



Rice Soil and Water Conservation District

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Drainage Ditch Inspector's Report for 2013

It is my pleasure to report the activities conducted on Rice County public ditch systems in 2013. Over the past four years, with the support of the drainage authority, I have taken an aggressive approach to the maintenance of our ditch systems. Many systems were in need of sediment removal, and several ditches were choked with tree growth. While there is still some work to do, we have made great strides at bringing our ditches into good repair. 2013 was a continuation of those efforts. The drainage authority has also placed an emphasis on conducting redetermination of benefits on drainage systems. Two systems were completed and had buffer strips established in 2013. Aerial spraying was not performed in 2013 due to difficulty in hiring a contractor to perform the service. I was able to treat many systems using the ATV sprayer.

Below are specific activities that took place on drainage systems. In addition to the work listed, most systems also require regular communication with landowners on various concerns they have about their ditch.

Work done to specific systems

CD 4: Assisted with the establishment of the grass buffer strips. Will monitor to make sure the grass is successful. Spot sprayed for brush control.

CD 6: Surveyed ditch profile from French Lake to Co. Rd. 37 as part of a request to the Army Corps of Engineers for a ditch bottom cleanout.

JD 6: Followed up on re-establishing grassed buffer on Lageson property. Cleaned one mile of ditch. Repaired a side inlet structure. Spot sprayed for brush control. Completed inspection of entire system and recommended a full system cleanout.

CD 7: Spot sprayed lower end for brush control. Ditch is in need of maintenance.

CD 9: Hired Braith Excavating for tree removal on Branch B. JHS surveyed and designed a proposal to repair Branch B, and a landowner meeting was held to discuss the project. JHS also reviewed the lower end of the ditch to determine feasibility of doing a clean-out on that portion. Sprayed system for brush control.

CD 11A: Spot sprayed brush. Followed-up on complaint regarding ditch benefits.

CD 12: Inspected system and did some spot spraying. Sediment removal has been requested by a landowner on the bottom end.

CD 13A: Spot sprayed for brush control. Seeded ditch banks and hired Ben Voegele to re-establish a survey marker damaged during last year's ditch clean-out project.

CD 14: Cleaned a stretch of the lower end of ditch and part of Spur 1, including some tree removal. Surveyed Spur 1 and developed a concept plan to repair the spur. Landowner meetings held. Removed sediment accumulations near the Simon property. Received a request for clean-out of Spur 1. JHS hired to design Spur 1 repair.

CD 15: Inspected the open ditch and sprayed brush.

CD 17: Identified several breaks in the main line and one branch. Held a landowner meeting to discuss options for repair. Hired JHS to develop a plan to replace the damaged areas with a new line.

CD 19: No activity.

CD 20: Marked areas needing the one rod buffer strip, followed up with landowner. Spot sprayed brush.

CD 22: Identified an area needing a side inlet control structure-surveyed and designed plan. Spot sprayed brush.

CD 23: Repaired bank erosion and culvert erosion on Anonby section by Glende Excavation.

CD25: Cleaned upper reach of Spur 4-Rud Construction. Working with JHS on plan to repair damaged Hatch Lake Structure.

CD 26: Seeded bare spots from cleanout work. Spot sprayed brush.

CD 29: No activity.

CD 30: Spot sprayed brush. Hired Dahle Enterprises to cleanout lower end of ditch up to the Hackett/Sammon property line.

CD 31: Inquired into the replacement of culverts on the Meinke property. Participated in meetings to discuss an improvement on the system to extend the ditch through the village of Webster.

CD 32: Spot sprayed brush. Seeded two areas that were cleaned out.

CD 33: Spot sprayed brush. Seeded ditch banks due to recent cleanout.

Performed light maintenance on the ATV and sprayer. Equipment is in good condition.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven R. Pahs
District Manager, Rice SWCD