

**State of Minnesota
Counties of Brown and Redwood
In the matter of the Redetermination
Of Benefits of Brown and Redwood Judicial Ditch 18
Brown and Redwood Counties, Minnesota
October 26, 2021
(Draft)**

Property Owners Report

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 103E.323, the following is the Property Owners Report from information in the Brown and Redwood JD-18 Excel spreadsheet and Brown and Redwood JD-18 Viewers Report, in the matter of the redetermination of benefits and damages, and damaged and benefitted acres of Brown and Redwood Judicial Ditch 18, Brown and Redwood Counties, Minnesota.

1. This redetermination of benefits sets the percentage that you will be required to pay for all future repairs and maintenance on Brown and Redwood County JD-18
2. The name and address of the property owner is shown on the Excel spreadsheet for Brown and Redwood County JD-18
3. The description of each lot or tract and its area that is benefitted or damaged is shown on the Excel spreadsheet for Brown and Redwood County JD-18
4. There are no acres added to any tract or lot and there are no public waters, wetlands, and other areas not currently being cultivated that are proposed to be drained in this proceeding
5. There are no acres which before the drainage benefits could be realized would require a public waters work permit to work in public waters under 103G.245 to excavate or fill a navigable water body under United States Code, Title 33, Section 403, or a permit to discharge into waters of United States under United States Code, Title 33, Section 1344.
6. There are no acres being assessed for drainage of areas that would be considered conversion of a wetland under United States Code, Title 16, Section 3821, if the area was placed in agricultural production
7. There are no damages to riparian rights
8. The amount of right-of-way acreage required is shown on the Excel spreadsheet for Brown and Redwood County JD-18
9. The amount that each tract or lot will be benefitted or damaged is shown on the Excel spreadsheet for Brown and Redwood County JD-18
10. The damages or benefits to the property are shown on the Excel spreadsheet for Brown and Redwood County JD-18
11. No construction is planned as part of this proceeding.

12. A copy of the benefits and damages statement under 103E.321, Subdivision 2, relating to the property owner is on the Excel spreadsheet for Brown and Redwood County JD-18
13. The percentage of the cost to be assessed to the property owner in future repair and maintenance proceedings is shown on the Excel spreadsheet for Brown and Redwood County JD-18
14. The redetermination of benefits and damages and damaged and benefitted areas shall be used in place of the original benefits and damages and benefitted and damaged areas in all subsequent proceedings relating to the Brown and Redwood JD-18 drainage system.
15. The full Viewer's Report is available for public inspection at the office of the Brown County Auditor-Treasurer, at the Brown County Courthouse, 14 South State Street, New Ulm, Minnesota (507-233-6613) or the Redwood County Environmental Office, 403 South Mill Street, Redwood Falls, Minnesota (507-637-4023)
16. The Viewers will be available to answer questions from interested parties on November 18, 2021 from 9:30AM to 10:30AM at the Springfield Community Center, 33 South Cass Avenue, Springfield, Minnesota 56087

Benefits and damages statement

This report covers the redetermination for a previously constructed drainage system. The basis for determining benefits and damages is therefore, based upon a comparison of the conditions that would have existed prior to the County open ditch and County tile systems construction, with those that do exist with the drainage system in a reasonable state of repair. Supporting documentation for the analysis and conclusions of the report are contained in our files and are available for inspection. The figures stated herein are based on a full and fair comparison of all pertinent facts and information that we were aware of at the time of this redetermination process. The following aids were used in this viewing process.

- Redwood and Brown County online GIS parcel information site
- USDA web soil survey
- Google Earth aerial satellite photos
- Yield averages taken from USDA national agriculture statistics service
- Production costs taken from University of Minnesota FinBin
- Average commodity sale prices taken from University Finbin
- Sales data from the Redwood County and Brown County Assessor offices and websites
- Visual inspection of each 40 acre parcel or less
- Consultation with Brown and Redwood County Auditor / Treasurer Office, the Redwood County Environmental Office and Drainage Staff, and the Brown County ditch inspector

The Viewers determined that the lands affected by the drainage system are generally similar and that the following comments refer to all such tracts.

1. **Existing land use, property value and economic productivity:**
 Land is presently used for building sites, roads, and for agricultural purposes. The property value is consistent with most agricultural land sales within Brown and Redwood Counties. Agricultural lands are primarily used for the production of corn and soybeans. The land has good economic productivity when properly drained.

2. **Potential land use, property value and economic productivity from the drainage system:**
 The drainage system has been in existence for many years and provides drainage for agricultural purposes. The property value is consistent with most agricultural land sales within Brown and Redwood Counties. Land affected by the drainage system has the potential to produce above average yields.

3. **The benefits or damages from the drainage system:**
 Benefits derived by lands affected by the drainage system are due to (A) Improved capacity to remove surface waters due to previous construction and maintenance of the County open ditch or County tile system, which results in an increase in the current market value of property; or (B) an increase in the potential for agricultural production as a result of the previous construction and continued maintenance of the drainage system; or (C) increased value of the property as a result of potential different land use.

4. There is no damage to any riparian rights.

5. There are no acres added to any tract or lot and there are no public waters, wetlands, and other areas not currently being cultivated, that are proposed to be drained in this proceeding.

6. There are no acres which before the drainage benefits could be realized would require a public waters work permit to work in public waters under 103G.245 to excavate or fill a navigable water body under United States Code, Title 33, Section 403, or a permit to discharge into waters of United States under United States Code, Title 33, Section 1344.

7. There are no acres being assessed for drainage of areas that would be considered conversion of a wetland under United States Code, Title 16, Section 3821, if the area was placed in agricultural production.

This report is respectfully submitted to the Joint Drainage Authority of Brown and Redwood County JD-18 by:

Mark Behrends _____

Robert Hansen _____

Kendall Langseth _____

John Thompson _____

Submitted this 26th day of October 2021