

Two Rivers Watershed District

In Roseau, Kittson, & Marshall Counties

2025 Annual Report



WWW.TWORIVERSWD.COM

Forward

The Two Rivers Watershed District (TRWD) Board and Staff would like to present the 2025 Annual Report. The year started out dry with little to no spring runoff, and drought conditions persisted into the fall but then heavy rainfalls brought the region out of drought and caused some minor flooding. The TRWD performed the usual inspections of projects and ditches, and there were several maintenance activities that were done.

The District currently operates and maintains three impoundment projects, nine legal ditch systems, and six other channel projects that provide flood control and drainage. Its primary functions are to construct and maintain projects and programs to provide flood damage reduction, agricultural drainage, and natural resource enhancements. We actively monitor stream flows and water quality within our boundaries, and work closely with local, state and federal agencies in carrying out these various initiatives.

Our mission statement is ***“to carry out all facets of the Minnesota Watershed Act as set forth in Minnesota Statute, Chapter 103D. It is the District’s further mission to carry forth all activities and powers given under the Minnesota Drainage Code in Minnesota Statute, Chapter 103E. In carrying out its mission, the District will encourage the wise use of the water & aquatic natural resources within its boundaries and promote the general health and welfare of the citizens residing there.”***

We hope the information provided in this report is helpful in understanding the “who, what, where, when and why” of the Two Rivers Watershed District. As always, please contact our office or one of our board members if you have any questions or would like more information!

Watershed District Description

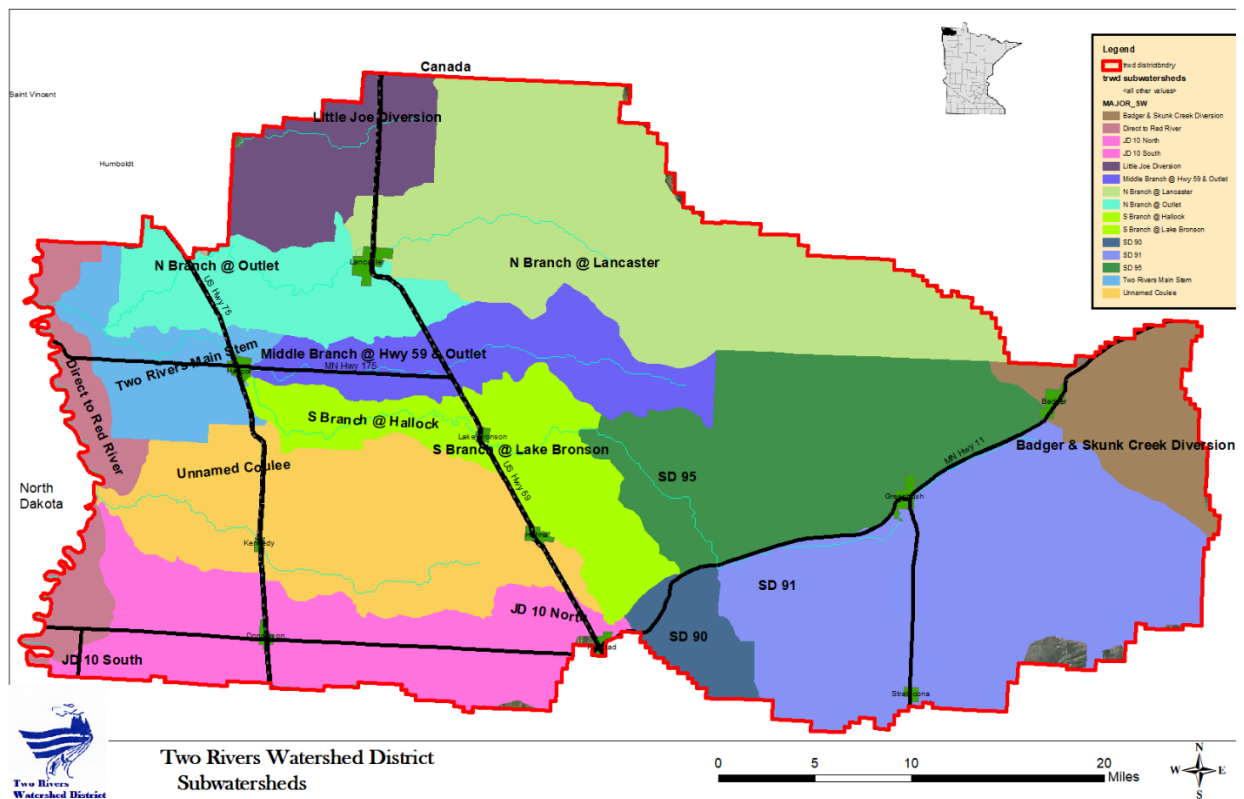
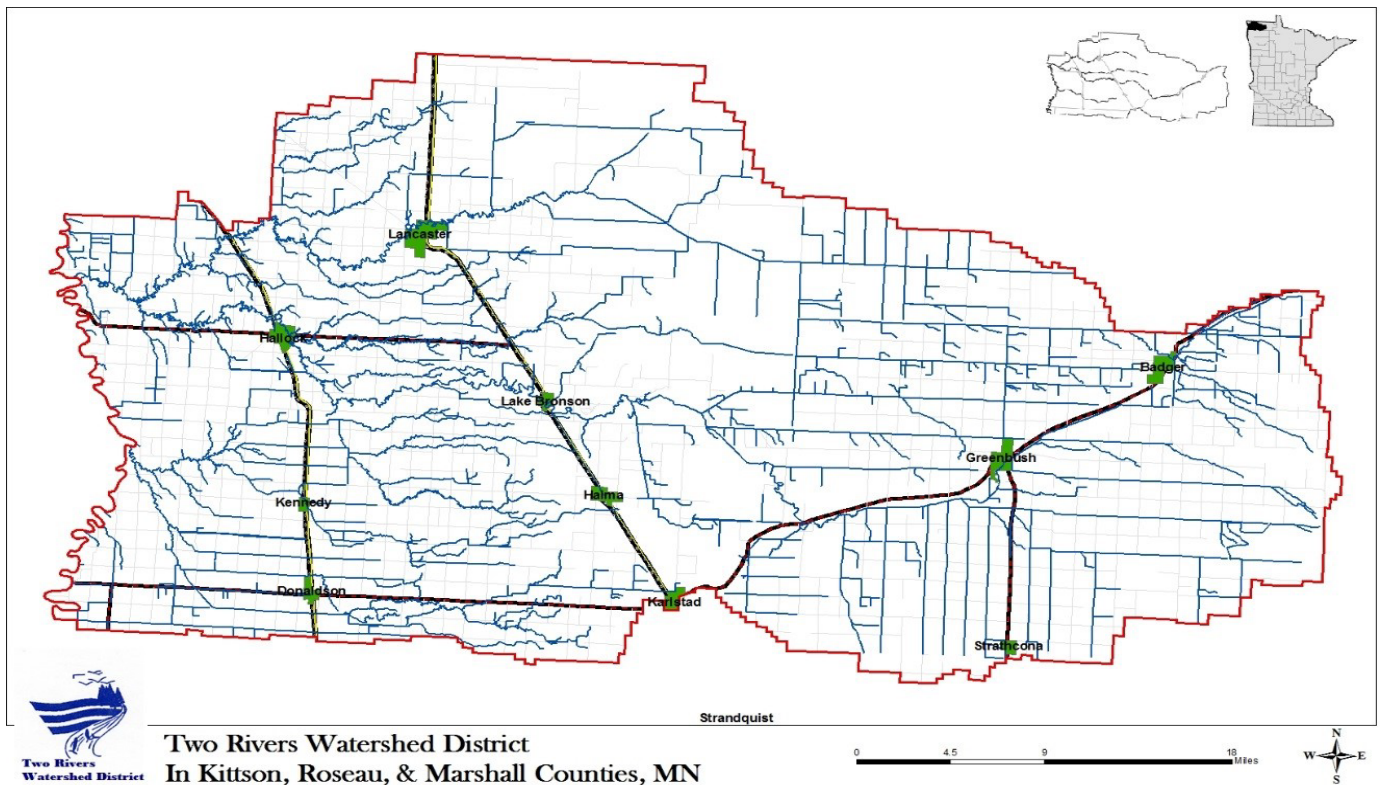
The Two River Watershed District (TRWD) was established by order of the Minnesota Water Resources Board on October 30, 1957. It was the second watershed district to be organized within the State of Minnesota, and the first to write and approve an overall plan. The TRWD is located northwest Minnesota in much of Kittson County, the western 1/3 of Roseau County, and extreme northwestern Marshall County.

