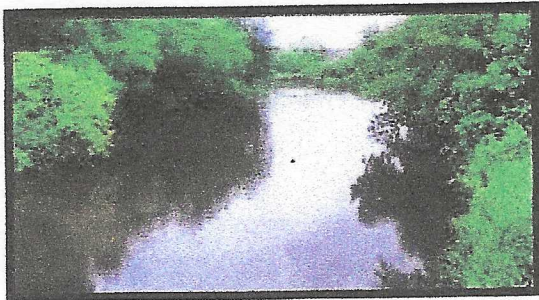


Buffalo Creek Watershed District

Annual Activity Report



2021

www.bcwatershed.org

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Annual Activity Report - 2021

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Buffalo Creek Watershed District

2021 Annual Report

Introduction

The Buffalo Creek Watershed District (BCWD) was established under the order of the Minnesota Water Resources Board (now known as the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources) on January 30, 1969. On February 8, 1974, the District's Board of Managers formally adopted its first Overall Plan, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes. The plan was developed to protect the public's health and welfare and to conserve the natural resources of the District through land use planning, flood control and other conservation projects.

Mission

The BCWD was formed with the mission to: 1) help alleviate water problems, 2) enhance the living conditions of the area and 3) maintain or improve the economic well being of the residents of the District.

The District has in the past and will continue to strive towards the realization of this mission by:

- Serving as a link between residents and governmental agencies; Providing technical assistance to citizens and governmental agencies;
- Providing a means of financial assistance for the implementation of environmental projects; and
- Coordinating intergovernmental efforts.

For questions or comments, please contact the Buffalo Creek Watershed District. The District Board meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of every month (November thru March, 1:00 PM, April thru October, 8:00 PM) in the Glencoe City Center, 1107 11th Street E., Glencoe, MN

District Mailing Address:

Buffalo Creek Watershed District
P O Box 55
Glencoe, MN 55336

Attorney for the District

John Kolb
Rinke Noonan
Suite 300 – U S Bank Plaza
1015 E. St. Germain St.
St. Cloud, MN 56302

Engineer

Houston Engineering, Inc.
Chris Otterness
Lisa Odens
7550 Meridian Circle No.
Suite 120
Maple Grove, MN 55369
(763) 493-4522

Permit Consultant

Charles Eberhard
Eberhard Consultant
826 S. Gilman Avenue
Litchfield, MN 55355 (*Retired March 2021*)

Permit Consultant

Larry Phillips
8495 Ideal Ave.
Glencoe, MN 55336 (*Hired June 2021*)

Staff:

Linda Phillips
8495 Ideal Ave.
Glencoe, MN 55336

Staff:

Mary Henke
13031 County Rd. 7
Stewart, MN 55385

Board Managers:

2021

Sibley County

Donald Belter
43540 180th Street
Glencoe, MN 55336
(320) 864 6250
Term Expires: **5-17-23**

McLeod County

Chad Stuewe
12163 Echo Ave.
Glencoe, MN 55336
(320) 864-3642
Term Expires: **5-17-22**

Renville County

Matt Melberg
83259 Co. Rd. 22
Hector, MN 55342
(320) 583-3510
Term Expires: **5-17-23**

