



Inspection of Stearns County Ditch 30

August 5, 2022

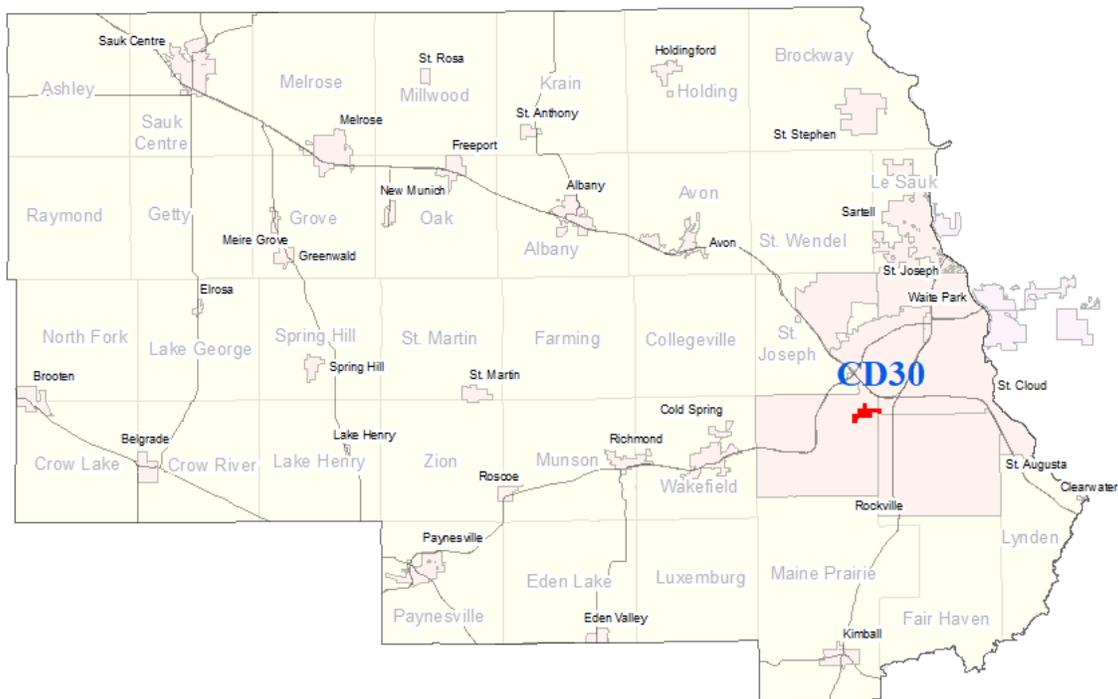
Purpose

Staff is presenting this report to the Stearns County Board of Commissioners, acting as the Drainage Authority for Stearns County Ditch 30 (CD30), as required by Minnesota Statute 103E. The purpose of this report is to share the results of the inspection.

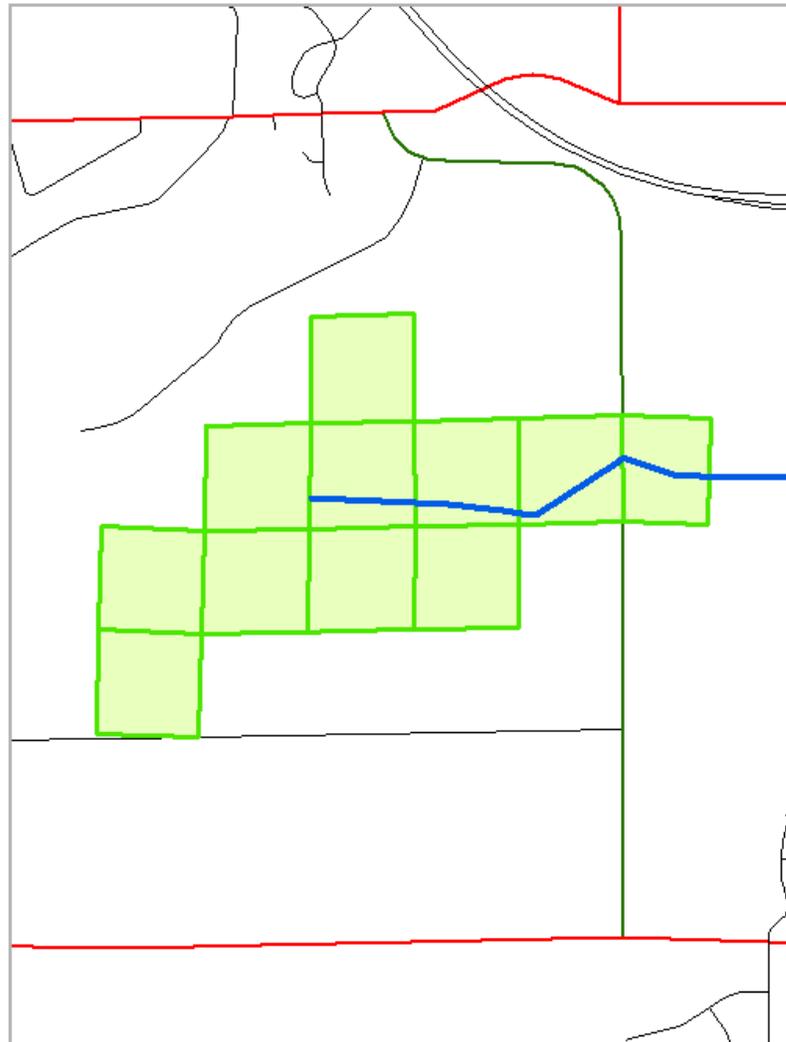
Background

CD30 was established in 1908 and is approximately 1.2 miles in length. There are about 439 benefited acres within the system. CD30 is not considered part of the public waters inventory.

