



Division of Ecological & Water Resources
Region 4 (South Region)
21371 Highway 15 South
New Ulm, MN 56073

November 18th, 2025

Turtle Creek Watershed District
James Fett
1408 21st Ave NW
Austin, MN 55913

Subject: Advisory Report – Final Engineer’s Report for the Repair and Improvement of County Ditch No. J27 Freeborn County

Turtle Creek Watershed District,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Final Engineer’s Report for the proposed Freeborn County Ditch No. J27 Repair and Improvement Project. The following comments are offered in accordance with Minn. Stat. 103E.301 on behalf of the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

- (1) The detailed survey report is complete.
- (2) The plan laid out in the detailed survey report will drain the affected property.
- (3) The proposed plan includes replacing the existing CD J27 Branch B, D, D-1, and D-2 tile lines. It is recommended that the existing tile be abandoned and no longer maintained by the Drainage Authority.
- (4) The proposed project is of public utility and incorporates best management practices (BMP) into the design, including wildlife-friendly erosion control, alternative intakes, and on-system storage. Pursuing additional BMPs into the future is strongly encouraged to help meet measurable goals outlined in the Cedar-Wapsipinicon Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.
- (5) A soil survey is optional.

Please send a copy of the response to comments and revised documented meeting minutes, Findings of Fact, and any other order issued by the Drainage Authority regarding the proposed improvement to the DNR when available. Documents or questions related to this letter can be submitted to the regional drainage email account at Region4Drainage.dnr@state.mn.us.

Regards,

Todd Kolander
Southern District Manager

CC:

Sandy Tomschin, Freeborn County Deputy Auditor-Treasurer
Steve Penkava, Project Engineer
Korey Woodley, Regional Manager
Todd Piepho, Area Hydrologist
Haley Byron, Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist

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