

Two Rivers Watershed District

In Roseau, Kittson, & Marshall Counties



*Board of Managers: President – Rick Sikorksi, V.P.- Roger Anderson, Secretary - Daryl Klegstad, Treasurer – Gerald Olsonawski
Manager - Bruce Anderson, Manager - Scott Klein, Manager – Mark Langehaug
Staff: Dan Money, District Administrator; Tyler Coffield, Head Technician*

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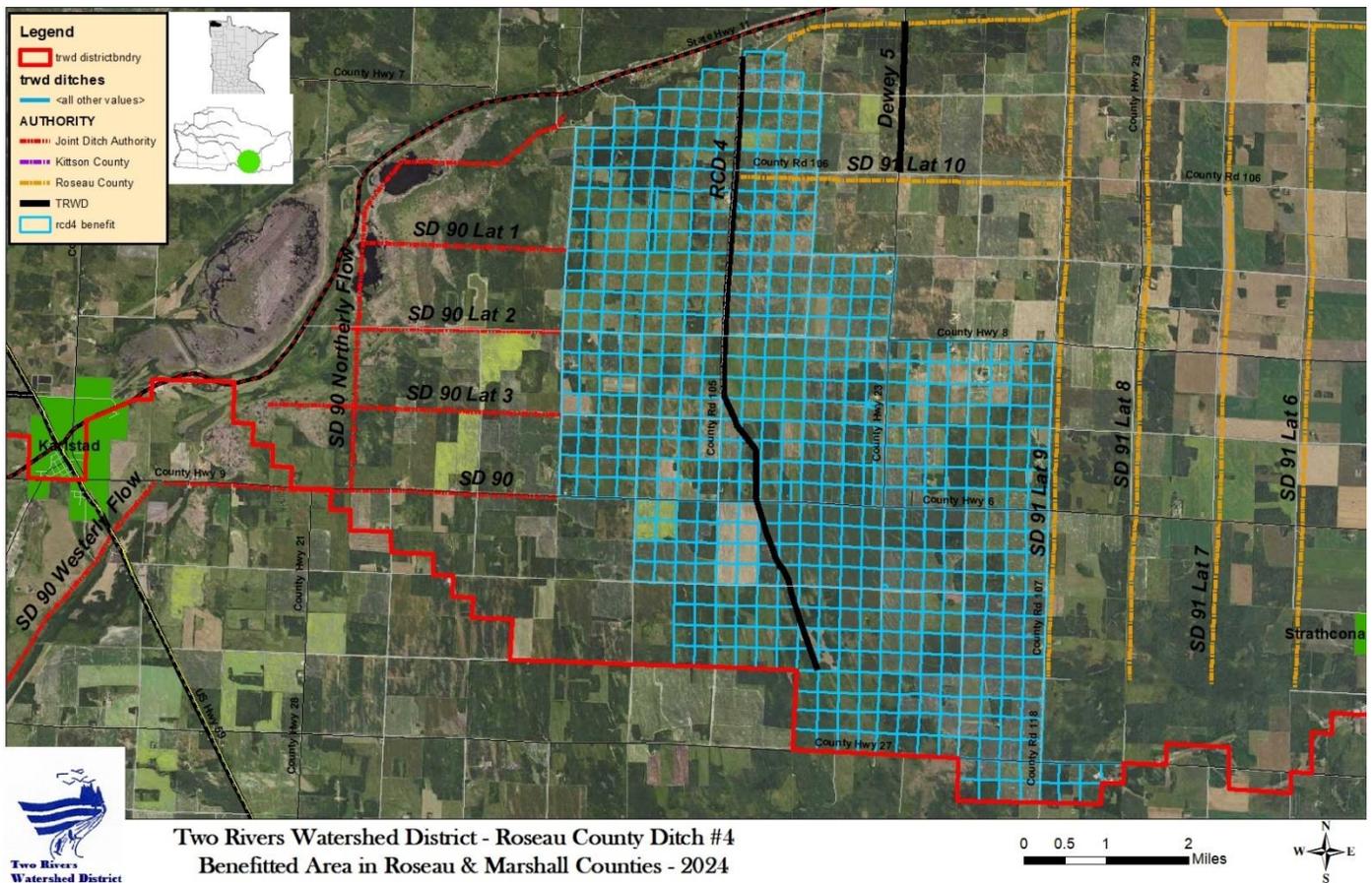
Roseau County Ditch #4 *Redetermination of Benefits Completed*

The “Redetermination of Benefits” for Roseau County Ditch #4 was completed this past summer. The process originally began in 2021 when the Board of Managers of the Two Rivers Watershed District determined that an update was needed. The ditch was originally established in 1908 and the benefits were last updated in 1948. Over the years, land values have changed significantly, the drainage area has been altered, and the current ditch documents do not represent present day conditions. The Board followed MN Statutes for the process and appointed 3 Viewer’s to consider updating the ditch benefits.

