
- Unless otherwise noted, all approved permit applications expire one year from the date of board approval. A permit renewal can be applied for prior to the expiration date by contacting the district office.
- This Permit does not relieve you of any requirements for other permits, which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.
- Please be aware of the requirements of the Rules of the District, found on our web-site at http://www.redlakewatershed.org/PDF_Files/RED%20LAKE%20WATERSHED%20DISTRICT%20RULES_Adopted%208-27-15.pdf



Permit # 26-133

Status Report: Approved

Expiration:10/21/2027

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Chase Schmitz	Private	15536 140th ave sw Red Lake falls,MN 56750	crschmitz2@hotmail.com	tel: 218-521-0046

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Surface Drainage (New Ditch or Improvement)**,
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Red Lake** Township: **Browns Creek** Range: **44** Section: **27**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: Surface drainage of ditch to allow water to drain due to water backing up in field and ditch
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **Water sitting in ditch and field**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to clean out a township road ditch, contingent on approval from Browns Creek Township, and Red Lake County Highway Department as a portion of the cleaning is Red Lake County Road 4. RLWD staff has surveyed the portion to be cleaned. 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. Directly downstream of the culvert applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant shall install appropriate erosion control measures for energy dissipation at the tile/culvert outlet(s) to prevent erosion when applicable. Applicant shall install black dirt and re-seed any disturbed land with approved MNDOT seed mixtures. Note: Please be aware of and review the 'bullet points' on the bottom half of the application. 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)	10/21/2026
Received		09/29/2026



Permit # 26-134

Status Report: Approved

Expiration: 10/21/2027

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
TERENCE FUNK		102 WILLOW CT THIEF RIVER FALLS, MN 56701	funkag26@gmail.com	tel: 218-289-3797

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Channel Stabilization or Restoration, Erosion Control, and Other Water Related Facilities,**
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Red Lake** Township: **Browns Creek** Range: **44** Section: **30**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: Add NRCS designed Grade Stabilization to stop erosion
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **head cutting back into the field is causing sedimentation into the drainage way. The grade stabilization structure will stop head cutting and eliminate gully erosion/**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to install an NRCS designed Grade Stabilization to stop erosion. NRCS plans provided. 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. Directly downstream of the culvert and or Tile outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant shall install appropriate erosion control measures for energy dissipation at the tile outlet(s) to prevent erosion. Applicant shall install black dirt and re-seed any disturbed land with approved MNDOT seed mixtures. Note: Please be aware of and review the 'bullet points' on the bottom half of the application. 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)	10/21/2026
Received		10/02/2026

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.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
- Unless otherwise noted, all approved permit applications expire one year from the date of board approval. A permit renewal can be applied for prior to the expiration date by contacting the district office.
- This Permit does not relieve you of any requirements for other permits, which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.
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Permit # 26-135

Status Report: Approved

Expiration: 10/21/2027

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
TERENCE FUNK		102 WILLOW CT THIEF RIVER FALLS, MN 56701	funkag26@gmail.com	tel: 218-289-3797

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Channel Stabilization or Restoration\, Erosion Control\, and Other Water Related Facilities,**
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Red Lake** Township: **Browns Creek** Range: **44** Section: **30**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: Install NRCS designed grad stabilization structure to eliminate erosion and control runoff
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **gully erosion is occurring as run off water leaves the field**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to install an NRCS designed Grade Stabilization to stop erosion. NRCS plans provided. 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. Directly downstream of the culvert and or Tile outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant shall install appropriate erosion control measures for energy dissipation at the tile outlet(s) to prevent erosion. Applicant shall install black dirt and re-seed any disturbed land with approved MNDOT seed mixtures. Note: Please be aware of and review the 'bullet points' on the bottom half of the application. 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)	10/21/2026
Received		10/02/2026

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.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
- Unless otherwise noted, all approved permit applications expire one year from the date of board approval. A permit renewal can be applied for prior to the expiration date by contacting the district office.
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Permit # 26-136