The land area of the TRWD encompasses 1,454 square miles. The boundary does not follow political boundaries, rather it follows drainage boundaries. The TRWD stretches 65 miles from the Red River on the western boundary to the eastern boundary located between the cities of Badger & Roseau. At its widest north-south point, the TRWD stretches 33 miles. It is bordered to the north-west by the Joe River Watershed District; the north by the Province of Manitoba, Canada; the east by the Roseau River Watershed District; the south by the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District; and to the west by the Red River of the North, which is also the boundary with North Dakota.

The Two Rivers actually consists of three branches – the North, Middle and South Branch. The South Branch arises southeast of Badger, Minnesota and flows in a westerly direction along the south side of MN Highway 11 and provides drainage for the cities of Badger, Greenbush, Lake Bronson, and Hallock. The Middle Branch drainage area begins east of the Kittson & Roseau County line, travels through the central portion of Kittson County, and outlets into the South Branch just east of the city of Hallock. The North Branch drainage area begins in northwestern Roseau County, travels through Lancaster and Northcote, and joins the South Branch to form the main stem three miles east of its outlet into the Red River.

The southwest portion of the TRWD is a 360 square mile stand-alone drainage system that was added to the TRWD in the mid 1980’s. This drainage system is comprised of a series of coulees which outlet into legal drainage systems. These legal drainage systems then outlet into

a series of coulee systems, which then outlet into the Red River at a point 10 miles south of the outlet of the Two Rivers.



Governance

The TRWD Board of Managers is made up of 7 people who are appointed by their respective county commission. 5 members are from Kittson County, and 2 members are from Roseau County. They operate under MN Statute 103D, known as the 'watershed law'.

The District Technical and Citizen's Advisory Committees are made up of concerned citizens, appointed officials, and representatives of governmental agencies that in some way work with or affect the water resources of the TRWD. These committees meet at least once per year to provide input and guidance to the Board of Managers regarding District programs and activities.

The TRWD is a member district of the Red River Watershed Management Board, which was established in 1976 by the MN Legislature. The RRWMB is made up of 7 watershed districts within the Minnesota side of the Red River basin. Its mission is to "institute, coordinate, and finance projects and programs to alleviate flooding and assure the beneficial use of water in the watershed of the Red River of the North and its tributaries". Through the RRWMB, the TRWD is affiliated with the Red River Flood Damage Reduction Work Group, the Red River Retention Authority, and the Red River Basin Commission. The TRWD is also a member of MN Watersheds, which is the statewide association of watershed districts.

Since its inception, the Board of Managers have established numerous policies regarding various management issues. Many of these relate to permits issued under the *Rules of the Two Rivers Watershed District*, and others relate to general activities of the TRWD. The TRWD follows its stated policies whenever possible and uses discretion when applying these policies.

Manager & Staff Roster 2025

Board Members	Title	Phone	Email	Address	County	Term Ends
Rick Sikorski	President	218-782-2783		30825 110th Ave Lancaster, MN 56735	Roseau	10/31/2027
Roger Anderson	Vice President	218-455-6269		1561 110th Street Drayton, ND 58225	Kittson	10/31/2027
Daryl Klegstad	Secretary	218-265-2073		4151 210th Street Halma, MN 56729	Kittson	10/31/2025
Gerald Olsonawski	Treasurer	218-843-8094		P.O. Box 293 Hallock, MN 56728	Kittson	10/31/2025
Bruce Anderson	Manager	218-782-3147		18960 170th Ave Greenbush, MN 56726	Roseau	10/31/2026
Scott Klein	Manager	218-843-2752		1946 200th Street Hallock, MN 56728	Kittson	10/31/2026
Mark Langehaug	Manager	218-754-2042		2423 360th Ave Lake Bronson, MN 56734	Kittson	10/31/2027
Staff Members						
Dan Money	Administrator	218-843-3333	dan.money@tworiverswd.com	410 S. 5th Street, Suite 112, Hallock, MN 56728		
Tyler Coffield	Technician	218-843-3333	tyler.coffield@tworiverswd.com	410 S. 5th Street, Suite 112, Hallock, MN 56728		
Kimberly Soberaski	Administrative Assistant	218-843-3333	Ksoberaski@tworiverswd.com	410 S. 5th Street, Suite 112, Hallock, MN 56728		
Consultants						
Jeff Hane	Attorney	218-843-3686		Brink Lawyers Hallock, MN		
Jacob Huwe	Engineer	218-681-6100		HDR Engineering Thief River Falls, MN		
Tony Nordby	Engineer	218-681-2951		Houston Engineering Thief River Falls, MN		



Board & Staff: Front Row – Jerry Olsonawski, Rick Sikorski, Roger Anderson. Back Row – Tyler Coffield (Technician), Scott Klein, Bruce Anderson, Mark Langehaug, Daryl Klegstad, Dan Money (Administrator)

Meetings

The Board of Managers of the Two Rivers Watershed District generally held meetings on the first Thursday of each month in 2025. The Annual Meeting was held in January 2025. Special meetings were held from time to time at the discretion of the Board. All meetings of the TRWD are held in accordance with the MN Open Meeting Law. Meeting minutes are posted on the TRWD's website: www.tworiverswd.com.

Existing & Completed Projects: – Authorized under MN Statute 103D

The following are established and proposed projects of the Two Rivers Watershed District. They were built under Minnesota Statute 103D for various purposes including flood control, erosion control, water quality benefits, wildlife enhancement, and drainage for cropland. Each is inspected annually and operated and maintained by the TRWD.

Detailed information regarding each project is on file at the TRWD office. Interested individuals can obtain copies of all project information upon request.

