

COUNTY OF STEARNS

PROPERTY SERVICES DIVISION

Land Services

Service Center Rm 2310 • 3301 County Road 138 • Waite Park, MN 56387
Drainage 320-654-4703 • GIS 320-656-3906 • Surveyor 320-656-3696
www.stearnscountymn.gov

RE: Stearns County Ditch 4 Potential Projects

Dear Property owner,

My name is Chad Martini, Land Services Manager, and I serve as the Stearns County Drainage Administrator working out of the Property Services Division. I am writing today to share news about potential projects on Stearns County Ditch 4 (CD 4) designed to restore the system that may impact you as a property owner.

Several years ago, some property owners approached Stearns County with concerns about water backing up in the ditch and flooding their farm fields. We visually inspected the ditch and determined a more detailed review was needed. An engineer's report reestablishing records of the ditch was completed and adopted by the County Board in April 2019. It provided an updated elevation profile identifying culverts under 115th Avenue and 130th Avenue as an obstruction limiting the water flow within the ditch. We reviewed the data and determined in a later inspection that both culverts should be lowered to match the ditch bottom and the accumulated sediment in the area between and near these roads should be removed. Each action is dependent on the other in order to eliminate this impairment and improve the functionality of the ditch.

Stearns County is working in a collaboration with St. Wendel Township on the possibility of lowering the culverts on these two township roads in conjunction with road maintenance work being planned. If we are able to move ahead with a repair project, excavating accumulated sediment in the ditch channel and around the culverts will be necessary. Since the culverts cannot be buried in the sediment, the excavation work must occur before they can be lowered. The benefited property owners of the CD 04 drainage system will be responsible for any costs incurred to repair the ditch channel.

Attached is a map of the ditch, culverts, and repair areas. The current project plan is primarily focused on allowing water to flow freely between 115th Avenue and 130th Avenue and to improve the ditch's storage capacity. The proposed project is to excavate about 2,500 feet of accumulated sediment between 115th Avenue and County Road 4 to allow water to run freely and do some minor clean up in the immediate area around 130th Avenue.

We understand there may be other areas of the ditch you may have concerns about. The enclosed survey, which is also available online, will allow us to collect your input regarding this plan and any other information about the ditch. Please complete this survey or contact us by postal mail, email, or telephone (contact information listed below).

Your participation is important as we consider projects needed to meet Stearns County's legal obligation to maintain CD 04. All responses offered will be compiled by staff and summarized in a report to be presented to the County Board, acting as the Drainage Authority, for its review and consideration. At the April 27, 2021 County Board of Commissioners meeting, the Commissioners will decide on this ditch repair. If it is approved, we will develop and implement a work plan by coordinating activities with St. Wendel Township in alignment with schedules and weather conditions for this year.

To facilitate your understanding of CD 04, potential projects, and the processes and timelines to be followed, we have created a webpage with information and resources to assist you. We encourage you to read this material available online at:

https://gis.co.stearns.mn.us/Ditches/CD04/CD04_2021.html

If you are unable to access the webpage by computer, please contact us and paper copies will be provided.

Additionally, we ask you to complete either the enclosed survey or preferably the one available online at:

<https://arcg.is/1rDrOP>

The deadline to submit a survey will be 4:30 p.m., Friday, April 16th. All surveys received by postal mail or submitted electronically by this date and time will be included in the report shared with the Commissioners.

Please send any correspondence or the enclosed survey via postal mail to:

Land Services
Stearns County Service Center
3301 County Road 138
Waite Park, MN 56387

Alternatively, you may send information via electronic mail to County.Drainage@co.stearns.mn.us or call us with questions or concerns at 320-654-4703.

