

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Before the
REDWOOD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SITTING AS THE DRAINAGE
AUTHORITY FOR
COUNTY DITCH 20

In the Matter of:

**Preliminary Hearing – CD 20
Improvement**

**FINDINGS AND ORDER FOR A
FINAL ENGINEER REPORT AND
THE APPOINTMENT OF VIEWERS**

The Redwood County Board of Commissioners, sitting as the Drainage Authority for County Ditch 20, pursuant to Minn. State § 103E.261, having answered in the affirmative the findings in Minn. State § 103E.261 subd. 5, and having followed proper notice requirements in Minn. Stat. § 103E.261; and having held a public hearing and followed all requirements of chapter 103E, based on the record and proceedings, Commissioner Groebner moved, seconded by Commissioner Van Hee to adopt the following Findings and Order:

Findings:

1. Redwood County Board of Commissioners is the drainage authority for County Ditch 20.
2. On September 3, 2024, the drainage authority found the petition as presented for an improvement to County Ditch 20 was complete, and that a cash security of \$50,000 had been submitted to the Redwood County Auditor and moved to accept the petition.
3. On September 3, 2024, the drainage authority ordered ISG, Inc. to complete a preliminary engineers report.
4. On May 9, 2025, the Preliminary Engineers report was received by the Redwood County Environmental Office.
5. On June 3, 2025, the drainage authority met and set a time and date for a Preliminary Hearing for the CD 20 Improvement petition.
6. Proper notice was sent to benefited landowners in the CD 20 watershed as well as posted on the doors of the Redwood County government center.
7. On July 15, 2025, a Preliminary Hearing was held and open to the public.

8. During the Preliminary Hearing, the Engineer presented the preliminary engineers report and answered questions from the Drainage Authority.
9. The advisory report submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was read aloud in its entirety.
10. The meeting was opened up to public comment, and the following comments were received:

[insert summary of comments here]

11. Based on the proceedings herein, the evidence presented during the pendency of these proceedings, and the public comments received, the Board finds:
 - a. The private and public benefits will exceed the costs of the proposed drainage project and the proposed drainage project outlined in the petition and recommended by the engineer is feasible;
 - b. The proposed drainage project will provide improved drainage capacity which will help increase crop yields and prevent crops from drowning out in depressional areas of the watershed and prevent channelized overland flow from developing across agricultural lands, and add depth to the drainage system in areas where there is inadequate cover for today's farming practices, and accordingly there is necessity for the proposed drainage project;
 - c. There are no alternative measures, including measures identified in applicable state-approved and locally adopted water management plans, to conserve, allocate, and use drainage waters for agriculture, stream flow augmentation, or other beneficial uses; reduce downstream peak flows and flooding; provide adequate drainage system capacity; reduce erosion and sedimentation; and protect or improve water quality beyond those identified by the engineer in the preliminary engineers report;
 - d. Anticipated land use within the drainage project or system will be unchanged from the present use of the land, and compatible with local land use plans;
 - e. The flooding characteristics of property in the drainage project or system and downstream for 5-, 10-, 25-, and 50-year flood events will be improved;
 - f. There is an insignificant effect on wetlands from constructing the proposed drainage project;
 - g. There is an insignificant effect on water quality from constructing the proposed drainage project, and potential positive impacts on water quality through implementation of the multi-purpose drainage management plan;

- h. There is an insignificant effect upon fish and wildlife resources affected by the proposed drainage project;
 - i. The shallow groundwater availability, distribution, and use in the drainage project or system will be unaffected;
 - j. The proposed drainage project will be of public benefit and promote the public health, after considering the environmental, land use, and multi-purpose water management criteria in Section 103E.015, subd. 1, and;
 - k. The proposed outlet is adequate to sustain the flow of water that is anticipated by the improvement.
12. The Drainage Authority accepted the Engineers Preliminary Engineering Report and ordered the Redwood County Environmental Director to draft findings and order and the Engineer to prepare a Final Engineers Report.
13. The Drainage Authority appointed the Behrends group (Mark Behrends, Robert Hansen, Kendall Langseth, Bruce Ness, and Wesley Dahl) to view the proposed improvement.

Order:

Based on the foregoing Findings and the entire record of proceedings before the Board, the Board, acting as the drainage authority for County Ditch 20, hereby orders as follows:

- A. The preliminary engineers report is accepted.
- B. The Engineer shall prepare a final engineering report.
- C. The Behrends group shall be appointed to view the improved area.

After discussion, the Board Chair called the question. The question was on the adoption of the foregoing findings and order, and there were 5 yeas, 0 nays, 0 absent, and 0 abstentions as follows:

	Yea	Nay	Absent	Abstain
SALFER	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GROEBNER	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
VAN HEE	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
THEIS	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WAKEFIELD	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Upon vote, the Chair declared the motion passed and the Findings and Order adopted.



 Rick Wakefield, Chairperson

Dated: 7-15-25

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I, Nick Brozek, Redwood County Environmental Director, do hereby certify that I have compared the above motion; findings and order with the original thereof as the same appears of record and on file with the Redwood County Drainage Authority and find the same to be a true and correct transcript thereof. The above order was filed with me, Nick Brozek, Redwood County Environmental Director, on July 15, 2025.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this
15th day of July 2025.



Nick Brozek, Environmental Director