The Viewer’s examined the original ditch benefits, benefits that were updated in 1948, present day values, Lidar and other topographical information, and ground truthing to determine the updated benefitted area. They submitted their report and a public hearing on the Viewer’s Report was held on November 21, 2023. Comments were received resulting in further investigation, resulting in a revised report on April 4, 2024 and a Final report on May 2, 2024.

According to Minnesota’s drainage law, the benefitted area that is established by the Viewers and adopted by the Board of Managers is to be taxed and the money collected is to be placed in a ditch fund that is for the sole purpose of maintenance of the ditch. Maintenance can be spraying of cattails, brush and other nuisance vegetation, removal of beavers, beaver dams and other blockages, repair of side slopes, culverts and bridges, and removal of sediment to restore the engineered grade and cross section of the ditch to its original design. Updates to the benefitted area are periodically needed.

The Board of Managers made official findings of fact and a final order to accept the Viewer’s report and make the changes was adopted on May 2, 2024. A map of the newly adopted benefitted area is shown below. Roseau County Ditch #4 is inspected annually by the TRWD and a full survey of the ditch is conducted once every 5 years. This inspection schedule is used to determine any maintenance that is necessary on the ditch.



2024 Construction Projects Completed

As the 2024 construction season comes to a close, the Two Rivers Watershed District would like to report on the projects that have been completed this past summer.

- Kennedy #6:*** Two erosion control projects were installed at the very downstream (west) end of the project. During a regular inspection, two head cuts were observed in tributary road ditches just upstream of a box culvert on the project. Twamley Construction was hired to repair the damage and install side water inlet structures to prevent further erosion.



- **North Branch Prj – JD 31:**

Erosion control – rock drops for grade stabilization were installed. The ditch was downcutting and the side slopes were eroding. Four separate rock drops were installed by Anderson Brothers Construction at key locations along the grade of the ditch. This will stabilize the slopes and provide grade control to prevent future downcutting.



- **North Branch Prj – SD 84:**

Erosion control – rock drops for grade stabilization were installed. Severe erosion to the ditch side slopes was sustained in the 2023 runoff event that was declared a Presidential disaster. Several rock drops were installed by Twamley Construction to repair the damage and stabilize it to prevent future problems.



- **JD #10 B:** Erosion control – repair of side slope sloughing was completed. A thirty-to-fifty-foot section of the ditch was experiencing sloughing along the ditch bank. The area was excavated, and the side slope was rebuilt to match the up and downstream sections of the ditch. Erosion control blanket was installed in lifts to help prevent future bank sloughing.

- **Beaver Removal:** Numerous beavers and beaver dams were removed on watershed district ditches and projects. The current beaver policy is to pay a \$100 per beaver bounty on beavers that are building dams on ditches and projects that are under the jurisdiction of the TRWD. In 2024 to date, 16 beavers have been removed along with several beaver dams. These were located on the Kittson County Ditch #10, Springbrook #10, State Ditch #49, and Kennedy #6 projects.

Minnesota Stakeholders and Agencies Continue Forging Multipurpose Flood Damage Reduction Solutions in the Red River Basin



Minnesota's Red River Basin (RRB) is well known for rich agricultural land, abundant fishing and hunting, and top-notch educational resources. Unfortunately, it's also well known for flooding. The massive flood disaster of 1997 garnered national attention, and repeated floods since then continue to disrupt agriculture, transportation, and emergency services in the region. The nearly level landscape left behind by ancient Glacial Lake Agassiz provides rich soil and wide-open spaces but also contributes to flooding. The Red River of the North's northward trajectory from Lake Traverse to Lake Winnipeg

doesn't help, as spring snowmelt often encounters ice jams that slow drainage and contribute to high water and a delayed planting season.

