



Drainage Records Modernization Background Guidelines Challenge Grants

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Board of Water and Soil Resources
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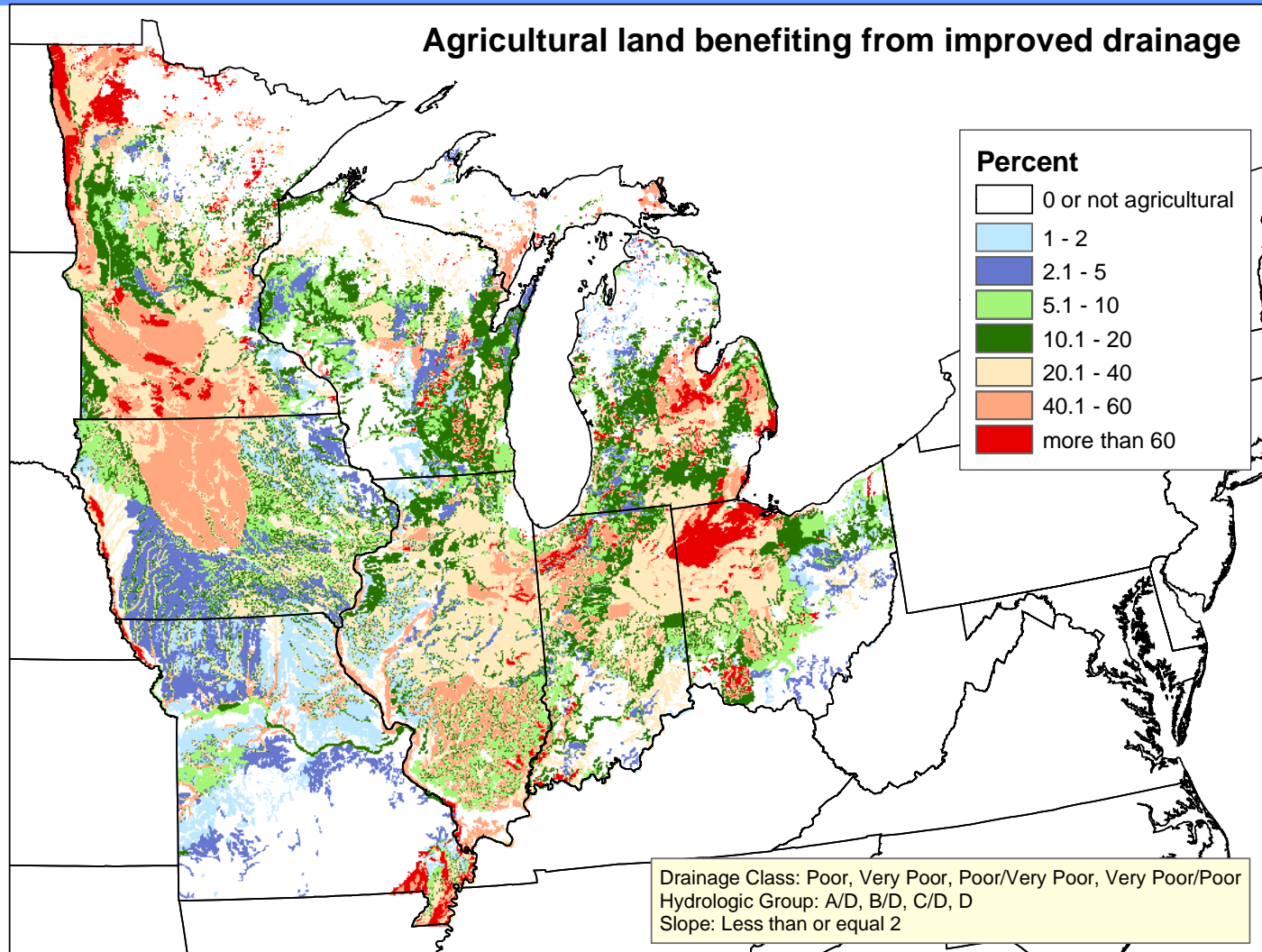
Why Drainage is Important

- Agriculture
- Transportation infrastructure
- Commercial and residential development