Thank you,





Chad Martini
Land Services Manager

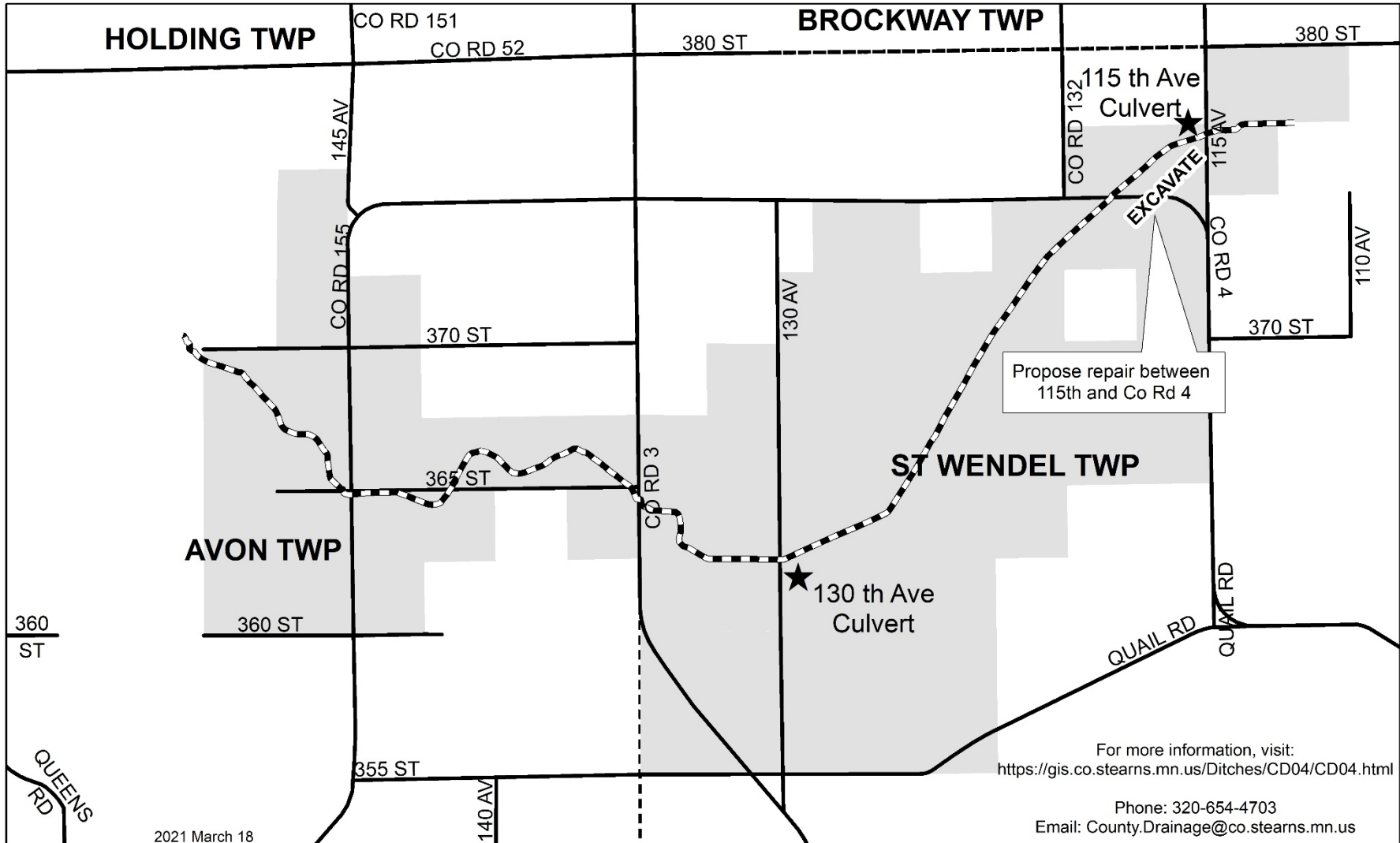
Enclosures: (2)

Stearns County Ditch 04

Stearns County Ditch 04 flows from the east to the west. It begins in St Wendel Township and ends in Avon Township. All property owners in the shaded area are considered legal benefited property owners within the drainage system. A benefited property owner is responsible for any costs incurred to maintain the ditch. Stearns County is legally obligated to maintain the ditch.

Legend

-  County Ditch 04
-  Roads
-  CD04 Boundary
-  Township / City



County Ditch 4 Survey Regarding Potential Repair

You are being asked for comments to share with the Stearns County Board of Commissioners, drainage authority for County Ditch 04 (CD 04), regarding the proposed project work for CD 04.

A “repair” means to restore all or a part of the CD 04 drainage system as nearly as practicable to the same hydraulic capacity as originally constructed and subsequently improved. If the Board orders a repair to all or a portion of CD 04, staff will seek a vendor to execute the repair plan. All costs to repair the ditch will be distributed to the benefited property owners of CD 04 through special tax assessments.

Costs incurred to complete the repair procedures required by Minnesota Statutes, and to contract for construction of the repair, are charged to all benefited landowners on the CD 04 system.

These costs are preliminary estimates for planning purposes only. Actual costs are subject to change:

- Culvert lowering on 115th Ave and 130th Ave – St. Wendel and Stearns County shared cost
- Ditch repair – approximate cost is between \$16,000 and \$20,000 depending on proposed scope of work

Please visit https://gis.co.stearns.mn.us/Ditches/CD04/CD04_2021.html for additional information about the projects discussed in this survey. *(Copy and paste link above into another browser)*

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail address (optional): _____

Phone Number (optional): _____

Question 1 - What type of property do you have? (Please circle one)

Residential - Seasonal/Recreational – Agricultural - Rural Vacant Land - Other

Question 2 - Have you visited the County’s ditch website and reviewed the history, maps, photographs, reports, and other data regarding CD 04?

Yes | No

Question 3 - Is property you own negatively affected by CD 04?

Yes | No

Question 4 - Besides the areas between and near 115th Avenue and 130th Avenue, what other areas of the ditch may be affecting its function?

Question 5 - Based on the information made known to you, do you believe repairing the ditch is in the best interest of the benefited property owners affected by CD 04?

Yes | No

Question 6 - Please share comments and opinions you would like the Stearns County Board acting as the Drainage Authority to consider about the ditch conditions related to CD 04.