Renville County

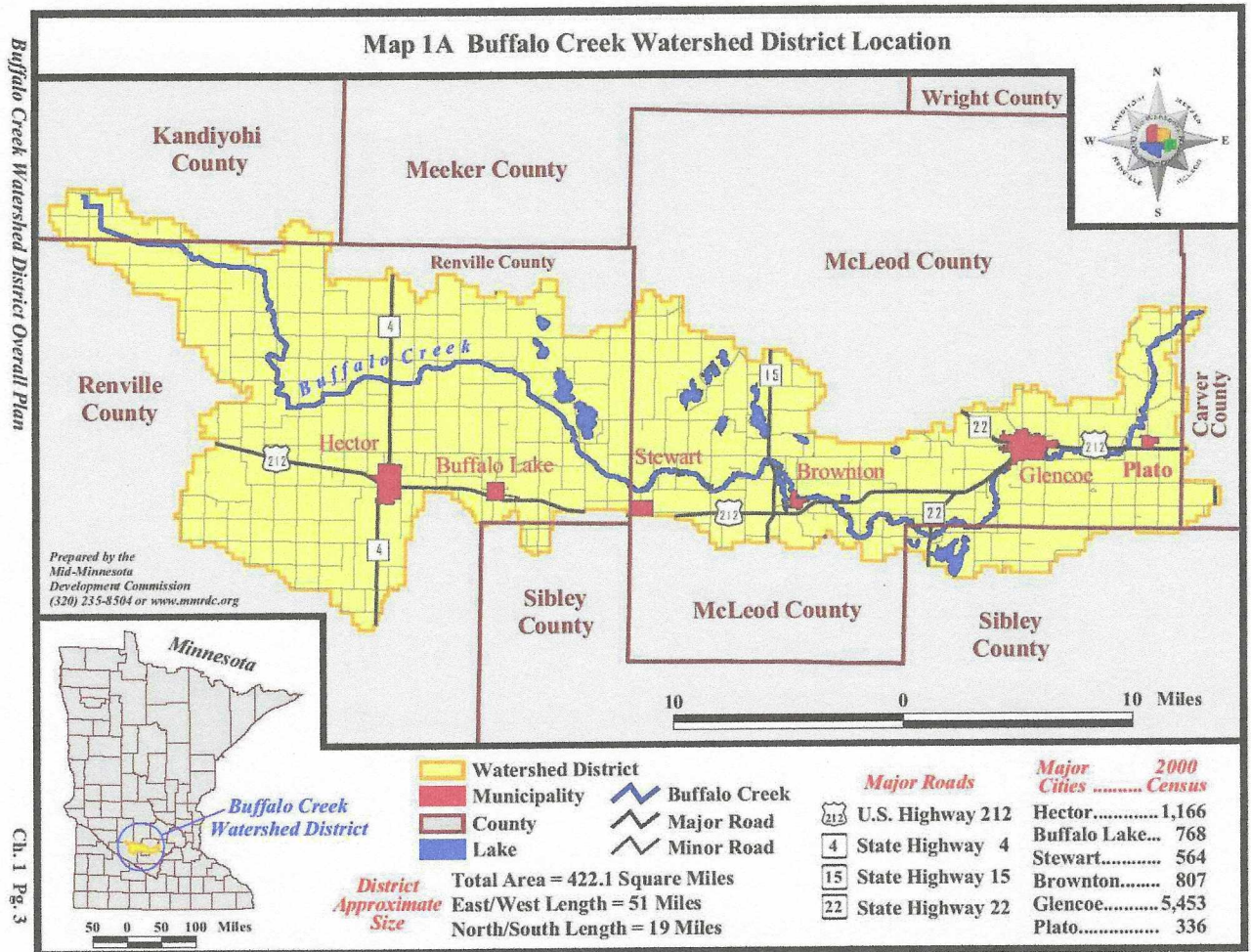
Larry Kramer
87132 State Hwy 4
Hector, MN 55342
(320) 583-1957
Term Expires: **5-17-21**
(re-appointed for 3 years)

McLeod County

Larry Phillips
8495 Ideal Ave
Glencoe, MN 55336
(320) 864-4142
Term Expired **5-17-21** (*not re-appointed*)

Kevin Lindeman
6637 Nature Ave.
Brownton, MN 55312
(320) 510-1644

appointed – Term expires **5-17-24**



Area of Coverage

The Buffalo Creek Watershed District (BCWD) is located in south-central Minnesota, approximately 30 miles west of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area. The Buffalo Creek watershed is the southern most sub watershed of the larger South Fork of the Crow River Watershed, which eventually outlets to the Mississippi River near Dayton, Minnesota. There are 5 counties, 6 cities and 28 townships that are wholly or partially encompassed within the District. The overwhelming majority of the District's land is located within McLeod and Renville Counties (93%).

Budget

The Managers of Buffalo Creek Watershed met on August 24, 2021 for its 2022 Budget hearing at the Glencoe City Center. Attorney John Kolb presented the budget and the confirmation of publication of notices for the Budget Hearing.

