



Rice Soil and Water Conservation District

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Drainage Ditch Inspector's Report for 2011

2011 was another year of high activity on the ditches in Rice County. The first half of the year we received above normal precipitation, keeping the ditches very full of water and pointing out some of the weaknesses in them. During the remaining months, we saw record drought which allowed all the ditches to drain out, except where there were problems with sediment or dams. This gave an opportunity to see the sediment deposits in the ditches and identify what was needed. With the dry weather, I had numerous requests to clean ditches.

Progress was made on the redetermination of benefits process for CD 4 and CD 20. Each is now advancing towards completion. Terryjon Aviation was hired to spray about half of the ditch systems. I performed some spot spraying on many others.

The following is a summary of work done on drainage systems in Rice County for 2011:

Work done to specific systems

CD 4: Hired Loken Excavating to do a full ditch bottom cleanout and tree removal. The quality of work was below average. The upper end of the ditch may need additional cleanout work to bring into full capacity. This same area was also very wet at the time, and may be easier to work in with the ditch functioning better. Supported the ditch viewers in completing their assessment of the watershed.

CD 6: Spot spray and inspected. Hired Rud Construction to remove two bridge and culvert structures plus beaver dams near the end of the ditch. Reviewed records to determine past issues with cleanout requests. One landowner would like the upper end cleaned, but this may require an Army Corps of Engineer's permit.

JD 6: No activity.

CD 7: Inspected for needs. Ditch has some areas of bank sloughing and needs some stabilization and cleaning.

CD 9: Hired Rud Construction to clean ditch bottom from Hwy. 19 to Dalton Ave. Responded to landowner dispute over a culvert, inspected entire system and prioritized areas for cleaning and tree removal. I received several calls asking for work to be done.

CD 12: Inspected system and did some spot spraying.

CD 14: Inspected system and identified some areas needing work. Lined up a contractor for some ditch bottom cleanout but it has not been done yet. Also looked at briefly with Steve Penkava-JHS engineer for structural issues. Should follow up with landowners on the condition of the system.

CD 15: Worked with the landowners toward abandoning the ditch.

CD 20: Inspected, spot sprayed. Assisted viewers with redetermination of benefits process.

CD 22: Inspected and spot sprayed.

CD 23: Hired Glende Excavating to clean the ditch bottom from CR 27 to a culvert crossing on the property formerly owned by John Grimm. An area of trees was removed by Kevin Anonby and there is some disagreement about prior authorization and the cost of the removal. This issue has not been resolved yet.

CD25: Nearly all of the remaining ditch areas have been cleaned in 2011, and the remainder to be done in 2012. Replaced a failing water control structure at the outlet of Hatch Lake to allow for ditch bottom cleanout . Spot sprayed brush. A lot of coordination was necessary to implement all the work that was done on this system.

CD 26: Did some spot spraying and aerial spraying. Hired Loken Excavating to clean about 1 mile of ditch.

CD 29: Spot and aerial sprayed. Upper portion of ditch was cleaned out above CR 14 by Dahle Enterprises. This system is now in good condition and should require minimum levels of maintenance.

CD 30: Inspected most of the ditch for maintenance needs. Spot sprayed where needed. Hired B&B Excavating to remove trees on the lower end of the ditch.

CD 31: No activity.

CD 32: Repaired a culvert that was damaged by flooding. Spot sprayed brush.

Respectfully submitted,

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District Manager, Rice SWCD