



Landowners:

The Turtle Creek Watershed District is the Drainage Authority for several ditches within the watershed. As the Drainage Authority, the Watershed District has a statutory duty, under Minnesota Statute 103E.021, to protect the spoil banks and to make sure they are seeded to perennial grass.

Enclosed is a copy of the TURTLE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT GRASS STRIP POLICY. Said policy is consistent with the statutory requirement. The Watershed District intends to enforce their responsibility, as it is only fair to all landowners.

Thank you for your courtesy.

Turtle Creek Watershed District

TURTLE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT GRASS STRIP POLICY

Grass Strip definition: The permanent strips of perennial vegetation shall be 16-1/2 feet in width measured outward from the top edge of the constructed channel resulting from the proceeding, or to the crown of the leveled spoil bank, whichever is the greater, except for an action by a drainage authority that results only in a redetermination of benefits and damages, for which the required width shall be 16-1/2 feet.

If a violation of the grass strip requirement is found, the landowner will be notified by the Watershed District of the violation. The landowner then is given until September 1st to bring the area of non-compliance into compliance. If the property owner does not comply, the Watershed District will perform the work necessary to bring the area into compliance with Statute 103E.021 and charge the cost of the work to the property owner.

Agricultural practices such as plowing, tiling, pasturing cattle or other practices which are not consistent with the purpose of the grass strip are not permitted on any portion of the property where the grass strip is required.

The grass strip may be cut for hay from time to time, but the hay that is cut must be removed. Grasses used to seed slopes and grass strips will need to be resistant to sprays and chemicals used to control brush. Alfalfa will not be allowed to be seeded on the slopes or grass strip, as it tends to attract gophers and will loosen the soil. It can also promote erosion and is not resistant to most sprays. Landowners should be encouraged to participate in the CRP Ditch Buffer Program.

SPRAYING

The landowners shall control noxious weeds present in the ditch right-of-way and grass strips. If weeds are not controlled after given notice, the Watershed District may have a qualified applicator spray the area.

Costs of spraying will become part of the costs of maintenance of each system and will be assessed back to the benefited landowners of the system. If only one or two landowners do not control the weeds, then the landowners not doing the control will be billed for spraying.

The district may, if cost effective, consider using a mower to control weeds along a system to prevent possible contamination of the water from spray. Only sprays that are approved for use around and over water should be used.

GRAZING

Grazing of the open ditch and one-rod grass strip is prohibited. It is the responsibility of each landowner to provide adequate fencing to restrict animal access to the open ditch and one-rod grass strip. If fencing is not installed, the landowner will be in violation of the TURTLE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT GRASS STRIP POLICY. The Drainage Authority has the ability, under the statute, to have the area fenced and assess the cost of fencing against the property.