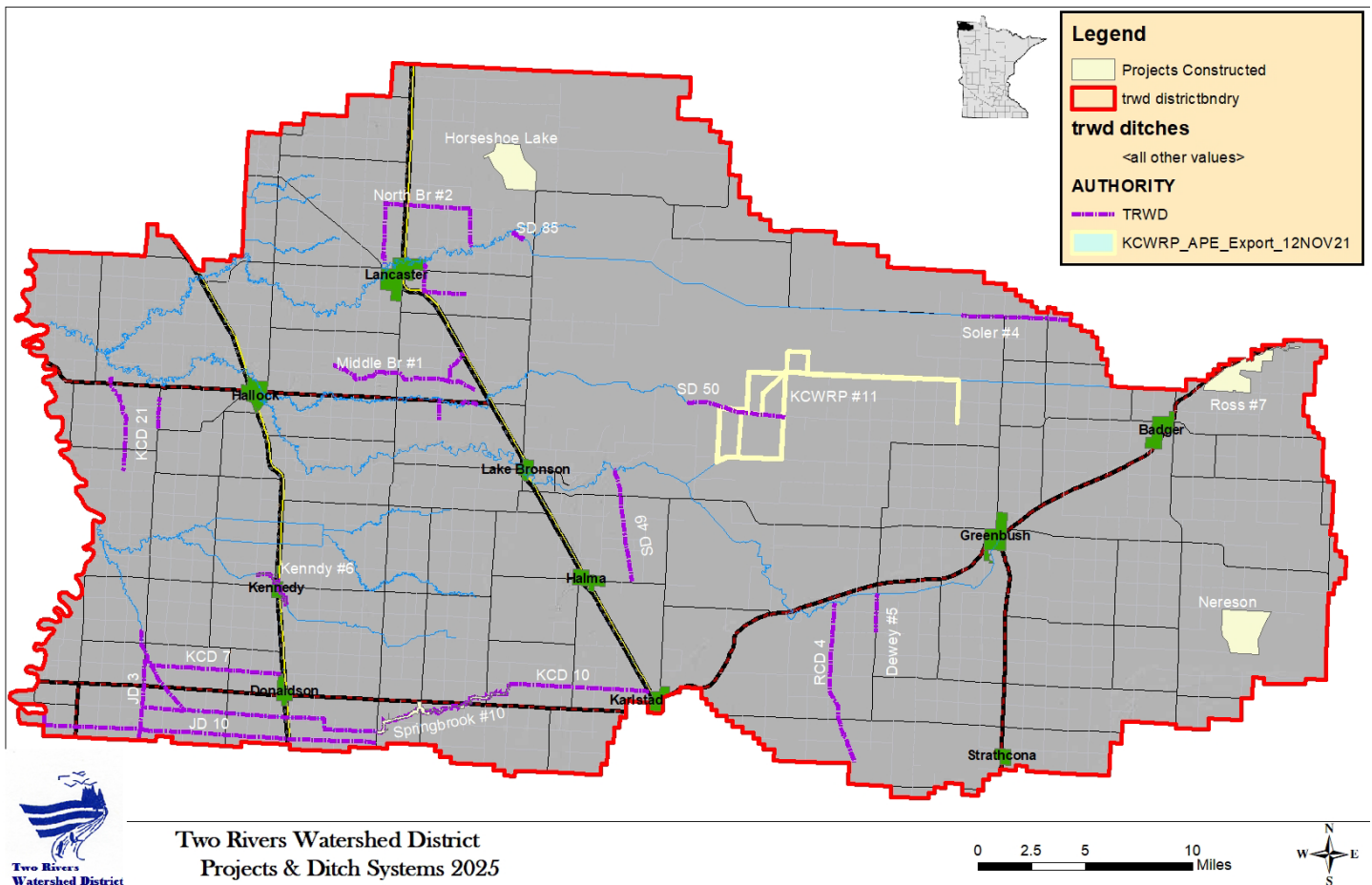
Project Name	Description	Location	Established	Status
Middle Branch Project #1	9.0 mile channel improvement	Thompson & Hazelton Townships, Kittson Co	1968; PL 566	Yearly Inspection & Maintenance
North Branch Project #2	11.8 mile channel improvement	Richardville, St. Joseph, Granville, & Poppleton Townships, Kittson Co.	1969; PL 566	Yearly Inspection & Maintenance
Soler Project #4	5 mile extension of State Ditch #72	Soler & Moose Townships, Roseau Co.	1979; Petition Project	Yearly Inspection & Maintenance
Dewey Project #5	1.8 mile lateral to State Ditch #91	Sections 26 & 35 Dewey Township, Roseau Co.	1980; Petition Project	Yearly Inspection & Maintenance
Nereson Impoundment Project	Flood Control Impoundment	Sections 27-28 Nereson Township, Roseau Co	1981; Board Initiated	Yearly Inspection & Maintenance
Nereson Modification Project	Flood Control Impoundment	Sections 33-34 Nereson Township, Roseau Co	2005; Board Initiated	Yearly Inspection & Maintenance
Dewey 5 Improvement Project	Improvement of Dewey #5 Ditch System	Sections 26 & 35 Dewey Township, Roseau Co	2002; Petition Project	Yearly Inspection & Maintenance
Horseshoe Lake Project	Drawdown Structure	Section 14, St. Joseph Township, Kittson Co	1968; Modified 2006; Jointly by Kittson Co, DNR, & TRWD	Yearly Inspection & Maintenance; Gate Operation
Kennedy Project #6	2.6 mile ditch to connect Kittson CD4 & CD27	City of Kennedy, MN	November 2009; Petition Project	Yearly Inspection & Maintenance
Ross Project #7	Flood Control Impoundment	Sections 26, 27, 28, 32, 33,34, Ross Township, Roseau Co	November 2007; Board Initiated	Yearly Inspection & Maintenance; Gate Operation
Springbrook PL566 Project #10	Set back dikes and Side water inlets along 8.65 miles of waterway	Springbrook Township sections 22,23,28,29,30; Davis Township sections 25,36	December 2013; Petition Project	Yearly Inspection & Maintenance

HORSESHOE (SKULL) LAKE DAM REPLACEMENT – The original outlet structure that was constructed in 1968 is past its expected life span. The structure was discovered to be failing in 2022 and the TRWD is working with the MN DNR to replace it with a new structure. HDR Engineering has prepared detailed plans and specifications for the new structure. Funding has been secured from FEMA, MN DNR, the Red River Watershed Management Board, and the Two Rivers WD. A contractor was hired and construction started in the fall of 2025. The project will be finished up in spring/summer 2026.

Ditch Systems:– Authorized under MN Statute 103E

The following ditches were established under MN Statute 103E, the ditch law. Most were originally established between 1900 and 1920. Under the statute ditches are either managed by a county or a watershed district. However, if a new ditch is being petitioned or being petitioned to be improved then the petition goes to the watershed district. The statute also provides a process whereby ditches can be turned over by a county to a watershed district. Therefore the ditches listed below are under the jurisdiction of the TRWD.

Legal Ditches Statute 103E	Length (Miles)	Township(s); County	2025 Levy
State Ditch #49	5.25	Norway; Kittson Co	\$ 5,000
State Ditch #50	4.5	Klondike; Kittson Co.	\$ 1,500
State Ditch #85 Improvement	0.75	Poppleton; Kittson Co	\$ 0
Judicial Ditch #3	5.5	Teien; Kittson Co	\$ 0
Judicial Ditch #10	31	Davis, Svea, Teien, Kittson Co	\$ 15,300
Roseau CD #4	7.5	Lind, Dewey; Roseau Co	\$ 25,000
Kittson CD #7	6.5	Svea; Kittson Co	\$ 0
Kittson CD #10	7.0	Deerwood; Kittson Co	\$ 5,000
Kittson CD #21 & KCD 21 Improvement	6.5	Hallock, Kittson Co	\$ 40,000



These systems are inspected annually and each system is surveyed a minimum of once every 5 years to assess any changes from erosion or sedimentation. Maintenance activities are undertaken if deemed necessary. These activities include beaver dam removal and beaver trapping, spraying of cattail and other nuisance vegetation, removal of silt and sediment, repair of sloughed side slopes or eroded culverts, and other items as needed. Detailed maintenance reports are kept and filed each year in the ditch file.

The TRWD, as the ditch authority for these ditches, is also responsible for maintaining a ditch fund to pay for maintenance expenses. Each year the TRWD assesses the needs of each ditch, and a tax is levied against the “benefited area” of each ditch, if necessary, and if the funding is needed. Each year the District certifies this levy to the County Auditor of the County where the ditch is located. The ditch levies shown in the table for 2026 were determined in September 2025 and certified to the county auditors to be collected in 2026.

Two petitions for improvement of ditches have been received:

- Kittson County Ditch #7 – a petition was received from landowners and engineer Blake Carlson of Widseth was appointed to prepare and submit a preliminary survey report. A public hearing was held and the Board of Managers accepted the report, directed Carlson to prepare a final survey report, and appointed Viewers to determine the benefits. Once the Engineer’s Final Report and the Viewer’s Report were submitted subsequent public hearings were held. At the final hearing held on 11/6/25, the Board of Managers made findings of fact and an order to dismiss the petition and not build the proposed project.
- Kittson County Ditch #13 – a petition was received from landowners and engineer Erik Jones of Houston Engineering was appointed by the Board of Managers to prepare and submit a preliminary survey report. The preliminary hearing was held and the Board of Managers directed new engineer Tony Nordby of Houston Engineering to proceed with a final Engineer’s Report. This was filed in 2025. The Board also appointed the firm H2Overviewers to prepare a viewer’s report, which is currently an ongoing process. Once the viewer’s report is filed a final hearing will be scheduled regarding the project.

