



Rice Soil and Water Conservation District

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Drainage Ditch Inspector's Report for 2012

I am pleased to report the activities conducted on the public drainage systems in 2012. We began the year continuing with ditch bottom cleanouts that had started in late 2011 but continued into the New Year, as above normal temperatures and little to no snow allowed the work to continue. For most of the county, rainfall was well below normal, which translates to low water levels in the ditches, and continued ideal conditions for cleanouts this past fall and early winter. We hired Scott Aviation to spray some of the systems with a helicopter and spot spraying was completed on several systems as well. There is still a lot of work to do to get all the systems in good repair, but we are making steady progress.

The following is a summary of work done on drainage systems in Rice County for 2012:

Work done to specific systems

CD 4: Dahle Excavating spread some spoils at the Spitzack property, conducted aerial and ground spraying. Hired Rud Construction to level upper end of ditch. Seeded ditch banks and spoils areas disturbed.

CD 6: Removed one beaver dam-Rud Construction. Investigated potential for cleanout on upper end of system.

JD 6: Spot sprayed, inspected. One landowner in violation of buffer strip requirement. Enforcement letter sent.

CD 7: Removed 4 beaver dams-Kevin Bakken. Part of system is in need of cleanout and bank stabilization.

CD 9: Completed tree removal and ditch cleanouts on two sections of ditch-Rud Construction. Sprayed system for brush control.

CD 12: Inspected system and did some spot spraying. Cleaned ditch and trees on approximately three miles of upper ditch-Rud Construction.

CD 13A: Cleared trees and performed a ditch bottom cleanout-Rud Construction.

CD 14: Cleaned lower end of ditch-Marv Duetsch and reseeded disturbed areas. Spot sprayed.

CD 15: Completed partial abandonment, spot sprayed.

CD 17: Hired Braith Excavation to repair two tile breaks. Hired Badger Excavating to replace 500 ft of tile.

CD 19: Inspected for needs and found system to be in working order.

CD 20: Inspected, spot sprayed.

CD 22: Inspected and spot sprayed.

CD 23: Cleaned two sections of ditch-Glende Excavation.

CD25: Removed one beaver dam. Seeded ditch spoils and banks. Monitored new structure at Hatch Lake outlet. Structure needs repair.

CD 26: Spot sprayed and aerial sprayed.

CD 29: Spot sprayed.

CD 30: Cleared trees and brush on a portion of the system. Sprayed for brush control.

CD 31: Lined up cleanout of entire system. Held a public meeting. Hired Rud Construction to clean ditch bottom. System has some culverts that need replacement soon. Some Webster residents seeking a new lateral through town.

CD 32: Hired Malecha Tiling to clean a portion of ditch. Hired Rud Construction to clean a portion of ditch. Spot sprayed.

CD 33: Hired Rud Construction to clean 3800 ft of ditch bottom and remove trees.

Two systems, CD 4 and CD 20, completed the redetermination of benefits process during 2012. Landowners along the ditch are now required to install a one rod grass strip in the spring of 2013. As inspector, I will assist with identifying the areas needing grass, and if need be, hire the work to be done and assess the cost back to the landowner.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven R. Pahs
District Manager, Rice SWCD