The proposed Budget for the year 2022 was presented as follows:

Annual Audit	\$	4,000.00
Association Dues (Minnesota Assn. of Watershed Districts)		5,500.00
Manager per Diem, mileage, PERA and taxes		25,000.00
Bond Premiums & insurance		5,000.00
Legal expenses		12,500.00
Engineering expenses		35,000.00
Office expenses and publications		8,500.00
Stream maintenance program (\$155K from general and \$45K from reserve)		200,000.00
JD 15 Sub-watershed Storage (inter-governmental costs share with Renville and McLeod)		75,000.00
Subtotal	\$	370,500.00
From general fund (103D.905, subd.3) (\$250,000.00 Cap)	\$	250,000.00
From Reserves	\$	45,500.00
From inter-governmental cost share)	\$	75,000.00
Clean Water Partnership Project Fund (March Water Project) (103D.905, subd.9)		70,000.00
Basic water management project/programs (City of Glencoe Petitioned Project) (103D.905, subd.905, subd.3)		87,000.00
Total Budget	\$	527,500.00
Total Proposed Budget (2022 Levy)	\$	407,000.00

President Belter opened the floor for public comments on the proposed budget. Public comment was generally supportive of the budget. The Board discussed the budget and determined no changes were needed to the proposed budget. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the budget as presented. Motion was passed

Permits from 2020

Permit # 2020-07 – Roger Rauch – Requested a 6 month extension – pending the resolution of a drainage system outlet solution with McLeod County. The circumstances met the criteria for a permit extension.

Permits for 2021

Permit # 2021-01 – Seneca Foods Corporation: Section 14 in Glencoe Township, McLeod County. Seneca Foods Corporation would like to construct three additional dormitory style buildings on their site in Glencoe, MN. The construction would include the three buildings, extending sanitary sewer, water main, gas and electric to service each building, and adding sidewalks around the buildings. A ponding area is proposed for the northeast corner of the site to provide rate control for discharges leaving the site and a swale is proposed on the southwest corner of the site to provide rate control for discharges. The Board of Managers discussed and approved the permit with the proposed conditions above.

Permit # 2021-02 – City of Glencoe: Glencoe Municipal Airport. The City of Glencoe would like to install a 4-inch drain tile in an open-water wetland basin just south of the runway at Glencoe Municipal Airport. The wetland will be drained to eliminate the standing water that attracts waterfowl, which poses a safety threat to aircrafts. The project does not include any new or redeveloped impervious area. The 4-inch drain tile is sized appropriately to meet the 3/8ths-inch drainage coefficient and the tile discharges to Judicial Ditch 8, which has a capacity above 3/8ths –inch coefficient. Houston Engineering recommends approval with the following condition. The City of Glencoe is to provide and approved wetland replacement plan per the Wetland Conservation Act or exemption/no loss determination. The Board of Managers discussed and approved the permit with conditions.

Permit # 2021-03 – David Melich: Section 33, Township 116 North, Range 33 West in Osceola Township, Renville County. David Melich would like to install 1,500 feet of 15-inch and 1,000 feet of 18-inch D.W. tile pattern collectors at .05%. The 15-inch collectors will drain 100 acres and the 18-inch will drain 10 acres: both tile sizes meet the Buffalo Creek 3/8" coefficient requirements. The tiles lines will outlet to Branch C and part of Lateral E of CD 4. The Board of Managers discussed and approved the permit.

Permit # 2021-04 – Litzau Farm Drainage & Jill Mackenthun – Section 15, Sumter Township, McLeod County: Litzau Drainage on behalf of property owner Jillaine Mackenthun, would like to abandon and destroy 2,000 feet of old clay and cement 12-inch tile and replace it with new 12-inch plastic perforated tile at .10 grade. Over 50 acres on Mackenthun's property would be re-drained and a private ditch on the property would be cleaned out. The project takes place solely on Mackenthun's property and meets the Board's 3/8" coefficient requirement. The Board of Managers discussed and approved the permit.