OTHER PROJECTS

Past Projects:

Quick Habitat Project:

A large FDR / NRE project was undertaken in 2018 that restored approximately 1,500 acre to a wetland-upland complex. This area was in farmland, and the TRWD was able to negotiate with the former landowner to enroll the area into the NRCS’s ‘Wetland Reserve Program’ in a 30 year easement. The TRWD performed the wetland restoration work required through the NRCS and purchased the land. The area is currently functioning as wetland-upland to 1) store excess floodwater, 2) provide wetland functions and values, 3) created wildlife habitat. Future management options for this land once the 30 year easement expires will be at the discretion of

the Board of Managers.

County Road #61

The project listed below was a constructed project in 2008 that utilized federal, state, and local funding. It was coordinated with assistance and coordination of the TRWD but is not an official project of the TRWD. Therefore, future maintenance is the responsibility of the landowners along its course.

Springbrook / CR 61	3.75 mile meandering channel & set back dikes – flood control	Sections 3,5,6 Springbrook & Sect. 1 Davis Twp, Kittson Co	August, 2008	Maintenance responsibility of landowners
---------------------	---	--	--------------	--

FARMSTEAD RING DIKES

After the historic flood of 1997, the District participated in a cost share program with the State of Minnesota and the Red River Watershed Management Board to design and install farmstead ring dikes. The dikes were designed and engineered by the TRWD and installed by local contractors. The landowner generally paid 12.5% of the cost, the state paid 75%, and 12.5% was paid by the RRWMB/TRWD. Using this program, 25 farmstead ring dikes were built between 1997 and 2012. Operation and maintenance of these ring dikes are the responsibility of the landowner.

Future Projects:

KLONDIKE CLEAN WATER RETENTION PROJECT #11 – This multipurpose impoundment is planned to provide up to 35,000 acre feet of storage, create an adequate drainage outlet for Lateral 1 of State Ditch 95, store floodwater that overflows from the Roseau River into the Two Rivers, reduce damages to public and private infrastructure, improve aquatic habitat, protect a prairie rich fen, and provide water quality benefits to Lake Bronson, the Middle and South Branches of the Two Rivers and the Red River of the North.

Detailed engineering plans have been completed, land acquisition and right of way easements have been acquired, permitting is nearly completed, and partial funding has been approved. The TRWD currently is working to secure final permits and additional funding. Construction is slated to begin in as soon as possible. Additional project information including project fact sheets can be found at www.tworiverswd.com/Klondike.html

JUNEBERRY PROJECT WORK TEAM (JPWT) – Historically flooding impacts happen when the Roseau River overflows into the Two Rivers, typically in larger runoff events. This unique work group is made up of representatives of Kittson County, Roseau County, Roseau River Watershed District, TRWD, DNR, BWSR, MPCA, and local landowners. The JPWT is working to find viable solutions to mitigate this flooding, reduce damages, and provide natural resources benefits.

LAKE BRONSON SEDIMENT PROJECT WORK TEAM (LBSPWT) – A group of cabin owners on Lake Bronson approached the TRWD with the problem they have been witnessing of sediment entering the lake from upstream sources and causing water quality degradation, reduced navigation, habitat issues, and economic issues. The LBSPWT consists of the cabin owners, DNR, MPCA, and TRWD and is in the process of looking at the feasibility of removing sediment from the lake to provide a long-term solution to these issues.

New studies may be brought forth by citizens, landowners, organizations, or local or state

governments. A process to discuss water management issues, identify problems, look at solution alternatives, and come to agreement on a preferred project is known as the mediation agreement. Through this process, Project Work Teams can be appointed by the TRWD Board of Managers and financial, facilitation and technical resources are available to help. These project teams are organized periodically when issues are brought to the Board.

EROSION CONTROL COST SHARE PROGRAM – Since 2023, the TRWD has partnered with the Two Rivers Plus planning group (consisting of Kittson and Roseau SWCD's and Kittson and Roseau Counties) to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners to help address problem areas that are eroding. This partnership aims to improve water quality to reduce erosion, sedimentation and nutrient loading of watercourses. Through this program up to 87.5% of the cost of a project is provided to landowners, who then pay the final 12.5% of the cost. Site inspection, engineering and project plans and designs are provided and funding also pays for construction. In 2025 three projects totaling over \$109,000 were approved. Since inception there have been 11 projects identified at a cost of over \$533,000.

Programs

2025 Monitoring – Data Collection – Staff Activities

Surveys:

- ✓ Completed 10 miles of project and ditch surveys
- ✓ Surveyed several erosion damage areas to ditch systems for repair plans
- ✓ Completed several surveys for private individuals

Stream Flow – Flood Fighting:

- ✓ Erect staff gages & maintenance of existing gages
- ✓ Monitor several sites for high flow occurrences daily during runoff events (March through October); survey water elevations during flood events
- ✓ Analyze results & prepare annual stream flow report for distribution
- ✓ Establish rating curves for all stations @ high flow
- ✓ Prepare and distribute daily reports during flooding events – report to NWS, DNR, Others; collaborate with Lake Bronson dam operators
- ✓ Eventually develop rating curves for all flows, including low flow periods

Water Quality Monitoring

- ✓ Collect water samples at 10 locations throughout the TRWD
- ✓ Monitor on site water temperature, depth, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, ph, transparency, and physical characteristics
- ✓ Send samples to lab for analysis of nitrogen, phosphorous, E. Coli, chloride, total suspended solids, and nitrate
- ✓ Enter all data into spreadsheet database for analysis

Operations & Maintenance:

- ✓ Annual inspection & tour of Nereson Impoundment with DNR & Roseau Co.; Coordinate operation with DNR during flood events

- ✓ Annual inspection of Ross 7 Impoundment; operation during flood events
- ✓ Annual inspection of Skull/Horseshoe Lake with DNR & Kittson Co.; coordination with DNR for structure repair/replacement

Permits:

- ✓ The Rules of the Two Rivers Watershed District were enacted in 1981, and under these rules, a permit from the TRWD is generally required for any project that alters the flow of water or has the potential to alter the flow of water. This includes but is not limited to ditches, dikes, tile, culverts bridges, diversions and water appropriation.
- ✓ Process & inspect all permit applications as necessary – 39 in 2025
- ✓ Respond to and follow up on permit inquiries, violations and complaints
- ✓ Work on tile policies, issues, and permit procedures

Geographic Information System (GIS)

- ✓ All monitoring data that is collected is entered into ArcMap, the District's computer mapping and data program.

Education & Information:

- ✓ Participate in Envirothon event for high school students
- ✓ Continue to coordinate with the Soil and Water Conservation District to publish two editions of the ***Northland Conservation News*** newsletter each year
- ✓ Booth @ Crop Improvement Day, Speak @ Association of Townships
- ✓ News releases, fact sheets, and informational meetings as necessary

