

**m** DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

Division of Ecological & Water Resources  
21371 Highway 15 South  
New Ulm, MN 56073

January 18, 2017

Jan Voit  
Administrator - Heron Lake Watershed District  
P.O. Box 345  
Heron Lake, MN 56137

Subject: Final Engineer's Report  
Improvement of County Ditch No. 3  
Jackson County, MN

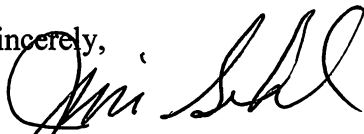
Dear Ms. Voit:

On behalf of the Director of the Division of Ecological and Water Resources of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), I offer the following comments on the Final Engineer's Report (FER) for the project referenced above, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Section 103D.711.

The FER and Potential Best Management Practices (BMP's) map indicates that portions of the watershed are conducive to the use of controlled drainage. Controlled drainage involves placing water control structures along a drain tile system. Controlled drainage systems allow for the management of soil-water conditions that allows for drying out the fields in spring for planting and fall for harvest. During the summer the drainage is restricted to allow increased water retention in the soil profile that is available to plants during the summer growing season. The MNDNR supports the use of controlled drainage as it is beneficial to agricultural production by retaining moisture and nutrients in the soil while minimizing runoff and erosion. Landowners in the project area should be encouraged to consider the use of controlled drainage.

The MNDNR supports the inclusion of the storage pond, 2-stage open ditch, control structures, side inlets, water quality inlets, and other BMP's as outlined in the FER. Please contact Kevin Mixon, Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist, at (507-359-6073; email: kevin.mixon@state.mn.us) if you have any general questions about this letter.

Sincerely,



Jim Sehl  
EWR Assistant Regional Manager

Ec: Chuck Brandel, I & S Group  
Kevin Mixon, EWR REAE  
Brian Nyborg, Area Hydrologist  
Todd Kolander, EWR South District Manager  
Randy Markl, Area Wildlife Manager  
Ryan Doorenbos, Fisheries  
Phil Nasby, Parks & Trails  
ERDB# 20160138