



Rice Soil and Water Conservation District

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Drainage Ditch Inspector's Report for 2009

Primary contact for the Rice County Ditch Inspector is Steven Pahs. Secondary contact is Adam Arndt. In our second year of duties as ditch inspector, we have gained an abundance of knowledge about not only the drainage systems in the county, but also have reached a significant level of understanding with drainage law and how to manage these systems.

The following is a summary of work done on drainage systems in Rice County for 2009:

Nearly all county ditches were sprayed by Terry Jon Aerial Applicators in June. There were a few places that were not sprayed for various reasons. The contractor carries insurance for any damages that may occur.

JD 6: Inspected entire system and identified areas of concern. Spot sprayed some trees. We investigated one request to replace a culvert. Identified two sites where the 1 rod buffer strip was not present and am working with the landowners to restore the buffers.

CD 30: Inspected most of the ditch for maintenance needs. Ditch is in good working order.

CD 26: Hired Petricka Excavating to replace a culvert under a township road and split costs with the township. Received landowner request for cleanout. Inspected ditch for repair needs. Need to survey to determine if a cleanout is needed.

CD 23: Authorized a contractor to clean out part of the ditch. The work has not been started yet. Identified some areas of soil erosion in the watershed and we are working with the landowners to install conservation practices that will take care of the problems.

CD25: Received a request for tree removal on about a ¼ mile stretch of the ditch. Hired Tupy Tree Service to remove the trees. Adam and I sprayed the stumps using the ATV sprayer.

CD 32: Hired Tupy Tree Service to remove many trees in areas that need cleanout. Hired Rud Construction and Nerstrand Excavating to clean out parts of CD 32. One culvert was replaced on the Fox Den Farms property. SWCD staff used an ATV sprayer (purchased in 2009) to spray new growth in mid summer. There was an abundance of new shoots from the cut trees. Hand seeded ditch banks with whirly bird seeder and ATV.

CD 15: No activity in 2009

CD 9: Ditch 9 continues to be the home of many beavers. They have built numerous dams in the ditch, raising the water levels and impacting the drainage of the land where the water is high. We hired contractors on two occasions to remove dams, and have determined that the only solution is to hire someone to trap the beavers. We also surveyed some stretches of the ditch and are working to remove trees along part of the ditch. Our goal is to do some tree removal each year until the ditch is in good shape, and then keep the ditch maintained with grass vegetation.

CD 4: Hired contractor to remove a beaver dam on two separate occasions.

JT 6: Landowner request to widen field crossing. Permission was given to widen crossing at land owner expense.

CD 12: Landowner request to repair tile in road ditch. Hired Glendy Construction to for the repair.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven R. Pahs
District Manager, Rice SWCD