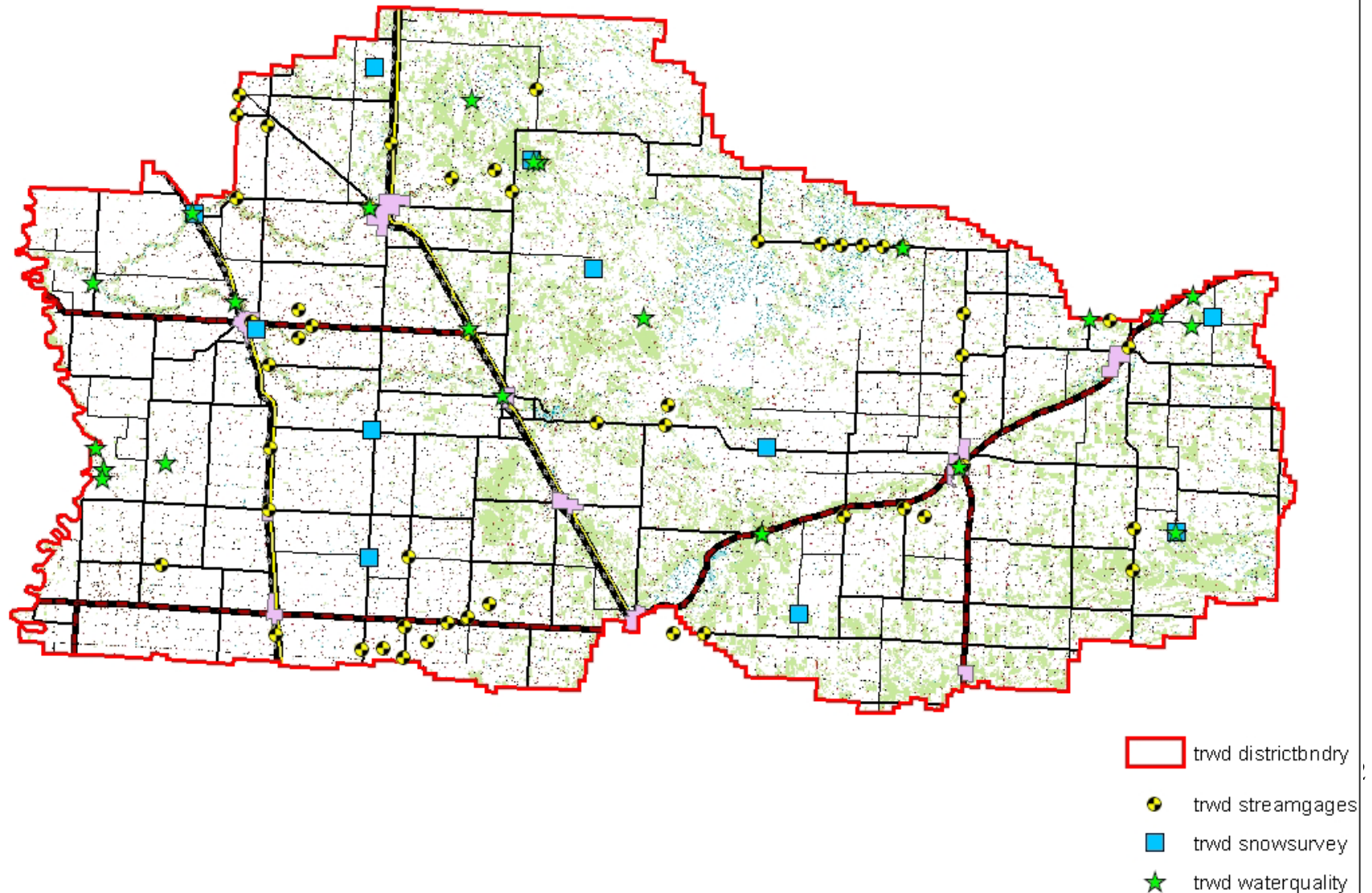
Miscellaneous Administrative:

- ✓ Prepare & distribute Annual Report & Audit as required by law
- ✓ Enter & track all financial data using Quickbooks computer program
- ✓ Prepare meeting notices, record & distribute meeting minutes, prepare agendas, etc.
- ✓ Daily office duties including handling phone calls & walk ins, preparing & sending letters, soliciting & administering program funding, grant writing, program coordination, plan writing, and attending RRWMB, FDRWG & MSTC meetings
- ✓ Coordinate staff activities between the District Administrator & District Technician
- ✓ Farm Lease Agreements & administration of District owned land
- ✓ Seek funding through legislature, state and federal agencies for projects and programs

Other Activities as Determined by TRWD Board of Managers

Two River Watershed District

Monitoring Stations



Two Rivers Watershed District 2025 Flood Control & Ditch Projects:

Ditch Projects & Legal Ditches: The following systems under TRWD jurisdiction are annually inspected for blockages, damages, beavers, etc. and maintenance is scheduled accordingly. Spraying was accomplished to remove excessive brush and cattail growth on numerous systems.

- 112 miles of ditch are under TRWD authority / jurisdiction as listed below.

- **North Branch #1 – 11.8 mi:** Visual inspection & regular maintenance; surveyed – several beavers trapped and beaver dams were removed
- **Middle Branch #2 – 9.0 mi:** Visual inspection & regular maintenance
- **Soler #4 – 5.0 mi:** Visual inspection & regular maintenance
- **Dewey #5 & Improvement – 1.8 mi:** Visual inspection & regular maintenance; surveyed
- **Kennedy #6 – 2.6 mi:** Visual inspection & regular maintenance; surveyed & identified damages, beavers were trapped and dams removed
- **Springbrook #10 PL566 – 8.65 mi:** Visual inspection and regular maintenance; sprayed vegetation, beavers trapped and dams removed
- **Roseau CD #4 – 7.8 mi:** Visual inspection & regular maintenance;
- **Kittson CD #7 - 6.2 mi:** Visual inspection and regular maintenance; hearings were held regarding a petition received for improvement of the ditch
- **Kittson CD #10 - 6.5 mi:** Visual inspection and regular maintenance; beavers trapped and dams removed
- **Kittson CD#13 improvement:** Petition received, appointed engineer, surveyed, appointed viewers, meetings held
- **Kittson CD 21 & Diversion 1 Improvement – 6.4 mi:** Visual inspection and regular maintenance;
- **Judicial Ditch #3- 5.3 mi:** Visual inspection and regular maintenance; surveyed
- **Judicial Ditch #10 – 30.1 mi:** Visual inspections & regular maintenance; beavers trapped and dams removed; surveyed portions of the ditch
- **State Ditch #49 – 5.1 mi:** Visual inspection & regular maintenance; beavers trapped and dams removed
- **State Ditch #50 – 4.65 mi:** Visual inspection & regular maintenance; beavers trapped and dams removed
- **State Ditch #85 Improvement – 0.7 mi:** Visual inspection & regular maintenance

Impoundment Projects: The following flood control projects, under the TRWD jurisdiction, were worked on as listed below.

Nereson:

- ✓ Work with DNR to operate as necessary as per Operating Plan
- ✓ Annual inspection & maintenance
- ✓ Held meetings with township officials, county, & DNR

Ross #7:

- ✓ Operation as necessary as per Operating Plan during flooding
- ✓ Annual inspection & maintenance
- ✓ Management of Farm Lease Agreements

Skull / Horseshoe Lake:

- ✓ Annual inspection and maintenance
- ✓ Hired contractor to replace the old water control structure with a new one

KCWRP#11:

- ✓ Engineering design and construction plans were finalized
- ✓ Permits (USACE, WCA, EAW, SHPO, DNR, etc)
- ✓ Solicit Funding – LSOHC, Legislature, RRWMB, other
- ✓ Land management - maintenance

Other Items As Needed and Directed!!!

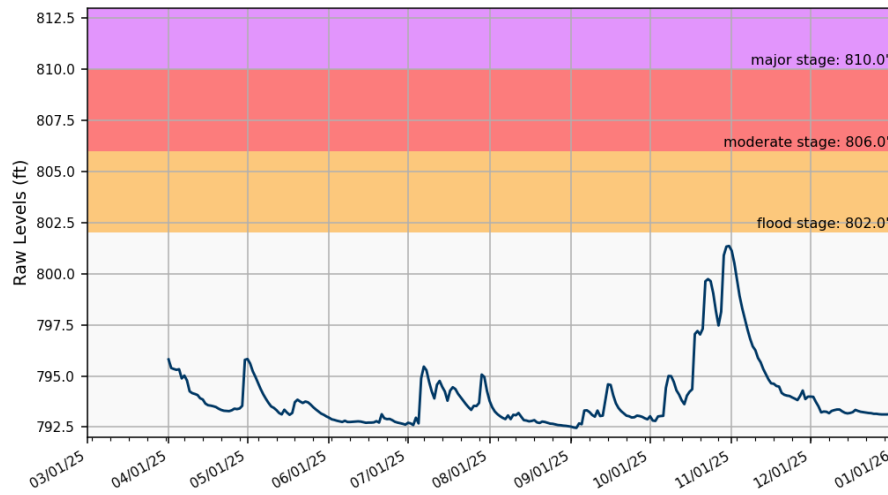
- Survey, stream flow and water quality data collection during the spring flooding
- Performed numerous private surveys for landowners

