



# Annual Report 2022

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# **Buffalo Creek Watershed District**

## **2022 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 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month (November thru March, 1:00 PM, April thru October, 7:00 PM) in the Glencoe City Center, 1107 11<sup>th</sup> Street E., Glencoe, MN

**District Mailing Address:**

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

**Attorney for the District**

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Rinke Noonan  
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St. Cloud, MN 56302

**Engineer**

Houston Engineering, Inc.  
Chris Otterness  
Lisa Odens  
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Suite 120  
Maple Grove, MN 55369  
(763) 493-4522

**Permit Consultant**

Larry Phillips  
8495 Ideal Ave.  
Glencoe, MN 55336

**Staff:**

Linda Phillips  
8495 Ideal Ave.  
Glencoe, MN 55336

**Staff:**

Mary Henke  
13031 County Rd. 7  
Stewart, MN 55385

**Board Managers:**

**2022**

**Sibley County**

Donald Belter  
43540 180<sup>th</sup> 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: **5-17-25**

**Renville County**

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

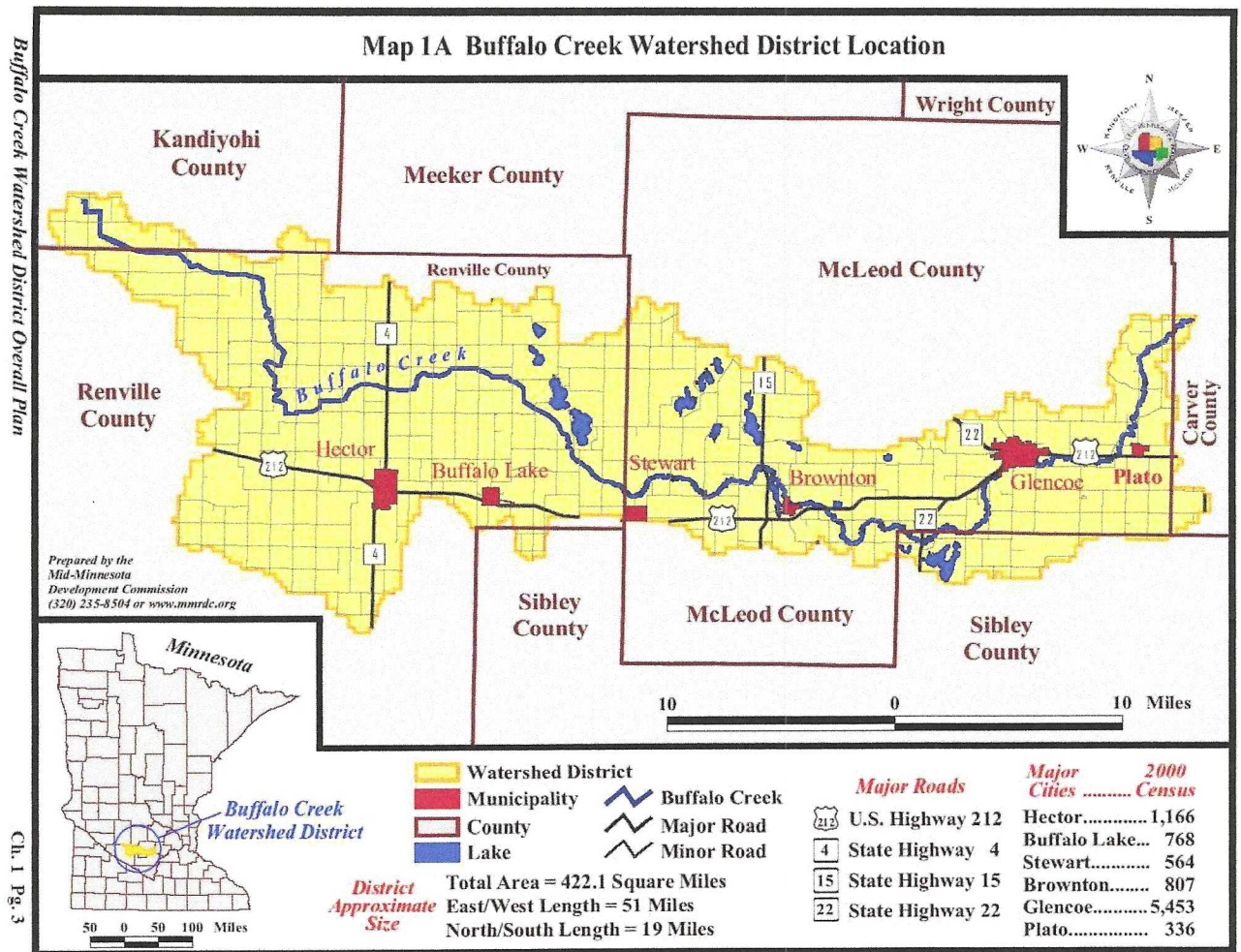
**Renville County**

Larry Kramer  
87132 State Hwy 4  
Hector, MN 55342  
(320) 583-1957  
Term Expires: **5-17-24**

