



**Ecological and Water Resources  
2115 Birchmont Beach Rd NE  
Bemidji, MN 56601**

April 11, 2022

Stephanie Buss  
Stevens County Auditor-Treasurer  
400 Colorado Ave, Suite 303  
Morris, MN 56267

**Re: Commissioner's Final Advisory Report, Stevens County Ditch 16 Improvement**

Dear Ms. Buss,

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has completed its review of the Final Engineers Report (FER) titled "Final Engineer's Report County Ditch No 16 Improvement". This letter constitutes the Commissioner's Final Advisory Report, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 103E.301.

The detailed survey report is complete from the DNR's viewpoint. The DNR approves the report as an acceptable drainage project plan and finds that the proposed drainage project is of public benefit or utility. A soil surveys is not needed.

A DNR public waters work permit is not required.

**Comments and Recommendations**

The hydraulic modeling presented in the Report indicates that discharge will double during all events at the main tile outlet into the main ditch. Doubling the flowrate would likely result in in-channel and bank erosion of the open ditch and downstream unnamed watercourse. Sediment delivery into Gahm storage pond will reduce the water storage capacity available and degrade water quality which would negatively affect downstream waters. Mitigation measures should be incorporated into the construction plan to offset impacts to downstream surface waters. Additionally, the Gahm pond and outlet should be repaired before any drainage improvement work begins. Sediment removal may also have to occur after all construction activities have been completed to ensure the basin maintains the storage capacity it has been designed to hold.

Thank you for the consideration of these comments. Please contact Area Hydrologist Emily Siira by email [emily.siira@state.mn.us](mailto:emily.siira@state.mn.us) with any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nathan Kestner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nathan Kestner  
Regional Manager, Ecological and Water Resources

CC: Todd Larson, Stevens County Engineer  
Jacob Rischmiller, ISG  
Emily Siira, Area Hydrologist  
Jaimé Thibodeaux, NW Environmental Assessment Ecologist

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