Water Year Summary

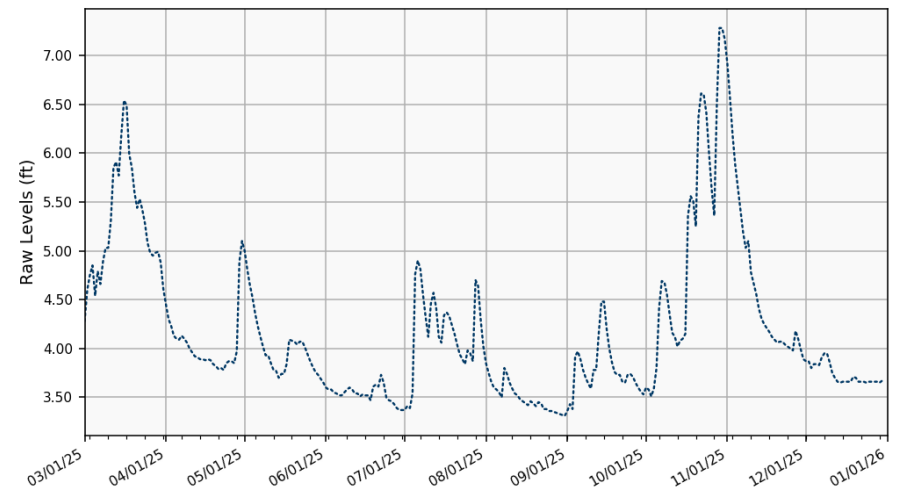
The following hydrographs show two locations on the South Branch Two Rivers, one on the North Branch Two Rivers, and one on Lateral 1 of State Ditch #95 for the period of March through December 2025.

As indicated by these graphs, spring runoff was nominal in the Watershed District. Water levels recorded at all locations were below flood stage. Moderate drought conditions were present in the early spring and persisted through most of the summer months. This changed in October when some areas received up to 8" of rainfall and drought conditions were erased. Minor flooding occurred in some areas of the District, most notably in the State Ditch #95 system. The US Drought monitor for May 6, 2025, showed moderate drought conditions for most of the Two Rivers watershed, while the October 28, 2025, report showed no drought conditions for most of the Two Rivers watershed. This is also quantified by the hydrographs on the following page.

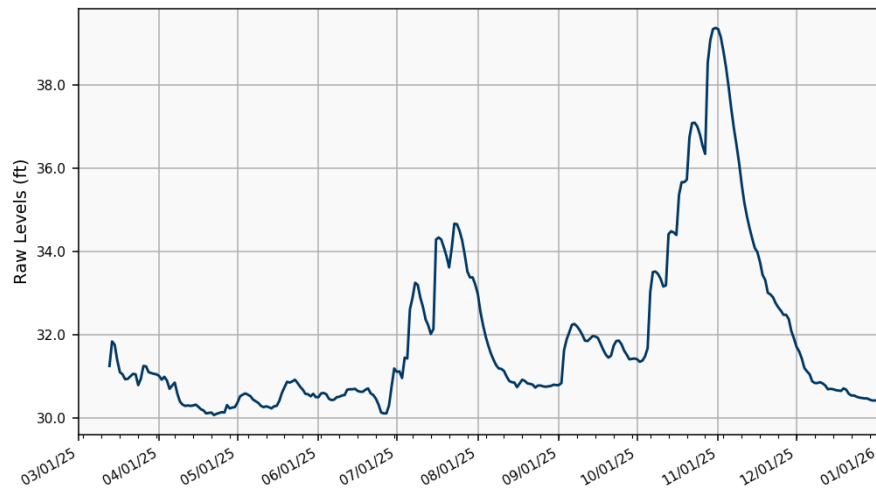
South Branch Two Rivers at Hallock, MN175 (70018001)
2025-03-01 to 2025-12-31



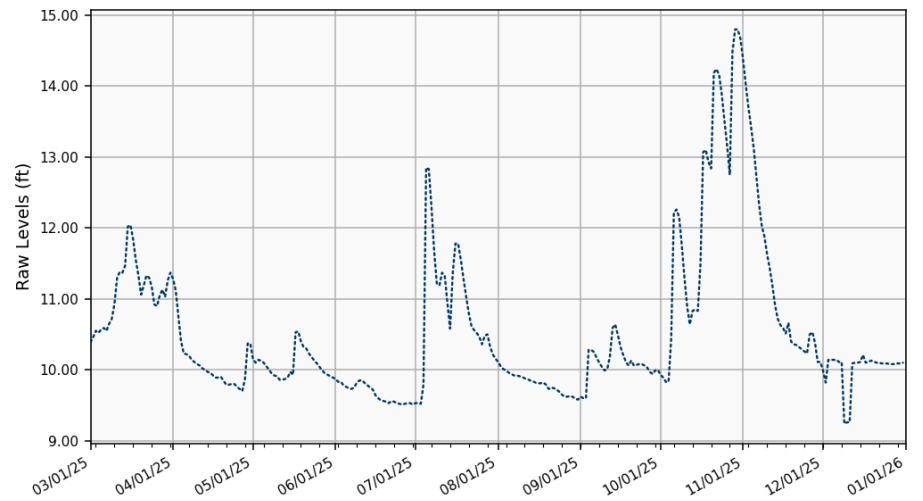
South Branch Two Rivers at Lake Bronson, MN (70033001)
2025-3-1 to 2025-12-31



North Branch Two Rivers nr Northcote, CSAH1 (70021002)
2025-3-1 to 2025-12-31

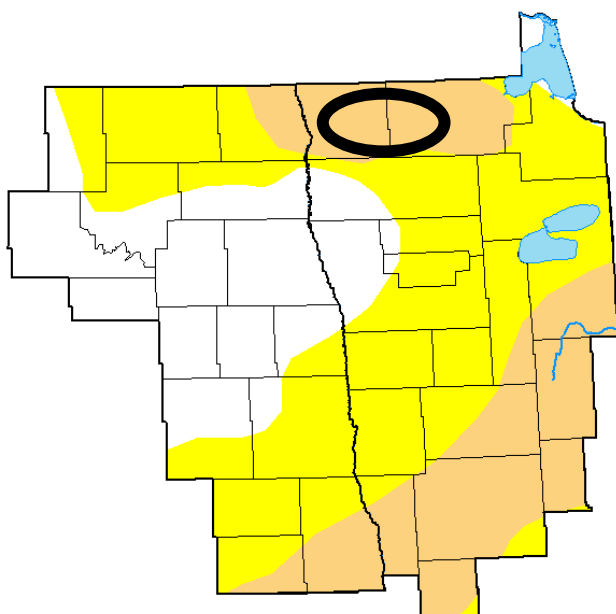


Kittson Roseau Lateral Ditch 1 of State Ditch 95 nr Pelan, 440th Ave (70046001)
2025-3-1 to 2025-12-31



U.S. Drought Monitor Grand Forks, ND WFO

May 6, 2025
(Released Thursday, May. 8, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	28.11	71.89	25.89	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 04-29-2025	28.06	71.94	25.89	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 02-04-2025	29.97	70.03	46.30	6.63	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	29.97	70.03	46.30	6.63	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	41.45	58.55	11.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 05-07-2024	44.72	55.28	25.25	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

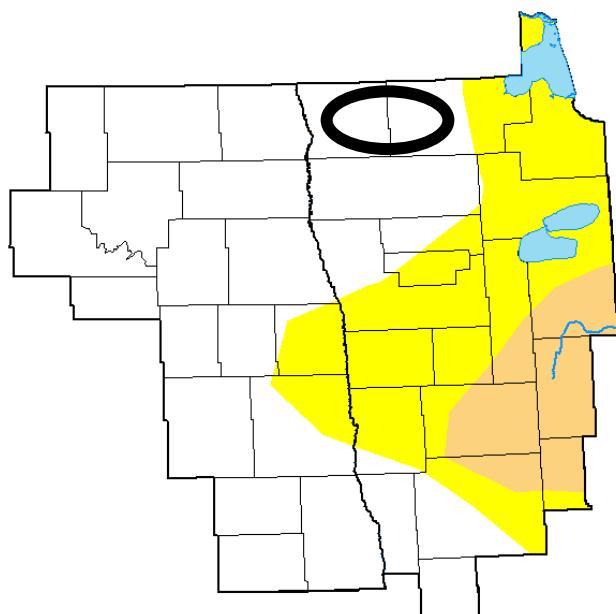
Brad Pugh
CPC/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor Grand Forks, ND WFO

