

Two Rivers Watershed District

In Roseau, Kittson, & Marshall Counties



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September 11, 2015 Newsletter

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dan Money, District Administrator

TRWD RAISES BEAVER BOUNTY

In response to rising costs of transportation, trapping costs, and other factors, the Two Rivers Watershed District Board of Managers recently raised its beaver bounty from \$40 per beaver to \$75 per beaver. The old rate had not been adjusted since 2001.

The TRWD has had a long standing policy regarding problem beaver removal on legal ditch systems and water control projects that are under the District's jurisdiction, dating back to 1994. This policy states that the District will remove any beaver dams from Watershed District ditches and any other dams will be evaluated on a dam by dam basis with the approval of the District. The District Administrator shall make decisions on beaver dam removal pertaining to the District's beaver dam policy. Beaver bounty for any beavers harvested on District ditches will be paid with prior approval from the District Administrator and/or at least one District Manager.

The beaver bounty has historically been a good management tool when it comes to maintaining a functioning ditch system. Obstructions in a ditch tend to slow water down and reduce the capacity of the ditch to move water. For agricultural fields that depend on these ditches for drainage, an obstruction can result in flooding and loss of cropped acres, which will hurt a farm operator's bottom line. Therefore it is essential that beaver dams, trees, sediment, cattails, and other obstructions be removed periodically. It is the duty of the Two Rivers Watershed District, as the drainage authority for certain ditch systems, to be vigilant in maintaining these systems in following Minnesota Statute 103E.

Persons interested in trapping and removing beavers from ditch systems must be registered with the District, and must show proof that they have obtained a permit from the MN Department of Natural Resources. The TRWD must give prior authorization before a trapper can turn in bills for removing problem beavers.

Construction on “Springbrook #10 – PL566” Phase 2 Commences

Construction of Phase 2 of the Springbrook #10 – PL566 project is underway. This project is a flood control and drainage project located in Springbrook and Davis Townships of Kittson County. Phase 1 of the project was completed in 2013. The main project consisted of constructing levees parallel to an existing coulee, designed to prevent water from breaking out of the channel and flooding farmland. In addition the project provides protection of public infrastructure (roads, culverts) and provides an adequate outlet for upstream systems. The project was funded largely by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and local funds.

Phase 2 of the project was delayed due to wetland permit concerns, but has now been cleared for construction. The current construction activity consists of excavating 6,200 cubic yards of earth from an area of 2.5 acres in size. This work is located alongside the watercourse in an area known for flooding and overtopping a township road. The removal of the material located in the floodplain will allow water to better flow through this area which will reduce the threat of backing up water in upstream areas and of flooding a township road.

Kraulik Excavating has been hired to do the work, it is scheduled to be completed by October 31, 2015. Once the excavation is completed, the area will be seeded and mulched. The project also consists of erosion control measures during construction, specifically the installation of 1,200 feet of silt fence to control sediment.

TRWD Receives Grant to Study the Klondike Clean Water Retention Project

The Two Rivers Watershed District has received grant funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the amount of \$500,000. The grant is a Federal 70% to local 30% cost share and will be matched from local funding in the amount of \$214,286. The funding will be used to do planning, preliminary engineering, permitting, economic review, and to prepare an Environmental Assessment for the District’s proposed “Klondike Clean Water Retention Project”. This will specifically include an alternatives analysis, cost – benefit analysis, review of permits needed, analysis of environmental effects and consequences, and identification of a preferred alternative.

The purpose of the KCWRP is to prevent flooding, provide an adequate outlet for various laterals of State Ditch 95, provide an outlet for water that overflows from State Ditch 72 and from the Roseau River, and provide water quality and environmental benefits. This will reduce flooding on lateral 1 of State Ditch 95, reduce flooding on Red River, and reduce flooding on the North Branch, Middle Branch, and South Branches of the Two Rivers. Environmental benefits will be to protect and enhance a naturally occurring rich fen, provide feeding and resting areas for migratory waterfowl, reduce nutrient loading to Lake Bronson and downstream areas, and reduce sediment entering Lake Bronson.

The project will consist of impounding floodwater within a 12 square mile area. This will be accomplished by constructing a perimeter dike, inlet ditches and diversions, three gated outlet structures, an emergency spillway, and various other associated structures. The project will be located in Klondike Township in Kittson County and Polonia and Juneberry Townships in Roseau County. It is projected to store up to 37,000 acre feet of water and will

cost approximately \$35 million to build. The Two Rivers Watershed District has acquired most of the land within the footprint of the project, and will be working on the rest of the needed right of way. Project design is being done by HDR Engineering.

This funding will go a long way in doing the preliminary work that is needed to be able to make educated decisions in order to proceed with a project that will address the flooding that comes from a 143 square mile upstream drainage area. The project will solve flooding and drainage problems that have persisted in that area since the mid 1940's. By completing this study, the TRWD will have collected the engineering, environmental, cultural, and economic information that is necessary to begin acquiring permits and designing the various project features. The planning phase should hopefully be completed within the next 2-3 years and after that project design will be finalized. Public information and participation will be solicited at various times during the project design in the form of news releases, newsletters, public meetings, and citizen advisory committee meetings.