Status Report: Approved

Expiration: 10/21/2027

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Wayne Wolden	Owner	1035 Irving Ave SW Wadena, MN 56482	thewoldens@gmail.com	tel: 218-639-4906

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Surface Drainage (New Ditch or Improvement)**,
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Polk** Township: **Gully** Range: **39** Section: **10**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: watershed ditch currently here needs to be cleared up as it has overgrown with brush and small trees. Work needs to be done by the watershed district. My land is not draining as a result of this ditch. Property owners to the north and west agree with this need. Laurence Vettleson, Steve Watne and Mark Votava.
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **watershed ditch does not carry away water drained into it.**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to clean a portion of CD 88 in Polk County. Applicant has been notified that he should contact the County to assist him in his ditch cleaning. 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. Directly downstream of the culvert and or Tile outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant shall install appropriate erosion control measures for energy dissipation at the tile outlet(s) to prevent erosion. Applicant shall install black dirt and re-seed any disturbed land with approved MNDOT seed mixtures. Note: Please be aware of and review the 'bullet points' on the bottom half of the application. 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)	10/21/2026
Received		10/08/2026

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.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
- Unless otherwise noted, all approved permit applications expire one year from the date of board approval. A permit renewal can be applied for prior to the expiration date by contacting the district office.
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Red Lake Watershed District

Permit # 26-137

Status Report: Approved

Expiration:10/21/2027

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Richard Hruby Jr.		18574 180th St Ne Thief River Falls,MN 56701		tel: 218-686-6605

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Surface Drainage (New Ditch or Improvement)**,
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Pennington** Township: **Silverton** Range: **42** Section: **20**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: Clean ditch to allow water to flow to the west
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **ditch is holding water back**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to clean a portion of County road ditch along 180th St NE/County Road 63 North side of the road. RLWD staff has surveyed. If the cleaning spoil is to be placed back in the field it is required that the spoil gets spread back out in the field, and not left at the top of the ditch to create a berm. 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. Directly downstream of the culvert and or Tile outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant shall install appropriate erosion control measures for energy dissipation at the tile outlet(s) to prevent erosion. Applicant shall install black dirt and re-seed any disturbed land with approved MNDOT seed mixtures. Note: Please be aware of and review the 'bullet points' on the bottom half of the application. 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)	10/21/2026
Received		10/08/2026



Permit # 26-138

Status Report: Approved

Expiration: 10/21/2027

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Brown Creek Twp Wallace Oselton		13877 145th Sttreet Sw Red Lake Falls, MN 56750	hoselton@gvtel.com	tel: 218-253- 2233

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Surface Drainage (New Ditch or Improvement)**,
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Red Lake** Township: **Browns Creek** Range: **44** Section: **26**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: Move flow of water from the north slightly east so water does not hit apron of box culvert, install geo tech fabric, and rip-rap both north and south of box culvert. And fill the washout and clean back 300' North
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved.

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to re-direct water from hitting the side of a box culvert apron. Reference approved permit 22-255. 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. Directly downstream of the culvert applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant shall install appropriate erosion control measures for energy dissipation at the tile/culvert outlet(s) to prevent erosion when applicable. Applicant shall install black dirt and re-seed any disturbed land with approved MNDOT seed mixtures. Note: Please be aware of and review the 'bullet points' on the bottom half of the application. 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)	10/21/2026
Received		10/08/2026

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.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
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Drainage Work Group (DWG) Meeting

September 10, 2026

Following the welcome and introductions, Rita Weaver, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) gave an overview of the agenda.

Information was provided about the following drainage-related events.

- Minnesota Watersheds Drainage Workshop – December 2, 2026, Grand View Lodge, Nisswa
- AMC Drainage Conference – March 2-4, Best Western Kelly Inn, St. Cloud

Randall Doneen announced his new role as EWR Deputy Director. He will continue to represent DNR at the DWG.

Drainage Authority Initiated Abandonment

Lukas Croaker explained that the subcommittee proposed amendments to 103E.811 to allow drainage authorities to initiate abandonment, aiming for consistency across Chapter 103E, clearer processes, reduced costs on non-functional systems, and reliance on existing records.