Permit # 2021-05 – Dean Zimmerman: Section 35, Township 110 North, Range 30 West, Lynn Township, and McLeod County. Dean Zimmerman is working on a joint USDA/NRCS project to install three water and sediment control basins (WASCOB) and one main line tile. The WASCOBs will consist of earthen embankments constructed across a slope to form a sediment trap and provide water retention with 3.5-inch, 4.5-inch, and 5.5-inch diameter Dual Wall Perforated pipe. Riprap will also be installed at the outlet to prevent erosion and the project does not drain areas that do not already drain into the District. The Board of Managers discussed and approved with the following conditions. 1. Final plans are submitted which show riprap to be installed at the outlet: and 2. Documentation of easements would be submitted.

Permit #2021-06 – McLeod County Drainage Authority: – Sections 27, 28, 32, 33, 34, 35, Township 115 North, Range 30 West, Collins Township, and McLeod County. McLeod County Drainage Authority would like to clean out County Ditch 64, install side inlets and remove tow culverts per landowner request, and repair and reset three existing culverts that are separating. There would be no new pipe added to any of the affected areas. The Board of Managers discussed and approved the permit.

Permit # 2021-07 – Sharon Olson and Keith Olson: - Section 32, Township 115 North, Range 32 West, Hector Township, Renville County. Keith Johnson, on behalf of property owner Sharon Olson, would like to install new drain tile at the outlet into JD 15 in the Northwest Quarter of Section 32 of Hector Township. The existing tile is 6-inch clay tile, and would be replaced with 8-inch and 10-inch concrete tile at a 0.20 grade. The tile would extend south approximately 3,360 feet to the low point just west of State Highway 4 on the Olson Property. The project meets Board's 3/8" coefficient requirement. The Board of Managers discussed and approved the permit.

Permit # 2021-08 – McLeod County: Sections 20, 21, 28, and 33, Township 116 North, Range 30 West Lynn Township, McLeod County. Per McLeod County's request, Houston Engineering completed a historic review of County Ditch 63 in 2020. The review found that the system is in disrepair with multiple problems requiring slough in cleanouts, bank stabilization, and installing new culverts at the proper depth and size for the ditch at farm crossings and roads along with laying back side slopes. There will be no increase in the drainage area and all crossings were sized to meet Buffalo Creek Watershed District rules and regulations. The Board of Managers approved the permit.

Permit # 2021-09 – State of Minnesota: Section 14, Township 115 North, Range 28 West, Glencoe Township and Sections 16 and 17, Township 115 North, Range 27 West, Helen Township, McLeod County. Jeremy Nielsen of SRF Consulting Group, Inc. on behalf of MnDot District 8 and Ronald Mortensen, want to construct two J-Turns at the intersections of Chandler Ave. N & TH 212 which outlets directly to Buffalo Creek. The proposed project includes new curb and gutter connected to storm sewer which will outlet to the existing 72-inch culvert. The site drainage areas have a low time of concentration, so flow will leave the site in advance of the peak for the 72-inch culvert. Therefore, the increase in the impervious area will result in a slight peak rate increase. Discharge from the CSAH 1 site drains in the three directions listed below, which all eventually outflow to Buffalo Creek. The discharge

is proposed to be treated using two filtration basins on CSAH 1 site. 1) Southeast through an existing drain tile; and 2) South in the CSAH 1 roadside ditch; and 3) During large events, east in the north side of the TH 212 roadside ditch. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) has been submitted which calls for storm drain protection, silt fences, and street sweeping to prevent excessive sediment release during construction. At this time, there are no plans to fill in a floodplain. The Board of Managers approved the permit application.

Permit # 2021-10 – Roger Engelmann: Section 11, Township 115 North, Range 27 West, Helen Township, McLeod County. Roger Engelmann submitted a tile permit application dated September 27, 2021. He would like to abandon the existing 8-inch concrete and 10-inch plastic tile mains and replace the same with a new 12-inch plastic tile main. Grade of the new tile main will be 0.2%, and 85 acres will be pattern tiled into the new 12-inch main. The project incorporates a 3/8-inch coefficient and is located entirely on the Engelmann property and has adequate outlets, and the land is already properly assessed. The Board of Managers approved the permit application.

Permit # 2021-11 – Renville County Highway Department: Sections 20 and 21, Township 115 North, Range 31 West, Preston Lake Township, Renville County. Renville County submitted a permit to replace Bridge 94074 on Renville County Road 56 with Bridge 65567 over Judicial Ditch 15 in Preston Lake Township. Construction is expected to begin in the spring 2022. This new permit has the same plans as permit 2014-03, which was approved in 2014 by Buffalo Creek Watershed District but, construction did not take place. A motion was made and carried to approve the permit.

