



November 4, 2024

Board of Managers
Buffalo Creek Watershed District
PO Box 55
Glencoe, MN 55336

Re: BWSR Advisory Report – JD 15 Branch B56 Improvement

Dear Managers,

On behalf of the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources, I offer this advisory report in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, 103D.711, Subdivision 5. The comments in this advisory report are based on review of the *Judicial Ditch 15 Branch B56 Improvement Preliminary Engineer's Report*, dated October 1, 2024, and its associated Appendices A-G.

The engineer's report was well prepared and contains all components required in the report as outlined in MN Statute 103D.711, except for Subd 2 (b)(1) the location and adequacy of the outlet. While the report does state that *"Increases to peak flowrates require exploration as related to the adequacy of the downstream drainage infrastructure to convey the added hydraulic load"* the report does not include this exploration. The board should be rightfully concerned that this project will get flagged by outside interest groups for the increase in flow rate to the downstream system. I suggest that the board's engineer follow the approach that is outlined by the drainage work group's subcommittee on outlet adequacy to evaluate the system's outlet, as this is the most comprehensive, and agreed-upon approach, that has been developed to date. This report can be provided upon request.

It is standard engineering practice to calculate the existing capacity of the system under As Constructed or Subsequently Improved Conditions (ACSIC) as was done by the district's engineer. However, I believe it would be a helpful to the members of the board and the landowners to see a comparison of the true existing capacity of the system, using the information from televising the pipes, to the ACSIC condition, in order to better understand how the system capacity has deteriorated over time. This evaluation could result in another option which would include some level of repair (or potentially repair and storage) and not require a full Improvement of the system. This will also potentially open other outside grant opportunities for the system.

I appreciate that storage is being considered as part of this Improvement and that the Multi-purpose Drainage Management and Water Quality and Storage grants will be potentially pursued as part of this project. I agree that a soil survey is not necessary with this project.

Please feel free to contact me at 651-539-2591 (email rita.weaver@state.mn.us) if you have questions regarding this advisory report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Weaver', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rita Weaver, PE
BWSR Chief Engineer

CC: John Jaschke, Executive Director
Ed Lenz, Southern Region Manager
Luke Olson, Board Conservationist
Mark Hiles, Clean Water Specialist
Alan Gleisner, DNR Area Hydrologist
Seth Sparks, Buffalo Creek Watershed District
Baily Bocchino, ISG, Inc.

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