- Key criteria: the system is not likely to serve its original purpose, is not of public benefit and utility, or restoration/repair is impractical. The draft is a living document and open to feedback by end of month.
- Terminology debates included “believes,” “restoration,” “repair,” and “necessary.” Preference emerged to clarify “restoration” as repair/maintenance to avoid implying return to pre-drainage conditions and to define detailed thresholds in the drainage manual rather than statute.

Defining “Necessary” within Chapter 103E Context

- Question on how “necessary” will be defined (financially or other criteria).
- Consensus to align with existing Chapter 103E usage and detail criteria in the Minnesota Public Drainage Manual (MPDM) rather than statute.
- MPDM would articulate provable elements for decision-making.

Appeals and Judicial Review Pathway for Abandonment Orders

- Question whether appeals go to district court or court of appeals, and if 103E.095 needs amendment. Response: Parties can appeal the drainage authority’s abandonment order; venue details to be clarified later in the draft.
- Follow-up planned to determine if district court review requires amending 103E.095.

Upstream vs. Downstream Landowner Objections and Thresholds

- Concern that higher objection thresholds could let downstream owners cut off necessary outlets for upstream headwaters.
- Reference to objection process under Subdivision 5 or 6; technical expert(s) would analyze and report before a decision.
- Subcommittee will revisit this concern when reviewing later subdivisions to ensure safeguards.

Subdivision 3 Updates—Hearing Purpose and Thresholds

- Changes clarify hearing purpose: build a factual record to support abandonment or retention.
- Reasons for petition-based abandonment expanded to include functionality and practicality of restore/repair.
- Thresholds aligned with Subdivision 2 for consistency.
- Conclusion: General agreement that changes are straightforward and consistent.

Subdivision 4—Jurisdiction and Filing Consistency

- Revised to clarify where petitions are filed and which drainage authority has jurisdiction for petition-based and authority-initiated abandonment.
- Language drawn from 103E.227, 103E.805, 103E.806 to ensure consistency.
- References to “court/district court” removed as outdated; modern practice is county, joint county, watershed district, or WMO as drainage authority.

Subdivision 5—Notice of Hearing and Due Process

- New subdivision separates notice from filing to clarify process, including authority-initiated abandonment.
- Auditor/secretary sets time and location; notice by publication and mailed notice required.
- Supreme Court context: adding “secretary” resolves a recent appeal issue involving watershed districts and auditors.
- Timing: 10 days for mailed notice mirrors multiple references in 103E; some suggest 20 days due to postal delays.
- “Benefited area of record” used to identify who receives mailed notice, avoiding forced reestablishment where records are missing.
- Legal risk noted if someone claims non-receipt; aim is to use best available records for due process.
- 103E publication: once a week for three consecutive weeks in a legal newspaper of general circulation in affected counties. 103D uses two weeks.

Notice Methods for Drainage Proceedings

- Discussion on providing two forms of notice: direct letters to identified property owners and publication in a newspaper.
 - Rationale: Past reliance on newspaper-only publication was insufficient; adding letters improves coverage.
 - Practical issues: Some stakeholders do not check websites or read newspapers; multiple channels still draw complaints.
- Basis: Experience in St. Louis County using watershed modeling to approximate benefit areas when records were incomplete.
- Consensus to include two notice forms (letters and publication); websites may be used but are not reliable as sole notice.

Considering Public Waters, Downstream Impacts, and Post-Abandonment Conditions

- Suggestion to include language similar to repair provisions regarding impacts on public waters and possible DNR considerations.
- Drainage authorities should consider post-abandonment outcomes: localized flooding, wetland restoration, public water implications.
- Concern about costs if formal engineering analyses are required; intent is to avoid significant costs for systems unlikely to be repaired.

Handling Unknown Ditch Alignments with Existing Benefit Rolls

- Real-world cases exist where benefited area maps and tax rolls are intact, but ditch locations are unknown due to changes over 100+ years.
- Drainage authority-initiated proceedings could address situations where no petitioners can be identified or thresholds cannot be met.
- Draft provides discretion to initiate proceedings when practical information (like ditch alignment) is missing.

