

**Ecological and Water Resources
2115 Birchmont Beach Rd NE
Bemidji, MN 56601**

July 29, 2025

Dan Money
District Administrator
Two Rivers Watershed District
410 South 5th Street, Suite 112
Hallock, MN 56728
dan.money@tworiverswd.com

Re: Final Advisory Report for Kittson County Ditch No. 7 Improvement

Dear Dan Money,

On behalf of the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR), I offer the following advisory report on the Final Survey and Engineer's Report for the Kittson County Ditch No. 7 Improvement project pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103E.301.

- The Final Survey Report appears to be complete and in accordance with MS Chapter 103E, however, we have recommendations for the final design and construction below.
- The Report is an acceptable plan.
- The MN DNR finds that the proposed project is of public benefit and utility.
- A soil survey is not needed.
- Our review finds the project will not require Public Water Work Permitting or Permissions from the DNR.

Mapped floodplain

The westernmost portion of the project area in Section 19 at the outlet of the ditch system is located within a FEMA mapped floodplain - AE zone. A floodplain permit may be needed from Kittson County for work within the mapped floodplain. Contact Lane Nordin with Kittson County Zoning (lnordin@co.kittson.mn.us) regarding floodplain permitting.

Channel design

Please consider including a slightly deeper low-flow or inner berm channel, similar to the upstream ditch width in sections with wider ditch bottoms (approximately 40 ft width), to help maintain channel stability, sediment transport, and higher water quality.

Altered hydrology

The project will result in increased peak flows from the County Ditch No. 7 drainage system into the Judicial Ditch 10 drainage system. MN DNR encourages the Watershed District to continue to explore options for water storage and multipurpose drainage management within the watershed of County Ditch No. 7 to minimize or mitigate for modeled changes in hydrology at the system outlet and downstream.

Please also consider the following recommendations:

- MN DNR recommends incorporating native seed mixes to benefit pollinators into drainage buffers. The Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) seed mixes Pollinator Plot NW (38-441), Mid Diversity Moist Buffer South and West (32-251), and Mid Diversity Mesic to Dry Buffer South and West (32-231) mixes may be good choices. See the BWSR website for more information on seed mixes: <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/seed-mixes>.
- To reduce the potential entanglement of small animals in plastic mesh, project erosion control materials should follow the Minnesota Department of Transportation 2020 Standard Specifications for Construction for rolled erosion control materials that use only natural fibers (<https://www.dot.state.mn.us/pre-letting/spec/>).

Thank you for considering these comments. Please contact Environmental Assessment Ecologist Owen Baird (owen.baird@state.mn.us) with any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,



Nathan Kestner
Regional Manager, Ecological and Water Resources

CC: Stephanie Kamm, Area Hydrologist
Owen Baird, NW Region Environmental Assessment Ecologist
Randall Doneen, DNR Conservation Assistance and Regulation Section Manager
Tom Groshens, DNR NW Region North District Manager

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