

**Minutes of the Reconvened Final Hearing of the Board of Managers
Of the Two Rivers Watershed District for the Improvement of Kittson
County Ditch #7**

Held: Thursday, November 6, 2025 @ 8:00 a.m.

The Board of Managers of the Two Rivers Watershed District reconvened the Final Hearing on the Improvement of Kittson County Ditch #7 beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 6, 2025. The hearing was held in the Middle Meeting Room of the Kennedy Cafe located at 518 Atlantic Ave, Kennedy, MN.

Managers present included President Rick Sikorski, Vice President Roger Anderson, Secretary Daryl Klegstad, Treasurer Gerald Olsonawski, Bruce Anderson, and Mark Langehaug. Manager Scott Klein was absent.

Others present included District Administrator Dan Money, District Technician Tyler Coffield, Attorney Jeff Hane (Brink Lawyers), Engineer Tony Nordby (HEI Engineering), Engineer Blake Carlson (Widseth Engineering), Viewer Robert Wagner, Viewer Mike Baumgartner, Anna Jauhola (Kittson County Enterprise), Dean Johnson (landowner), Adam Aakre (landowner), Carey Mortenson (landowner), Doug Quibell (landowner), John Webster (landowner and township officer), Chris Mortenson (landowner), and Hogan Mortenson (landowner).

The meeting was called to order by President Sikorski, who then turned the meeting over to Attorney Hane.

Attorney Hane went through the purpose of the meeting and the procedure that needed to be followed according to Minnesota ditch law. The Final Hearing for the Improvement of Kittson County Ditch #7 (KCD7) was held September 22, 2025, and was recessed. The comment period for the proposed improvement of KCD7 ended on October 29, 2025. This meeting is the reconvening of the Final Hearing. At this meeting, the Board will deliberate the evidence and comments, make findings of fact, and then make an order either to approve, deny, or send the project back to the viewers or engineers for further information. Comments that have been received both for and against the project were discussed.

Manager R Anderson stated that this situation is not unique in that many ditches have the same problem due to topography, capacity, and other factors. He commended the engineers and viewers on submitting very complete and thorough reports. R Anderson noted there is no support from upstream landowners, and only one downstream landowner voiced support of the project. Citing the lack of support from both upstream and downstream landowners, Manager R Andersson stated that he is not in favor of the project. He questions the high cost and whether the costs outweigh the benefits.

President Sikorski stated that the costs are too high. He asked if anyone on the Board would like any more information. None of the Board members felt as though they needed more information.

Manager Langehaug stated he was leaning towards not approving the project or sending it back to the viewers or engineers for additional consideration and alternative review.

Upon a **motion** by Klegstad, **second** by Olsonawski, and a **unanimous vote** of the Board, the petition and subsequent proceedings for the improvement of the Kittson County Ditch #7 were **dismissed**.

The Board of Managers made the following **Findings of Fact** in support of their decision to dismiss the petition:

- The cost estimate of \$1.7 million (\$104 per acre) is too high and potentially creates a financial burden for landowners.
- Numerous comments were against the project, and only one comment was for the project.
- There is not enough benefit to justify the high cost.
- The Board would not be willing to use eminent domain to obtain needed right of way, which might be necessary.
- The pipeline crossing required a redesign, which drove the cost too high and contributed to comments against the project.

Upon a **motion** by Langehaug, **second** by Klegstad, and **unanimous vote** of the Board, it was approved to adjourn the Final Hearing and open the regular meeting of the Board of Managers at 8:40 a.m.

Attest:



Daryl Klegstad, Secretary



Rick Sikorski, President