Subdivision 6—Hearing Framework for Abandonment

- Purpose: Provide discretion to drainage authorities while preserving landowner rights to object.
- Hearing triggers: Ordered by the drainage authority or must be ordered upon petition by over 51% of property owners.
- Evidence to examine: The petition (if applicable), existing drainage system records (no record creation required), and input from interested parties (historical knowledge, tax records, etc.).
- Decision criteria to deny abandonment: System likely serves its original purpose; restoration is practical; repair or improvement is possible.
- Decision criteria to order abandonment: Original purpose no longer exists; not of public benefit/utility; restoration impractical; findings and order constitute the record for potential appeals.

Objection Thresholds and “26%” Debate (Subdivision 6B)

- Petition-driven abandonment: Any assessed property owner may appear and file a written objection.
- Drainage authority-initiated abandonment: Current draft uses a 26% objection threshold (by owners or by area assessed) to trigger further examination.
- Rationale for threshold: Prevent process bog-down by a single minimal-benefit objector; ensure meaningful challenges with “skin in the game.”
- Counterpoint: Difficulty calculating 26% when records are incomplete; unclear denominator (owners vs. area) in practice.
- Status: Further consideration will be given by the subcommittee on whether to retain, revise, or remove the 26% threshold after reviewing input from DWG members.

Appointment of Technical Persons Instead of Viewers

- Change: Shift from mandatory appointment of “viewers” to appointing “technical persons” when objections are filed.
- Options include engineers, viewers, drainage inspectors, or an inspection committee.
- Rationale: Reduce costs and tailor expertise to the nature of objections; align with references in Chapter 103E.
- Process: Adjourn hearing, conduct examination, prepare report, and reconvene to consider findings.
- Support for flexibility to appoint appropriate technical expertise.
- Discussion on the term “appoint” for assigning technical persons: concerns raised that it sounds too formal and similar to appointing viewers. Alternative terms like “assign” or “direct” were suggested.
- “Appoint” is used throughout chapter one and three for engineers and viewers; the group concluded the terminology choice does not significantly change the legal process.
- The subcommittee will discuss the term and provide a recommendation at the next meeting.

Role of DNR and Other Political Subdivisions

- Notification: Political subdivisions, road authorities, and utilities would be part of the notice to surface concerns (e.g., road crossings).
- DNR input: Interest in optional involvement, especially where abandonment concerns public waters; DNR could provide information for the record without attending hearings.
- DNR need not be universally required but may be included as an option where relevant.

Abandonment Proceeding Funding

- Subdivision 8 was added to address who pays for abandonment proceedings, an issue highlighted by a St. Louis County case.
- The cost may be paid from the drainage authority's funds or be assessed against the drainage system.
- If the system is kept, the drainage system might pay; if the system is abandoned, the drainage authority might pay, especially if they initiated the proceeding.

Incorporating Restoration Goals into Abandonment Process

- A suggestion was made to allow drainage authorities to use the abandonment process if it facilitates a high-value water resource restoration, such as for drained peatland. This could be an additional reason for a drainage authority to initiate abandonment.
- Goal: Streamline and lower the cost of restoration projects by simplifying the ditch abandonment hurdle.
- Mechanisms for such restoration projects already exist (e.g., Glacier Ridge National Wildlife Refuge project).
- This could be included as part of the "public interest" consideration for the drainage authority; further discussion on specific language will take place

DWG Draft Assessment Report

Katie Pratt has conducted an external assessment (23 interviews, document review) and found strong consensus that the DWG should continue due to its unique multi-interest forum and history (e.g., drainage handbook). The group faces growing complexity, divergent interests, and stalemates. It is informal, with no statutory authority; its influence on drainage legislation is notable despite lack of formal power. A central challenge is scope conflict: technical, statute-focused work versus big picture, forward-looking discussions.