For over 25 years one group has focused on ways to reduce flood damages while enhancing natural resources in Minnesota's portion of the RRB. This is the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, or FDRWG. Co-chaired by the Red River Watershed Management Board and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the FDRWG fosters collaboration among agencies, landowners, and water managers for the benefit of the region as a whole. The Work Group's "Project Team Process" enables early coordination of engineering, permitting and funding processes, and has led to successful completion of 18 projects since 1998. Additional projects are now in the planning stages or have begun construction, including:

- The Bois de Sioux Watershed District (BdSWD) is in the third year of constructing the Redpath Impoundment and Mustinka River Restoration project in Traverse and Grant Counties, MN. Designed to store 19,000 acre-feet of flood water, this project will complement the 2017 North Ottawa Impoundment, which was also planned using the FDRWG's Project Team Process.
- The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District is constructing an impoundment that will store 2,000 acre-feet of flood water north of the City of Newfolden, MN. This is the final stage in a project that also fixed a bottleneck on the Middle River. When completed, a substantial residential area will no longer need to purchase costly flood insurance policies.
- The Nelson Slough Project will be located on state land at the East Park Wildlife Management Area in Marshall County, MN, adding flood storage capacity at an impoundment constructed originally in 1972. The project represents a sweet spot where wildlife habitat and protection of farmland from damaging flood waters can be enhanced at the same time.

Additional information on the FDRWG can be obtained at www.rrwmb.us/fdrwg. The group will hold its next meeting in Ada, MN on February 4, 2025 and also a 2 day conference in Moorhead, MN on March 18-19. Conference attendees are welcome to attend to learn more about the work group's activities, funding, and approach.



Photo Caption: The BdSWD's Mustinka River Restoration Project, September 2023. Excavated soils provide material to construct embankments for flood storage in the 19,000 acre-foot Redpath Impoundment. (Photo Credit: Moore Engineering).

Board Members Re-Appointed to 3-year Terms

The Two Rivers Watershed District Board of Managers consists of 7 members. Five are from Kittson County and two are from Roseau County. The Board meets monthly to discuss all projects, programs, permits, finances and other matters that may come before it. Board members are appointed by their respective county boards to serve 3 year terms. Recently 3 members were re-appointed to the Board – one from Roseau County and 2 from Kittson County. For more information on the projects, programs, and all things TRWD, please visit our website at www.tworiverswd.com



TRWD Board: S. Klein, B. Anderson, M. Langehaug, D. Klegstad, G. Olsonawski, R. Sikorski, R. Anderson

Roger Anderson was re-appointed by Kittson County. He lives and farms near in Teien Township near Robbin, MN. Roger was originally appointed to the Board in October of 2000 and has served for 24 years. Over this time, he has served as both the Board President and is currently the Vice President.

Rick Sikorski was re-appointed by Roseau County. He lives and farms in Juneberry Township northwest of Greenbush. Rick was originally appointed to the Board in October of 2018 and has served for 6 years. He is currently the President of the Board.

Mark Langehaug was re-appointed by Kittson County. He originally was appointed in February 2023 to fill out the remainder of a vacant position. He lives and farms in Hazelton Township, just north of Lake Bronson.

‘RIFFLES & RUNS’

- News Briefs from Around the Watershed District-

❖ The **MN DNR**:

- *Lake Bronson* - DNR held a public meeting October 1, 2024 and reported that a contractor has been hired however they are waiting on permits. The lake was drained by 4’ and lake access/use has been closed. For more information:
https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/lake-bronson-dam-replacement-project.html
- *Protected Waters Inventory Update* –
 - The MN Legislature has appropriated \$1 Million per year for the next 8 years to the DNR to update their protected waters inventory map. This will occur in all 87 MN counties and may affect landowners in Kittson, Roseau and Marshall Counties. For more information:
https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/pwi/update.html
 - DNR presented information to the Red River Watershed Management Board that DNR is considering introducing legislation to change an exemption to the law. Currently no permit is needed if a culvert is replaced at the same size and elevation on a DNR protected watercourse. DNR is proposing to eliminate the exemption and replace it with language stating that a permit is not needed for culverts with a drainage area of less than 5 square miles. This most likely will increase permit regulations for road authorities and private landowners.

❖ **Northern Red River Flood Study**:

- The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT), Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), and United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have partnered to complete the Northern Red River Flood Study (study). The overall objective of the study is to identify and prioritize feasible modifications and improvements to transportation infrastructure that will ultimately reduce the frequency and duration of Interstate and State Highway closures due to flooding of the Red River and any necessary mitigation strategies to reduce impacts. For more information: www.dot.nd.gov/redriverfloodstudy