October 28, 2025
(Released Thursday, Oct. 30, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	61.29	38.71	9.72	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 10-21-2025	61.29	38.71	9.72	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 07-29-2025	64.39	35.61	15.76	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	29.97	70.03	46.30	6.63	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	75.63	24.37	3.29	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 10-29-2024	18.79	81.21	51.56	26.54	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

2025 Budget Two Rivers Watershed District

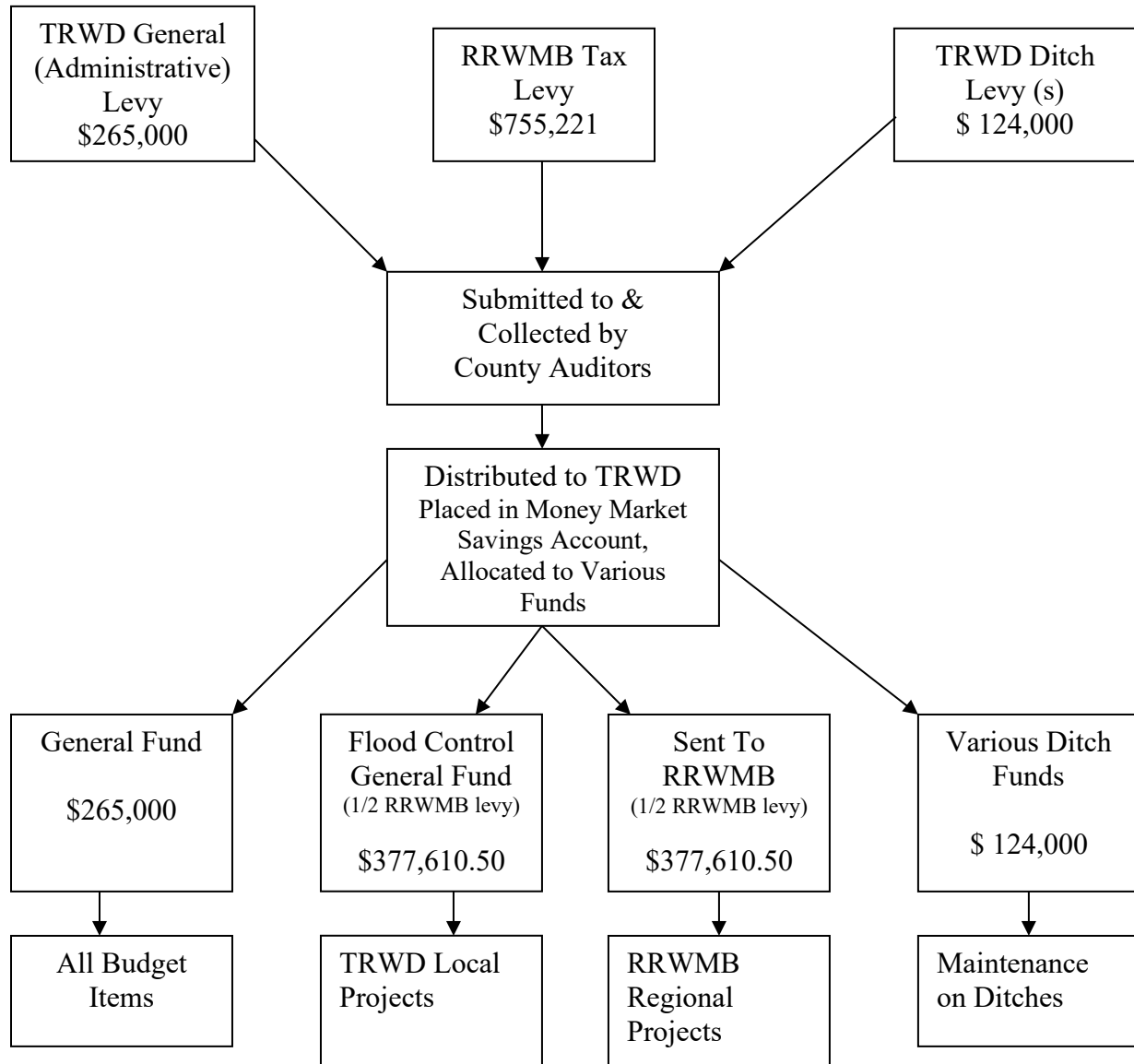
The following is the budget for 2025. This was approved following a budget hearing in September 2024 held by the Board of Managers as required by statute.

Administrative Budget	2025 Budget
Administrative	130,500
Auto Expense	3,500
Capital Outlay	15,000
Conferences & Meetings	7,000
Dues & Subscriptions	4,500
General Engineering	20,000
Information & Education	6,500
Insurance	5,500
Manager's Per Diem & Expense	15,000
Office Supplies & Miscellaneous	3,000
Payroll Expense	34,000
Postage & Delivery	1,000
Printing & Advertising	1,500
Professional & Legal	25,000
Rent	12,250
Stream Gage	3,000
Telephone	3,000
Water Quality	5,000
Totals	295,250

Following the hearing, the Board of Managers considered and approved the 2025 general fund ad valorem tax levy of \$265,000, to be levied over the taxable market value within the boundaries of the TRWD.

An additional ad valorem tax set under law by the Red River Watershed Management Board was ratified. For 2024 the Red River Watershed Management Board has certified their levy at 75% of the maximum amount which equals \$755,221 within the Two Rivers Watershed District. 2025 Ditch levies for all legal ditches under the jurisdiction of the TRWD were also considered and approved in the total amount of \$124,000 at the hearing.

The following diagram shows how the tax levies were collected for 2025 and where they were distributed.



2025 TRWD NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

TRWD Hires Administrative Assistant

Kimberly Soberaski joined the Two Rivers Watershed District on April 2nd, 2025, as a part time Administrative Assistant. She will be in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays. Soberaski grew up in Warroad, MN, and graduated from Concordia in Moorhead. She has lived in Hallock, MN, for about fifteen years, where she has been a stay at home mom and substitute teacher before joining the TRWD.

Among her duties, Soberaski will be assisting with bookkeeping, archiving historical watershed district and legal ditch files, assisting with public information, doing data entry and performing general office work. The Board of Managers welcomes her to our staff. If you happen to be in Hallock in the courthouse, stop by our office and say “hi”!

Another Busy Year for Inspection, Maintenance and Construction of Watershed District Projects

The Two Rivers Watershed District is responsible for operation and maintenance of 9 projects and 10 legal ditch systems. This constitutes over 110 linear miles of ditch system and 3 flood control impoundments that utilize inlet ditches, dikes, and outlet structures to store over 9,000 acre feet of floodwaters. Each impoundment has a detailed operating plan that guides how the gates are operated to store water during a flood and to release it after a flood.

As one would expect, there are plenty of construction, operation and maintenance activities that take place during the year. Here are some highlights over this past summer:



SD #49 was sprayed for brush

- ❖ **Ditch inspections were completed on over 90 miles of ditches**. As a result, over 36 miles were sprayed. Of the 36 miles, 18.5 were to remove unwanted cattails, and 17.5 were sprayed to remove brush.
- ❖ **15 beavers were trapped** in District ditches, and 11 beaver dams were removed.
- ❖ **30 miles of ditch were surveyed** to determine if there is any erosion or sedimentation and whether any cleanout or maintenance is required. These surveys will be drawn up and analyzed over the winter months. If cleaning/maintenance is necessary it will be completed in 2026.
- ❖ The **TRWD provided cost share funding** along with Kittson SWCD to assist landowners to install rock drop structures and side water inlets to repair eroded areas and prevent future erosion on two different projects.
- ❖ **A water quality monitoring program** continues to be implemented. The TRWD collects water samples at 10 sites on the Two Rivers and various ditch systems to be analyzed for nitrogen, phosphorous, dissolved oxygen, pH, water temperature, turbidity, E-coli and other parameters. This information helps to determine the health of the watershed.