Decision-making Framework

There was some support to shift from binary consensus/non-consensus to graded agreement (e.g., red/yellow/green or 1–5 scale), documenting dissent rationales and enabling progress without unanimity. A single consolidated report per topic would capture levels of agreement, dissent reasons, shared learning, and unresolved concerns, reducing veto-by-one risks.

- Past efforts stalled due to single dissents and unclear governance; color-coding tools have worked in other settings.
- Clarify who participates in graded agreement (eligibility unresolved); subcommittee work can mitigate large-forum consensus issues.
- Interest-based negotiation shifts from positions to shared interests; capture changes that move dissent from red to yellow.

Structure, Participation, and Representation

Some attendees believe that the current consensus/non-consensus membership model is confusing and inequitable. Discussion was held regarding either removing formal membership as a decision gate or redefining it with clear criteria, while maintaining open participation in discussions. Representation should reflect diverse environmental and agricultural interests and regional differences (e.g., Red River Valley vs. metro/southeast), avoiding one-size-fits-all outcomes. Suggestions included:

- Inventory the membership roster and decision rights; propose removal or clear redefinition aligned with practice.
- Define "active participation" criteria (attendance, draft contributions) for decision inputs and report inclusion.

- Clarified that the “four big ideas” in the report were interview examples, not active proposals.
- Risks of fully open voting vs. a roster of 20–30 committed members; hybrid models suggested (open discussion, defined decision participants).
- Environmental representation is multifaceted; single organizations can’t speak for all interests.

Facilitation, Leadership, Scope Management, and BWSR Relationship

Effective facilitation, strict technical scoping, and clear role definition are needed. The group’s role is to develop recommendations and documented positions rather than resolve all legal outcomes. Leadership transitions and evolving composition have impacted focus. Relationship with BWSR (administrative home without direct 103E authority) needs clarification, including whether BWSR can veto work products.

- Use tools like project templates; tier work products (technical fixes vs. exploratory efforts).
- Topic selection should be vetted for impact and feasibility.
- Clarify BWSR’s role and authority regarding DWG outputs.

Governance, Resources, and Roles

The group operates informally without bylaws; the primary bottleneck has been consensus. Members contribute time voluntarily; the group is underfunded relative to its workload. Tom’s dual role as neutral administrator and technical expert presents conflicts that need addressing.

- The group is not statutorily required to reach consensus; it hears input from stakeholders and can make recommendations.
- Consider role delineation or support to resolve Tom’s dual-role conflict.

Send comments on the draft report to Katie by October 31.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the MnDOT office in St. Cloud on November 5 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Meeting notes by Jan Voit

MINNESOTA PAID (FAMILY & MEDICAL) LEAVE POLICY 10/22/26

Minnesota Paid Leave (MPL) provides eligible employees with partial wage replacement and job protection for time off to care for yourself or your family.

MPL is an unpaid leave from the RLWD. MPL benefits are provided to employees through the Minnesota state paid leave plan. This means that paid leave benefits will be paid by the state to employees, directly. This also means that the state will determine whether or not an employee qualifies for MPL.

MPL is funded through payroll premiums, which are set by the State each year. The RLWD approved paying 100% of the premium at the XX/XX/XX regular Board meeting in the amount of \$3,726.76 for 2026. *(This amount varies as it goes by wages is an annual amount that gets paid quarterly.)*

While on a MPL qualified leave, employees will receive a percentage of their normal weekly wages, up to the maximum weekly benefit set by the state. In order to apply for benefits employees must apply through the state's website at: www.paidleave.mn.gov or contact the state at 1-651-556-7777 or 1-844-556-0444 (toll free).

-Eligibility-

To be eligible for MPL, an employee must meet a minimum earnings threshold set by the state and perform at least 50% of their work in Minnesota or live in Minnesota.

-Types and Amount of Leave-

MPL provides two types of leave:

- Medical Leave (up to 12 weeks per benefit year): For an employee's own serious health condition, including care related to pregnancy, childbirth, and recovery.
- Family Leave (up to 12 weeks per benefit year): For bonding with a new child (birth, adoption, foster), caring for a family member with a serious health condition, addressing certain safety needs (domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking), or qualifying military exigency.