CD30 is located within both the City of Rockville and City of St Cloud.



The Benefited acres within the system are show below.



Inspection Summary

The inspection was performed using a combination of drone video, aerial photography, historical drainage records, and on-site visits. The inspection is broken into 4 locations. CD30 was field visited in 2018 and aerial photography from 2021 used for the inspection. Wetland locations come from the National Wetlands Inventory.

Inspection Locations



Inspection Area 1 –Ditch Beginning

Photo 1 – April 2021 Stearns County Aerial Photography



Photo 2 – Drone video December 2018



This area represents the legal beginning of the ditch. The channel in this area is defined has good width. There is vegetation in and around the channel with the ditch running through Type 3 wetlands.

Inspection Area 2- Co Rd 137

Photo 3 – April 2021 Stearns County Aerial Photography



This photo shows tree and vegetation growth on the banks of the ditch. The channel looks open and free of debris.

Photo 4 – December 2018 Drone Video



Inspection Area 3 – Co Rd 137

Photo 5 –2018 on site photo



This picture is taken from Co Rd 137 looking west. There are some trees on the banks obscuring the channel, but the ditch appears free from obstruction.

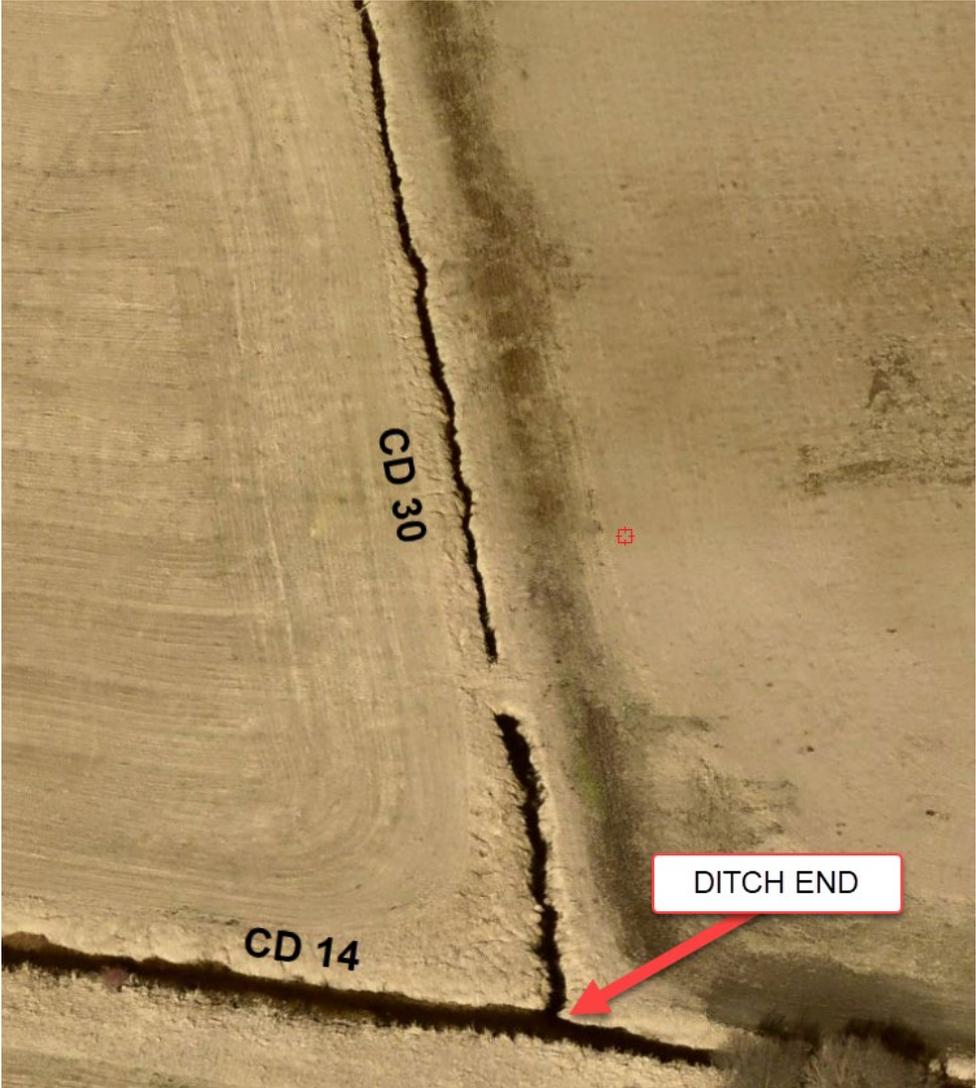
Photo 6 – April 2021 Stearns County oblique photography



The ditch west of Co Rd 137 has vegetation constriction compared to the east side but is generally free of obstruction.

Inspection Area 4 – Ditch End Intersection with CD 14

Photo – 7 April 2021 Stearns County oblique photography



The end of the ditch intersects with County Ditch 14. The channel in this area is open and free of obstruction.

Photo 8 – Field photo of crossing near ditch end



Conclusion

The ditch contains type 3 wetlands at the beginning of the channel. If any future repair were considered, it would require a review of the Wetland Conservation Act and could require a Reestablishment of Records engineering proceeding to understand wetland impacts of any repair in the area.

Engineering consultant had suggested that CD 30 and CD 14 could be merged since CD 30 is so small and directly connects to CD 14. A combination of the systems would generate costs to the property owners through legal and engineering support.

The ditch channel is open and defined with no obvious obstructions. Vegetation and trees do line portions of the ditch which could create future issues.

There are no 103E.021 permanent buffer strip violations as the CD 30 drainage system has not acquired the one-rod perennial vegetation buffer.

The next schedule inspection is 2024 based on MN 103E requirements and Stearns County inspection schedule.