Permit # 2021-12 – Larry Phillips/Bolton Menk: Sections 22, 23, 26, 27, Township 115 North, Range 31 West, Preston Lake Township, Renville County. Bolton & Menk will be improving the Branch S system of Judicial Ditch 15, specifically replacing all of the existing tile in S8, S10, and S11, along with the partial replacement of the tile in S9, S12 and S14. The existing 6"-18" clay and concrete tile will be replaced with 6"-24" dual wall HDPE tile. Construction is expected to start in spring of 2022. The Board approved the permit by unanimous vote.

Permit 2021-13 – Larry Phillips/Bolton Menk: Sections 12, 13, 18, 19, Township 114 North, Range 32 West, Palmyra Township, Renville County. Bolton & Menk will be improving the Branch A system of Judicial Ditch 15, specifically replacing all of the existing tile in A52, A56, and A95, along with the partial replacement of the tile in A42, A57, A58, and A93. The existing 5"-28" clay and concrete tile will be replaced with 6"-36" dual HDPE tile. Construction is expected to start in spring 2022. The Board approved the permit by unanimous vote.

Permit 2021-14 – Larry Phillips/ISG: Sections 3, 4, 8, 9, Township 114 North, Range 31 West, Grafton Township, Sibley County and Sections 29, 32, 33, Township 115 North, Range 31 West, Preston Lake Township, Renville County. ISG will be improving the Branch P system of Judicial Ditch 15, specifically replacing portions of the tile in P1, P10, P13, P14, P17, P19, P22, P25, P25, P19, P30, P32, P34, P48, and P50. The existing RCP tile will be replaced with ne HDPE tile sized to a drainage coefficient of 3/8" per day. The Board approved the permit by unanimous vote.

JD 15 Branch A

2018 – The Board received a petition for improvement of portions of JD 15 Branch A. Attorney Kolb reviewed the sufficiency of the petition and the bond and presented a draft order. The board accepted the petition and Bolton & Menk, Inc. was appointed the project engineer.

2019 – A preliminary hearing was set up for February 26, 2019, to explain the purpose of the project. The viewer's will be reporting back to the Board of Managers with their report.

2020 – This project was on hold for most of the year. Renville County ordered and did a redetermination of benefits for the complete JD 15 System. That work was completed late 2020. ** Also the Covid-19 Pandemic prevented most meetings and hearings on all projects. They will resume in spring and summer of 2021.

2021- The engineer on this project, Bolton & Menk, Inc. estimated the cost of this project to be approximately \$ 965,600.00. Contract bids were called and approved with Litzau Farm Drainage, Inc. with the winning bid. Work is to begin in the spring or summer of 2022.

JD 15 Branch Q

2020 – This project started January 31, 2020 with a petition from landowners. Bolton and Menk, Inc. was assigned to engineer the project. Good Progress was made. Then the project was put on hold for most of the year. Renville County ordered and did a redetermination of benefits for the complete JD 15 System. That work was completed in late 2020. ** Also the Covid-19 Pandemic prevented most meetings and hearings on all projects. They will resume in spring and summer of 2021.

2021 – A preliminary hearing was set up for April 27, 2021, to explain the purpose of the project. Currently, the project is in the hands of the viewers.

JD 15 Branch S

2017 – In December, Dwight Kottke has petitioned for a tile improvement in JD 15. Branch S.

2018 – Bids were opened to do this project. Bolton & Menk, Inc. was appointed as the engineer on the project. A preliminary survey report was provided by Bolton & Menk, Inc. with an engineering design being worked on. In September, the engineering design had been completed. A preliminary hearing was set for November 27 at the meeting room in Glencoe.

JD 15 Branch S - continued

2019 – After the hearing in late November, 2018, viewers are in the process of completing their work.

2020 – This project was on hold for most of the year. Renville County ordered and did a redetermination of benefits for the complete JD 15 System. That work was completed late in 2020. ** Also the Covid-19 Pandemic prevented most meetings and hearings on all projects. They will resume in spring and summer of 2021.