A family member includes an employee's spouse or partner, child (biological, adopted, step, or foster child or a child an employee raises even if not legally related), parent or person who raised the employee, sibling, grandchild or grandparent, in-laws (son, daughter, father or mother) and anyone close to the employee who depends on the employee like family.

In order to qualify for a leave, a health care provider or other designated professional

must certify the need for most medical, family and bonding leaves and the employee will be required to provide information on the relationship to any person they are caring for during the leave.

If an employee is eligible for both Medical Leave and Family Leave during a benefit year, the employee may take up to 20 total weeks of combined leave.

The benefit year is a 52-week period that starts on the first day an employee is absent from work for a qualified reason.

-Notice of Leave-

An employee who plans to apply for MPL must provide the RLWD with a written notice of their intent to apply for leave by fully completing the written MPL Notice prior to applying for leave. Where possible, notice must be provided at least 30 days in advance of the intended start date of leave. Where 30 days' notice is not possible, an employee must notify the RLWD as soon as possible.

An employee may be qualified by the state for either a single block of time (continuous leave) or smaller blocks of time (intermittent leave). If an employee qualifies for intermittent leave, the maximum number of hours of intermittent leave allowed in a benefit year will be 480 hours, subject to RLWD discretion to allow additional intermittent leave hours. Intermittent leave must be used in 1-hour increments.

An employee on intermittent leave must provide a schedule of required workdays off as soon as possible and make reasonable efforts to schedule their leave in the manner least disruptive to employer operations. The RLWD reserves the right to request that an employee change their schedule to accommodate business needs.

-Supplemental Payments-

Paid Leave only replaces part of an employee's wages. As an employer, you decide whether to allow certain other benefits – including vacation and sick time – to “top off” payments from the program. If you allow it, employees can choose to use these supplemental payments to make up the difference between Paid Leave and their regular wages while on leave.

Most employers allow or let you choose to use your accrued paid time off (vacation or sick time) as a supplemental benefit payment or top-off to bridge the gap between the state's partial wage replacement (66% of your pay) and your full regular salary, ***provided it does not exceed your normal wage.***

-Impact on Other Benefits-

Benefits Accruals (Vacation and Sick Leave): the state paid Leave statute (Chapter 268B) does not require employers to let employees continue accruing paid time off (such as vacation or sick leave) while they are out receiving state-administered paid leave benefits.

While on a MPL qualified leave an employee will not be entitled to holiday pay and will not accrue any paid leave benefits. Additionally, no contributions will be made by the RLWD to any retirement plan during an unpaid leave for any payroll period where no payroll is processed for the employee. Taking an unpaid leave may affect pension benefits as well as employer and employee contributions to pension benefits.

Health Insurance Continuation: employers are legally **required** to maintain your group health insurance and life insurance coverage while you are on an approved Paid Leave, just as if you were actively working. However, you remain responsible for paying your regular employee share of the premiums.

While an employee is on a MPL qualified leave, the RLWD will maintain group insurance on the same terms as if the employee were actively working. Employees remain responsible for their portion of the insurance premiums. Premiums may be collected through payroll deduction if an employee is using supplemental or non-supplemental benefits or by making direct payments to the RLWD via check or money order on a timely basis.

-Return to Work-

It is important that the employees keep the RLWD informed of their anticipated return to work date.

Job Restoration: once you have worked for your employer for at least 90 calendar days, taking Paid Leave is job-protected. Upon returning, your employer must restore you to your original position or an equivalent position with the same pay, benefits, and working conditions

The employee may be required to present a fitness-for-duty certificate or return-to-work (RTW) slip from their medical provider when the leave is for their own serious health condition, prior to being allowed to return to work. The certificate or RTW slip must address the employee's ability to perform the essential functions of the job and address any accommodation needed.

For Board Discussion/Consideration:

Supplemental Payment (payment above the amount paid by the approved State/MN Paid Leave)

Accrual of Sick Leave and Vacation Time while on approved State/MN Paid Leave

Holiday Pay while on approved State/MN Paid Leave

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