



South Region Headquarters  
21371 State Highway 15  
New Ulm, MN 56073

November 30, 2022

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

Dear Board of Managers:

**RE: Final Engineer's Report (FER), Improvement of Judicial Ditch No. 15 Branch Q**

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed improvement of Buffalo Creek Watershed District Judicial Ditch 15, Branch Q in Renville County. We offer comments in accordance with Minnesota Statutes §103D and §103E on behalf of the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Please read this letter at the Hearing and include it in the official Final Hearing record.

**Project Summary**

This project proposes to supplement the tile drainage network in the Buffalo Creek Watershed District JD15 Branch Q (JD15 BrQ) with a larger, deeper, and steeper tile network. The network has two outlets to JD15: Branch Q1 (BrQ1) and Branch Q25 (BrQ25). The project area outlets into JD15, then to Buffalo Creek, which flows to the South Fork Crow River and eventually to the Mississippi River. As such, this project area lies within the South Fork Crow River major watershed.

**Adequacy of Outlet & Downstream Flooding**

Downstream flooding is a major concern, particularly along Buffalo Creek in McLeod County, including the cities of Brownton and Glencoe. Flooding in these communities was already a significant concern prior to the multiple completed and planned JD15 branch improvements. We recommend the watershed district consider completing a comprehensive model of the entire JD15 system and Buffalo Creek to analyze the cumulative impacts of the multiple drainage projects that have occurred and will occur.

**Conclusion**

As required under Minnesota Statutes 103E.301, the DNR finds:

1. The detailed survey report is complete and appears to conform to the general requirements of Minnesota Statutes 103E;
2. The detailed survey report is an acceptable plan to drain the property affected;
3. The commissioner does not approve or disapprove the plan. We do, however, recommend the Drainage Authority ensure the project is consistent with the Renville County Water Plan.
4. The proposed drainage project benefits the agricultural land in the watershed by improving drainage characteristics and increasing farmable acres. DNR supports the Buffalo Creek Watershed District's drainage coefficient limit of 3/8-inch; and
5. The commissioner determines that a soil survey is not required for the project.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the FER. Please contact Garry Bennett, Area Hydrologist, at (320) 753-0344 or by e-mail at [garry.bennett@state.mn.us](mailto:garry.bennett@state.mn.us) if you have any general questions about this letter.

Best regards,



Todd Kolander,  
District Manager

ec: Garry Bennett, Area Hydrologist  
Scott Mackenthun, Area Fisheries Manager  
Cory Netland, Area Wildlife Manager  
Tim Gieseke, EWR Assistant Regional Manager  
Korey Woodley, EWR Regional Manager  
Scott Roemhildt, Regional Manager  
Scott Lucas and Paul Davis, MPCA  
Ed Lenz and Rita Weaver, BWSR  
Larry Kramer and Matt Melberg, Renville County Watershed District representatives  
Shaun Luker, Project Engineer  
John Kolb, District Attorney  
Shaun Luker, Bolton & Menk Engineer  
Marc Iverson, Renville County Auditor/Treasurer