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January 15, 2026

VIA E-MAIL

Board of Managers
Buffalo Creek Watershed District
PO Box 55
Glencoe, MN 55336

RE: Improvement of Judicial Ditch No. 15 Lateral V Branch C, Renville County
Buffalo Creek Watershed District
Project No.: 24X.136322.000

To the Board of Managers

This letter is in response to the Minnesota DNR Advisory report regarding the Final Engineer's Report for the Improvement of Judicial Ditch No. 15 Lateral V Branch C in Renville County. This response letter will be formatted in a similar manner to the Advisory Report to address each of their statements.

Discussion of the Improvement

- The watershed sizes indicated in the report and Tables 1 and 2 are correct with the last number in Table 1 showing the existing watershed size, and the last number in Table 2 showing the proposed watershed size for the Improvement. The lines above the bottom lines are for the sub watersheds in the system. It appears that the table was misunderstood by the DNR in its comment letter. It should be noted that the existing watershed is larger than the proposed watershed because the proposed Improvement does not extend to the JD 15 open ditch and rather discharges into a wetland that is in RIM ground on parcel 22-00730-00.
- The existing tile that is going to be replaced with new tile will be decommissioned by destroying the pipe at a minimum of 200-foot intervals and the ends of the old tile capped with grout. Tile removal within the wetland is shown within the BWSR Plans Exhibit 6. BWSR plans to fill existing blowout holes with available embankment material. Additionally, BWSR will complete Tile Blocks and Removal as described on page 5 of their plan set. Both existing tiles that outlet into the open ditch will be plugged upstream of the blowouts
- The shift in the historic alignment for Branch C is because the Branch C tile will not continue through the RIM ground to the open ditch. Additionally, the tile was televised to determine the actual location versus what was shown on the historic plans. The tile to be Improved will generally follow the in-place alignment.

Alternative Solutions

- No comment necessary for the first line item.
- The wetland restoration analysis is an exercise to determine the approximate volume of storage needed within the watershed to be able to utilize the existing tile size and meet the capacity needs

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of the existing tile. It uses a 1 ft depth and 1:1 buffer around the potential wetlands because it does not include the cost to repair the tile between the potential wetlands.

- A more robust analysis could be performed, however as stated willing landowner participation is necessary and no willing landowners on the upper portions of the system were identified. Again, a repair would still need to be performed between any potential wetlands.

Other Considerations

- The South Fork Crow River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan has been subsequently reviewed, and the goals in that plan are being met by the proposed Improvement. Discharging the proposed tile into the wetland that is in RIM ground on parcel 22-00730-00 will allow nutrients and sediment from the improved tile line to filter out prior to being discharged into the open ditch.

The comments provided by the DNR Advisory letter were helpful to provide clarification to the Board regarding the intent of the proposed Improvement.

It is still the opinion of the Engineer appointed to this Improvement that the proposed project is feasible, practical, and necessary to provide drainage for the cultivation of crops within the watershed area. The existing tile system is in need of an Improvement to provide proper drainage for current agricultural practices.

Sincerely,

Bolton & Menk, Inc.



Shaun P. Luker, P.E.

Water Resources Project Manager

Cc:

DNR Region 4 Drainage

Larry Phillips, Buffalo Creek Watershed District

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