



STATE OF MINNESOTA
WATER RESOURCES BOARD

(612) 296-2840

555 Wabasha Street
Room 206
St. Paul, Minnesota
55102

July 9, 1982

Board of Managers
Rice Creek Watershed District
Arden Hills, Minn. 55112

Attn: Mr. Ernest Petrangelo, President

Re: Improvement of Ramsey
County Ditch No. 8

Gentlemen:

The Minnesota Water Resources Board (Board) received the engineer's report on the Improvement of Ramsey County Ditch No. 8 on June 10, 1982. The report contains nine pages and includes a cover letter signed by R.M. Greenlee, professional engineer.

The report was forwarded to the Board in accordance with M.S. Section 112.49, Subd. 6. The Board has reviewed the report and forwards this advisory Letter Report to the managers in accordance with M.S. Section 112.49, Subd. 6.

I. The Project

The report is an after-the-fact report on an improvement completed approximately two years ago that affected a portion of Ramsey County Ditch No. 8 in the northwest quarter of Section 1, Township 30 North, Range 23 West, in the City of Shoreview.

The report states that the original ditch had been excavated to create four ponding areas sometime prior to this improvement. The current owner, Evergreen Shores Inc., enlarged the four existing ponds; excavated a fifth pond; and improved the connecting channels between the ponds in order to provide water access to more residential lots and to allow canoeing among the four largest ponds. Approximately 109,000 cubic yards of material were dredged from the ponds below the normal water level of 890', at a cost of about \$103,000.

The ditch crossings at the upstream and downstream ends of the development were not altered by the improvement. Some culverts within the development were modified.

II. Content of the Engineer's Report

The content of engineers' reports for watershed district projects is governed by M.S. Section 112.49, Subd. 1.

The report generally includes all of the specific information required except: 1) a map showing the watershed of the improvement, and 2) the engineer's recommendations on the improvement's practicability and necessity.

If the managers do not intend to have County Ditch No. 8 abandoned, then the Board suggests that certain additional information be added to the engineer's report before a hearing is conducted on the improvement:

- 1) The original ditch plans should be included in the engineer's report (at least by reference).
- 2) Plan sheets showing the improved gradeline and cross-sections, and data on the design capacities of the improved ditch channel and ditch crossings should be added if this information is available.
- 3) As stated above, a map of the contributing drainage area should be added.

This information will enable the viewers to compare the improved ditch with the original ditch, and redetermine benefits. Apparently there will be no assessments since the improvement has already been financed by the affected property owner, Evergreen Shores Inc.

Any future repair work on the ditch can be properly allocated if the benefits are redetermined.

A record of the gradeline, cross-sections, and design capacity of the improved ditch may be needed in order for the managers to determine whether future work on the ditch constitutes repair or improvement.

III. Environmental Considerations

The engineer's report addresses the nine environmental criteria listed at M.S. Section 106.021, Subd. 6. A permit for the work was issued by the Rice Creek Watershed District.



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IV. Board Approval

Based on its examination of the engineer's report, the Minnesota Watershed Act, State Environmental Policy, and other law, the Board approves the Improvement of Ramsey County Ditch No. 8 as being a practical plan.

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Duane R. Ekman", is written over a horizontal line.

Duane R. Ekman
Chairman