**McLeod County**

Kevin Lindeman  
6637 Nature Ave.  
Brownton, MN 55312  
(320) 510-1644  
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, McLeod, Renville, Sibley, Carver and Kandiyohi Counties with 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 the Buffalo Creek Watershed met on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 for its 2023 Budget hearing at the Glencoe City Center, 1107 – 11<sup>th</sup> Street E., Suite 103, Glencoe, MN. Vice President Kramer opened the hearing and called upon Attorney John Kolb to present the budget. Mr. Kolb confirmed the publication of notices for the budget hearing.

**The proposed Budget for the year 2023 was presented as follows:**

Annual Audit	\$ 4,000.00
Association Dues (Minnesota Watershed)	\$ 5,500.00
Manager per diem, mileage, PERA and taxes	\$ 30,000.00
Bond Premiums and insurance	\$ 5,000.00
Legal	\$ 15,500.00
Engineering	\$ 40,000.00
Independent Contractor/Consultants	\$ 25,000.00
Office Expenses and Publications	\$ 8,500.00
 Stream maintenance program (\$155K from general fund and \$45K from reserve)	 \$ 200,00.00
 JD 15 Sub-watershed Storage (inter-governmental costs share with Renville and McLeod)	 \$ 75,000.00
 <b>Subtotal</b>	 <b>\$ 408,500.00</b>
 <b>From General fund (103D.905, subd. 3 (\$250,000.00 Cap)</b>	 <b>\$ 250,000.00</b>
 <b>From reserves</b>	 <b>\$ 158,500.00</b>
 Clean Water Partnership Project Fund (Marsh Water Project) (103D.905, subd. 9	 \$ 70,000.00
Basic water management projects/programs (City of Glencoe Petitioned Project)(103D.905, subd.3	\$ 87,000.00
 <b>Total Budget</b>	 <b>\$ 565,500.00</b>
 <b>Total Budget from Levy (2023 Levy)</b>	 <b>\$ 407,000.00</b>

Vice President Kramer opened the floor for public comments on the proposed budget. There being no public comments, Vice President Kramer closed the public comment portion of the hearing. The Board then discussed and a motion was made and seconded to adopt the budget as presented.



## **Permits for 2022**

### **Permit # 2022-01** – Larry Phillips/Houston Engineering: Renville County, Hector Township.

Township 115 North, Range 32 West. Houston Engineering will be improving the Branch M20 system if JD 15, specifically replacing all of the existing clay tile in M20, M22, M23, M24, M26, M27, M29, M70, M71, M72, and M93. The existing clay tile in these branches will be replaced with 8"-12" HDPE tile, along with new tile being installed in M28 and M64. Jacking and boring of 150 linear feet of 24" steel pipe will be included during replacement of the clay tile, and two 75' segments of 24" steel pipe will be bored under 830<sup>th</sup> Ave/County Hwy 23 for M20 and M27. Overall, there will be connections made to approximately 21 existing laterals, as well as installation of standard and Hickenbottom surface and televising inlets. Construction is expected to start in spring 2022. Motion was made and seconded to approve the permit.

**Permit # 2022-02** – Renville County Highway Department: Sections 31 and 32, Township 116 North, Range 31 West, Bon Lake Township, Renville County. Renville Co Highway Dept. is planning to replace Bridge 6433, a 1-span steel beam bridge (27 feet in total length) at the crossing of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 8 and Judicial Ditch 28A with Bridge 65K03, which will consist of triple 14-foot span by 12-foot rise reinforced concrete box culverts. With much discussion, the Board made a motion and seconded to approve the permit.

**Permit # 2022-03** – Sheehan's Inc.: Section 8, Twsp 116 North, Range 33 West, Osceola Township, Renville County. Sheehan's Inc. and owner Erick Peterson has secured abandonment of a portion of public drainage system and wants to install a new private tile line. They would then reconnect to the neighbor's line, sign easements, and add pattern tile. The proposed action meets the requirements of the district's rules. Motion was made and seconded and the Board conditionally approved the permit.