TRWD Certifies 2016 Budget and Tax Levies

The Two Rivers Watershed District held its annual Budget Hearing on September 2, 2015 in the District office in Hallock, MN. The Board of Managers discussed the various budget items for 2016, and certified the budget in the amount of \$213,000.

Discussion was held regarding the District 2016 general levy, the Red River Watershed Management Board 2016 levy, and the various 2016 levies on ditch systems the District is in charge of. The general levy was certified at \$212,500, the RRWMB levy was certified at \$479,141, and the ditch levies were certified at \$141,500. The District's 2016 administrative budget is as follows:

Administrative Budget	2016 Proposed
Administrative	75,000
Auto Expense	3,000
Capital Outlay	8,000
Conferences & Meetings	12,000
Dues & Subscriptions	2,500
Engineering	20,000
Information & Education	1,100
Insurance	4,500
Manager's Per Diem & Expense	16,000
Office Supplies & Miscellaneous	3,000
Payroll Expense	32,000
Postage & Delivery	1,000
Printing & Advertising	1,000
Professional & Legal	15,000
Rent	11,500
Stream Gage	3,000
Telephone	1,400
Water Quality	3,000
Totals	213,000

Don't Forget Your Permit!

The Two Rivers Watershed District adopted the *Rules of the Two Rivers Watershed District* in 1981, amended them in 1997, and recently made further amendments in 2015. These *Rules* govern projects which have a potential effect on the water resources of the District and specifically relate to drainage, flood control, water use, and water quality.

Projects of this type require a permit from the Two Rivers Watershed District before any work is done. There is no charge for the permit, however projects which are commenced or completed without a permit will require a \$500 fee, plus field inspection fees. Some specific works that require permits are listed below. A complete set of *Rules* and a permit application form can be obtained at the District office in the Kittson County Courthouse in Hallock, MN.

As fall gets into full swing, there typically is an increase in projects and permit applications prior to freeze up and the end of the construction season. The TRWD has set up a permit committee that can screen and act on permit applications usually within about 2 weeks. Under Minnesota law, however, the District does have up to 60 days to review and act on a permit. Therefore, anyone contemplating a project that would be governed by the criteria below is encouraged to apply for a permit in a timely manner.

- (a) Any sanitary sewer system which discharges to surface water, storm sewer, or other major utility project which affects surface water within the district.
- (b) Any street, road, or highway construction project which by means of its construction has any effect on the quality or quantity of water runoff.
- (c) Any construction or alteration of any drain tile or drainage ditch that drains an area in excess of 20 acres.
- (d) (1) Any works which include draining, filling, excavating, or dredging of any type 3, 4, 5, or 8 wetland as defined by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Circular 39.
- (e) Any construction or alteration of any bridge, dike, culvert, or drain across any drainageway, lake, wetland, or other water body.
- (f) Any artificial or mechanical transfer of water from a water source including but not limited to gravel pits, ponds, rivers, wetlands, and other reservoirs consistent with the general purposes of the District.
- (g) Any artificial drainageway cut across a subwatershed to thereby deliver water into another subwatershed.
- (h) Any drainage of water by any artificial means into any legal drainage system from any land not assessed to that drainage system.
- (i) Construction, alteration, or removal of any dike or reservoir.
- (j) Any other acts that, in the opinion of the Watershed District, may tend to alter the quantity of runoff, affect the public health, or have any impact, whether adverse or not, upon the surface water or ground water resources of the district.

Two Rivers Watershed District Permit Application

Office Use Only		Recommended Action:	
Application Number _____		Approval _____	Denial _____
Date Received _____		Table _____	Date _____

Name _____ Email _____

Phone Number _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____
Box _____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Location of Project:

¼ Section _____ ¼ Section _____ Section _____ Township _____ Range _____ Township Name _____ County _____

Body of Water (river, ditch, coulee, etc.) _____

Are You: _____ Landowner _____ Renter _____ Other (describe) _____

Description of Work & Objectives: *Attach Map or Diagram Showing Project Location. Fill in all applicable blanks below.*

What's the upstream drainage area of the project? _____ Acres

Are there any upstream structures (culverts, bridges, etc.)? _____ Yes _____ No _____ Size _____

What kind of structure is upstream (box culvert, round pipe, bridge, etc.)? _____

Are there any downstream structures? _____ Yes _____ No _____ Size _____ type _____

For Culvert Projects: Size to be Installed _____ Type of Culvert _____
Purpose: _____ Center line culvert thru road _____ New crossing _____ Other _____

For Ditch Projects: Length _____ Bottom Width _____ Depth _____ Side Slopes _____
Percent Grade _____ *Attach Profile and Cross Section Information*

For Diking Projects: Length _____ Top Width _____ Height _____ Side Slopes _____

For Road Building: Length: _____ Width _____ Height _____ Side Slopes _____
Submit grading plans, survey data, cross sections, culvert plans, ditch plans, etc.

Are Wetlands Affected? Yes _____ No _____ Size (acres) _____

Approximate Project Start Date _____ End Date _____

Describe below the purpose of the project and how it will be completed (attach sheet if necessary).

Signed: _____
Project Proposer

Date: _____

Landowner – If Other Than Above