2021 – The final hearing was held in September and the bids were reviewed and the winning bid was Cooreman Contracting with a bid of approximately \$ 569,000.00. Their work will begin in the spring and summer of 2022.

JD 15 Branch P 1

2018 – A Group of citizens presented to Attorney John Kolb, a petition for a tile project in JD 15, calling this Branch P 1. The Board adopted the proposed order. The ISG Group has been selected as the engineer for the project and is proceeding with the preliminary survey report.

2019 – A preliminary hearing was held on May 28, 2019. After which the viewer's should be finalizing their findings. An informational meeting is schedules for January 8, 2020.

2020 – This project was on hold for most of the year. Renville County ordered and did a redetermination of benefits for the complete JD 15 System. That work was completed late in 2020. ** Also the Covid-19 Pandemic prevented most meetings and hearings on the projects. They will resume in spring and summer of 2021.

2021 – The final hearings were held in September and the bids were opened. The winning bid went to Litzau Farm Drainage, Inc. and their bid was approximately \$ 2,619,000.00. They are planning to start work in the spring and summer of 2022.

JD 15 Branch M 20

2019 – A group of citizens presented a petition for a tile project in JD 15. The Board adopted the proposed order and this project would be called M 20. A preliminary hearing was held November 26, 2019. The purpose of the meeting was explained regarding the proposed project.

2020 – This project was on hold for most of the year. Renville County ordered and did a redetermination of benefits for the complete JD 15 System. That work was completed late in 2020. ** Also the Covid-19 Pandemic prevented most meetings and hearings on all projects. They will resume in spring and summer of 2021.

2021 - The final hearings were held in September and the bids were opened. The winning bid went to Cooreman Contracting with an approximate bid of \$ 722,900.00. They are planning to start work on the project in the spring and summer of 2022.

JD 8 Laterals 12 & 13

2021 – This project is in the very early stages. A petition was presented to the board at the October board meeting. Attorney Kolb recommended that the Board accept the petition for filing. In November, Houston Engineering was appointed as the engineer of the project. A preliminary survey report is in progress.

Buffalo Creek Cleanout

2021 – In 2021, Buffalo Creek Watershed started a cleanout in Sumter Township along Highway 15 near the Griebe property. Then, west through Collins Township and then west about 1 ½ miles into Renville Co. Total cost was \$ 144,930.00.

2020 – There was no cleanout done in 2020 on Buffalo Creek, but The Watershed did a cleanout on Marsh Creek that particular year.

2019 – In 2019, Buffalo Creek Watershed District began a cleanout of the creek, starting east of Brownton at County Road 25 and then on to State Highway 15. The cleanout was done by Collins Tree Service of Castle Rock. They started in mid-January and took approximately a month to complete. This section of the Creek had a lot of down trees and a lot of brush to clean out. Total cost of this cleanout was \$ 73,140.00.

2018 – In 2018, Buffalo Creek Watershed District had a very good open winter to do a cleanout of trees, brush etc. of a long area of our creek. We started about a mile west of Glencoe to Highway 22 in Project 1. Project 2 was from Highway 22 to Highway 212, east of Brownton, Then , because of time allowing us to keep working, we did a 3rd Project from Highway 212 through Brownton City. Total cost was \$ 102,890.00.

2017 - There was no cleanout done in 2017 due to poor weather conditions.

Other Items

Overall Plan

The BCWD has prepared a new watershed Management plan or "Overall Plan" to outline their goals and objectives and to define resource management programs. The most recent Overall Plan, with Appendix D Amendment is available. This new plan is valid from May 7, 2014 to 2023.

www.bcwatershed.org

The Buffalo Creek Watershed website is available for viewing the monthly meeting minutes, the Overall Plan and the rules and regulations. You can also complete an application for a permit. The instructions are also available. You can view the past projects that they have done in the watershed, along with Links to other agencies.

One thing to look for in the future is being able to view the permits that have been issued and to see where they are located in the Buffalo Creek Watershed district.

If there are any questions regarding the expenses for the year, please see the treasurer or request a financial statement.

Buffalo Creek Watershed District

Don Belter

7/26/22 Date