**Permit # 2022-04** – Donald Husske: Section 36, Twsp 115 North, Range 29 West, Sumter Township, McLeod County. Landowner Don Husske would like to replace existing approximately 14-foot cement tile with approximately 15-foot plastic tile along the main line of his property. He would also like to connect the existing tile lines and add four new lines of tile on his property. The tile size must be verified by the landowner. Approval was recommended with a condition that the replacement tile match the size of the existing tile within reasonably available modern tile size. Motion was made and seconded to approve the permit with conditions.



## **Permits for 2022 – continued**

**Permit 2022-05 – Hawthorne View Estates, LLC:** Section 35, Township 115 North, Range 28 West, Glencoe Township, McLeod County. Hawthorne Estates would like to build a housing development on the former school site called the Helen Baker Development Project. The project will be constructed in phases and this permit applies only to Phase 1. The work proposed in Phase 1 includes the removal of existing storm sewer pipes and the installation of a new water main, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and stormwater basins. They would also like to grade the site for future home construction of structures and driveways, along with turf establishment of all disturbed areas. Lisa Odens of Houston Engineering recommends approval with conditions. 1. Any disconnected storm sewer that is determined to be still in use must be reconnected at an equivalent capacity; and 2. As- built drawings be provided to the Buffalo Creek Watershed District once construction is completed. Motion was made and seconded to approve the permit with conditions.

**Permit 2022-06 – Dale Stamer:** Section 29, Township 115 North, Range 33 West, Osceola Township, Renville County. Landowner Dale Stamer would like to hire JV Excavating to install 2,150' of new 15" dual wall plastic tile on his property to get closer to a 3/8" coefficient. Currently, this property has 12" concrete tile, which only allows a 1/8" drainage coefficient. No existing tile lines will be abandoned. It was determined that the proposed project does not exceed the District's 3/8" drainage coefficient. Though the tile drains between sub-watersheds on an existing drainage system (Renville County Ditch 27), the drainage authority has no objection to the transfer. Motion made and seconded to approve the permit and also include a reminder of permitting requirements for future actions.

**Permit 2022-07 – Hagberg-Swaggert Permit :** Renville County – Landowner will be disconnecting the existing county tile line from the county tile system and wants to install a new main line. The permit was tabled due to an easement which is needed for final approval.

## **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 of 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 to explain the purpose of the meeting.
- 2019** – After the hearing in late November of 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 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 of 2022.
- 2022** – All work was done in summer of 2022 and final acceptance hearing scheduled for January 2023.

## **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. I & S Group had 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 scheduled 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, which 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 final hearings were held in September and the bids were opened. The winning bids went to Litzau Farm Drainage, Inc and their bid was approximately \$2,619,000.00. They are planning to start work in spring of 2022.
- 2022** – A majority of the work was done late summer and fall with boring issues under the railroad. A few laterals were left to complete in the spring of 2023.

### **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 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, which 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 estimated the cost of this project to be approximately \$ 965,000.00. 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.
- 2022** – Work was completed July of 2022 with the final acceptance hearing scheduled for January 2023.

### **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 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.
- 2022** – Final hearing was held and work is proceeding to bidding with work to be done in summer 2023



## **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 on 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.
- 2022** – A pre-construction meeting was held March 29<sup>th</sup> in Olivia, MN. The work was done by Cooreman Contracting and it was completed by July, with minor changes. The final hearing of acceptance is expected in January 2023.

## **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 John 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.
- 2022** - The preliminary Engineer's report was completed and accepted by the board. The viewer's completed their report. The hearing for the project is scheduled for January of 2023.



## **Buffalo Creek Cleanout**

- 2022** – Initiated cleanout work in January and February in the area just east of Highway 212 west of Plato and ended at Zebra Avenue, north of Plato. This area had a huge amount of work from trees and jams in the creek. The plan is to get to Crow River in 2023, about 4 miles left. Total cost was \$ 207,600.00.
- 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 County. 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.
- 2019** – In 2019, Buffalo Creek Watershed District began a clean out 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 had a very good open winter to do a clean out of trees, brush etc. of a long area of the Creek. We started about a mile west of Glencoe to Highway 22 to Highway 212, east of Brownton. Then, because of time allowing us to keep working, we did s 3<sup>rd</sup> Project from Highway 212 through the City of Brownton. Total cost was \$ 102,890.00.
- 2017** – No cleanout due to poor weather conditions in 2017.

## **Buffalo Creek Watershed District Website**

**[www.bcwatershed.org](http://www.bcwatershed.org)**

The Buffalo Creek Watershed District's website is available for viewing to all interested. You can view the past monthly meeting minutes, Rules and Regulations, and many other things. You can also view Links to other agencies

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



Don Belter  
President

Buffalo Creek Watershed District



Date

Submitted by Larry Phillips, Treasurer  
Buffalo Creek Watershed District