

## **402. County Ditch #20 North Operation & Maintenance**

*Old policy #2008-2*

**Purpose:** This policy is to guide the operation and maintenance of County Ditch #20 North (CD20N) using the most reasonable cost method available.

### **Standard 1: Drainage Authority**

- The CRWD Board of Managers is the drainage authority Board for CD20N.
- The drainage authority Board is responsible to operate and maintain CD20N in the manner prescribed by MN Statutes 103E.
- As much as practical, the drainage authority Board will work with Meeker County in performance of its duties under MN Statutes 103E.
- Meeker County will maintain the public drainage records of County Ditch #20 North
- No work on CD20N is allowed to occur without prior approval of the drainage authority Board.

### **Standard 2: Inspections & Repairs**

- Repairs made to CD20N will comply with Minnesota Statutes 103E.
- Inspection of CD20N will be conducted by either an inspection committee of the drainage authority or a drainage inspector appointed by the drainage authority (103E.065, 103E.705). If an inspection committee is used, as much as possible said committee is to include at least one of the owners of land benefitted by CD20N. The inspection committee or appointed drainage inspector will be responsible to perform inspections on an as-needed basis, with an inspection of CD20N to be performed a minimum of every five years (103E.705, Subd. 1).
- Any owner(s) of land benefitted by CD20N may make repair requests to either inspection committee or the drainage authority Board. The drainage authority Board will forward all repair requests to the inspection committee or the appointed drainage inspector for inspection of the request. The inspection committee or drainage inspector will inform the drainage authority Board of its receipt of a repair request (either from an owner or the drainage authority Board) and shall schedule an inspection of the request.
- Upon receipt of a repair request, the inspection committee or drainage inspector shall notify the drainage authority Board of this receipt and shall schedule an inspection of the request. The inspection committee or drainage inspector shall report all noted repair needs to the drainage authority Board in writing. The inspection committee or drainage inspector will also provide recommendations to the drainage authority Board regarding authorization of additional crossings and fences on CD20N.
- Upon receipt of repair needs and recommendations from the inspection committee or drainage inspector, the drainage authority Board will order repairs based on the least cost basis and dependent on the scope of repair needed. The drainage authority Board will assign a project number for this repair work and keep record of this work order.

### **Standard 3: Landowner Responsibility**

Whenever possible, individual owners of CD20N will be authorized to conduct ditch repair on their own property. Those anticipated ditch repair activities are listed below. When individual property owners are unable to do the repairs, the drainage authority Board will authorize some other method of repair.

1. Noxious weed control
2. Beaver and beaver dam removal
3. Tile outlet repair
4. Buffer strips

5. Tree removal
6. Approaches and crossings

**Standard 4:** Per 103E.705 Subd. 5, if the drainage authority Board finds that the estimated cost of repairs and maintenance of CD20N for one-year will be less than the greater of \$50,000 or \$1,000 per mile of open ditch in the ditch system, it may have the repair work done by hired labor and equipment without advertising for bids or entering into a contract for repair work.

**Standard 5: 103E.705 Subd. 6:** Per 103E.705 Subd. 6, the drainage authority may give notice of and hold a hearing on a repair levy before ordering the levy of an assessment for repairs. In one calendar year the drainage authority may not levy an assessment for repairs or maintenance of the drainage system for more than 20% of the benefits of the drainage system, \$1,000 per mile of open ditch in the ditch system, or \$50,000, whichever is greater.

**Standard 6:** Federal, state, and county permit requirements must be met prior to any activity on CD20N.

**Standard 7:** Costs associated with assessment roll revisions will be charged to the buyers/sellers of the property requesting the change.