



PRINCIPALS

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Scott A. Tuchtenhagen, P.L.S.*

Established 1945

September 22, 2022

Honorable Chairman & Members
Board of Commissioners
and County Auditor
Freeborn County, MN

RE: Petition for Impounding, Rerouting and Diverting Drainage System Waters
And Partial Abandonment of Freeborn County Ditch No. 54
Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 103E.227 and 103E.806
Our File: 21-396

Honorable Chairman and Board Members:

Pursuant to your request, we have reviewed the following information regarding the above referenced project and report as follows:

SUBMITTALS

- Petition filed on June 22, 2022, by the Shell Rock River Watershed District and the United States of America, through its Fish and Wildlife Service.
- County Ditch No. 54 Abandonment & Impoundment Report prepared by ISG Inc. dated, June 22, 2022
- County Ditch No. 54 (CD 54) ditch records on file with Freeborn County

FINDINGS

The project proposes to restore drained wetlands in the County Ditch No. 54 watershed located in the NE ¼ Section 1, Alden Township and NW ¼ Section 6, Pickerel Lake Township. The proposed wetland restoration requires the partial abandonment and/or re-route of the Main, Branch E, Branch F, Branch F-1, Branch F-1 Auxiliary, Branch G, Branch G-1 and Branch H tiles.

The capacity of the proposed tile reroutes is the same or slightly reduced from the existing conditions. The slight reduction in tile capacity is offset by water storage and infiltration provided by the proposed wetland restorations. Hydrologic and hydraulic modeling of the Wittmer property which is at the outlet of the proposed project indicates peak water elevations, water volume and inundation times are maintained or reduced for all storm events.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the provided information the project will not adversely impact adjacent private property or have a detrimental effect to the remainder of the CD 54 system. We recommend the Drainage Authority approve the petition.

If there are any questions about this report, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Steven J. Penkava, P.E.

cc: John Kolb – Rinke Noonan
Courtney Phillips – Shell Rock River Watershed District
Andy Henschel – Shell Rock River Watershed District