- ❖ **A stream flow monitoring program** was also continued at 15 sites. When high flows and runoff are occurring, TRWD staff measure the depth, velocity and volume of water flowing at each of the sites. This information is provided to local, state and federal agencies to predict stream flows during flooding and to determine the baseline flow rates in the rivers and ditches from spring through fall. This information also is valuable in designing ditch systems and flood control projects. With several significant rainfall events in October, District staff have been busy!
- ❖ Two petitions for ditch improvements have been received by the TRWD, one on **Kittson Co. Ditch #7 and another on Kittson Co. Ditch #13**. The process to follow is guided by Minnesota's "Ditch Law". As such, the TRWD appointed an engineer for each project and also a team of 3 viewers to determine benefits and damages that the project would have on affected lands. The engineer's reports are completed for both. A viewer's report is completed for KCD 7, but has not yet been received for KCD 13. In following the process the next steps are to hold public hearings, collect input, and then the Board of Managers will deliberate the evidence and make final decisions on whether the projects will move forward to construction or not. Updates are provided on our website at www.tworiverswd.com

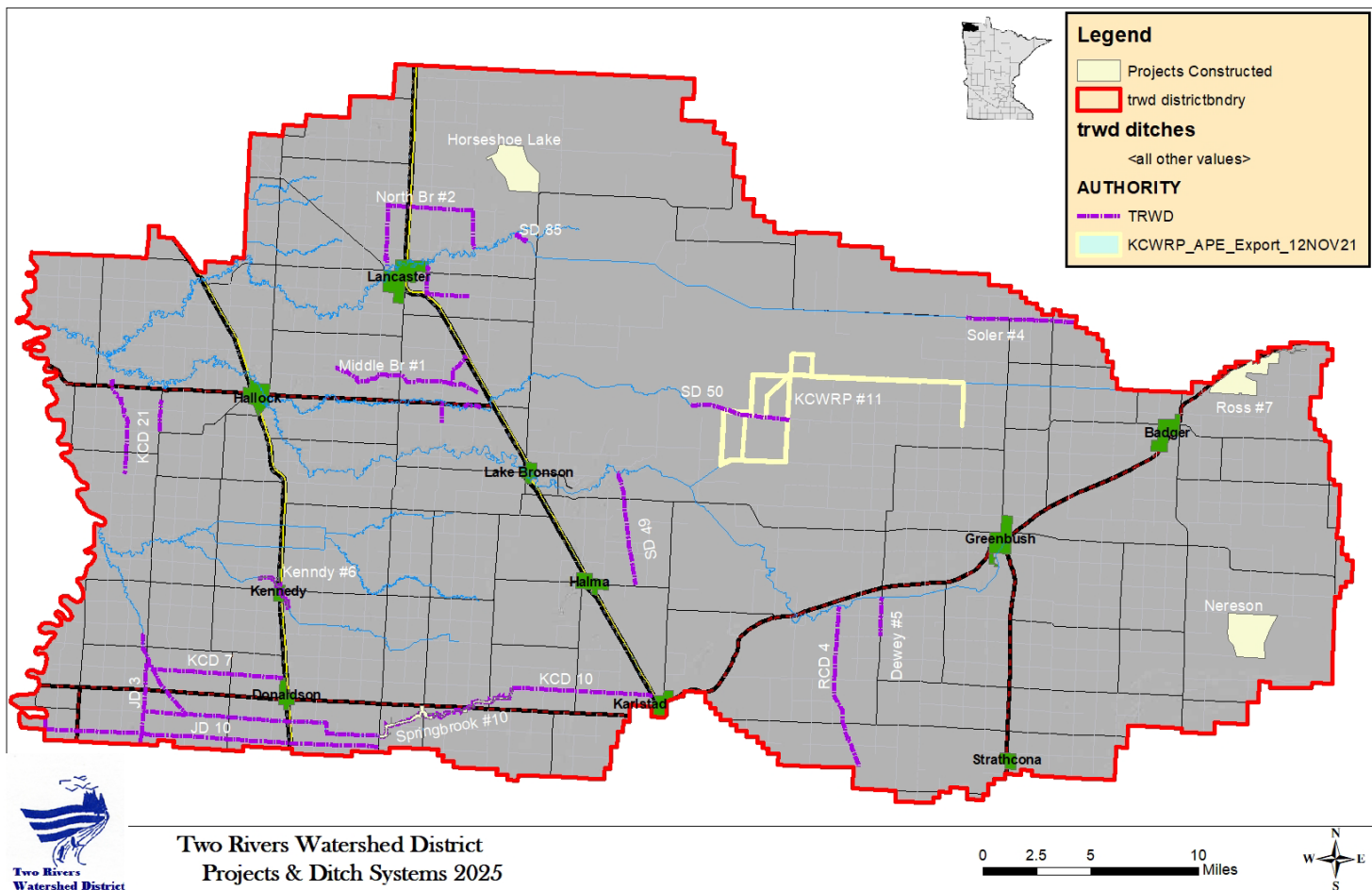
- ❖ **Construction is underway at Horseshoe Lake**, in the Skull Lake Wildlife Management Area located northeast of Lancaster, MN. The water control structure / dam that was installed in the late 1960's is beyond its expected 50 year lifespan. In 2022 the culvert through the dike was rusted out and bent and it was determined that failure was imminent. The DNR and TRWD together decided to replace the structure. HDR Engineering provided the project plans and specifications, and funding has been secured from the DNR, TRWD, Red River Watershed Management Board, and FEMA. Landwehr Construction from St. Cloud was awarded the contract, and they moved on site October 13th. Although recent rains have slowed the project, it is expected to be substantially completed by the end of October.



The Water Control Structure at Horseshoe Lake is currently under construction to be replaced

- ❖ **Construction is planned to begin on the Klondike Clean Water Retention Project** during the fall/winter 2025-2026. The project has been split into 4 phases: 1) planning and permitting, 2) Phase 1 construction, 3) Phase 2 construction, and 4) Phase 3 construction. Planning and permitting is nearly complete. To date all right of way has been secured, Phase 1 construction plans and specifications have been completed, 16 out of 17 required permits have been approved, and partial funding has been appropriated. Once the final permit is secured, a \$3 million portion of phase 1 construction will begin and consist of construction of two outlet structures, 1.5 miles of dike embankment, and associated ditching.

While some of the funding has been secured, additional funding is being sought from state and federal sources. Once phase 1 construction is completed, the project will be able to be operated during flooding events and will have capacity to store 15,250 acre feet of water (1 acre foot = 1 acre of land covered by water 1' deep). Phase 2 construction and phase 3 construction will add additional storage up to a grand total of 34,250 acre feet. In addition to significant flood damage reduction, the project will have natural resources benefits for fish and aquatic organisms and habitat, and economic benefits by reducing crop loss and damage to infrastructure.



❖ **Zebra Mussel Monitoring at Lake Bronson:**

- The TRWD is working with several local and state agencies to assess Lake Bronson for the further presence of zebra mussels. Shells were found last fall by DNR Park staff in areas where the lake had been drained. This fall the TRWD and DNR installed sampling equipment at 6 locations in areas of the lake that were not drained to determine if mussels are still present. The equipment will be pulled prior to freeze up and assessments will be made at that time on the presence of zebra mussels. Sampling will continue in spring 2026.

❖ **TRWD Watershed Management Plan Update:**

- The TRWD is in the process of updating its watershed management plan. This plan contains information regarding watershed management issues and provides goals, objectives and action items to address the issues that are identified. It also identifies watershed past, present and future watershed projects and focuses on flood damage reduction as well as natural resource enhancements in the core areas of drainage, flood control, water quality.
- The process is driven by MN Statute, and a public hearing will be held to solicit input and comments. The process is scheduled to proceed this fall / winter and be completed by spring 2026.

❖ **Ditch Improvement Projects:**

- The TRWD has received petitions to improve Kittson County Ditch #7 and also Kittson County Ditch #13. These projects have been surveyed and plans are being finalized. The benefitted area of both of these ditches is also being analyzed. Stay tuned for upcoming meetings and public hearings regarding these two drainage systems!