Midwest Ag Land Benefiting from Improved Drainage

Source:
National
Soil Tilth
Laboratory,
Iowa State
University,
Ames, IA



Surface Hydrology of Minnesota

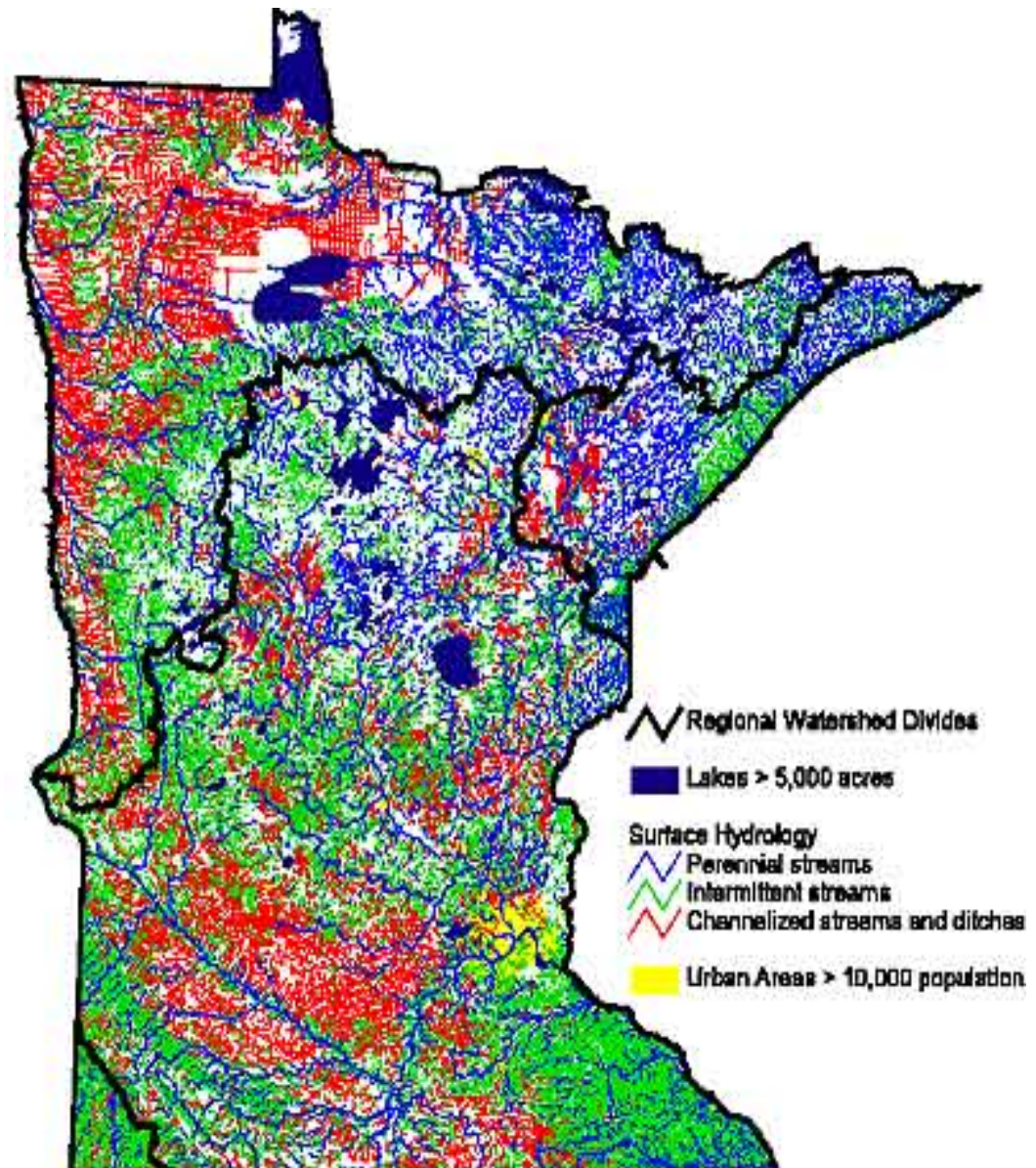
(Source: DNR)

Blue = Perennial Streams

Green = Intermittent

Red = Channelized Streams and Ditches

(Approx. 21,000 miles of public ditches)





MN Statutes Chapter 103E Public Drainage Authorities

- **Counties** (approximately 80 of 87 currently administer Chapter 103E drainage systems)
- **Watershed Districts** (21 of 46 currently administer Chapter 103E drainage systems)
- **Joint County Drainage Authorities**
(for drainage systems in more than one county)
(5 members, at least 1 from each county board)



103E.101 Drainage Proceeding and Construction Records

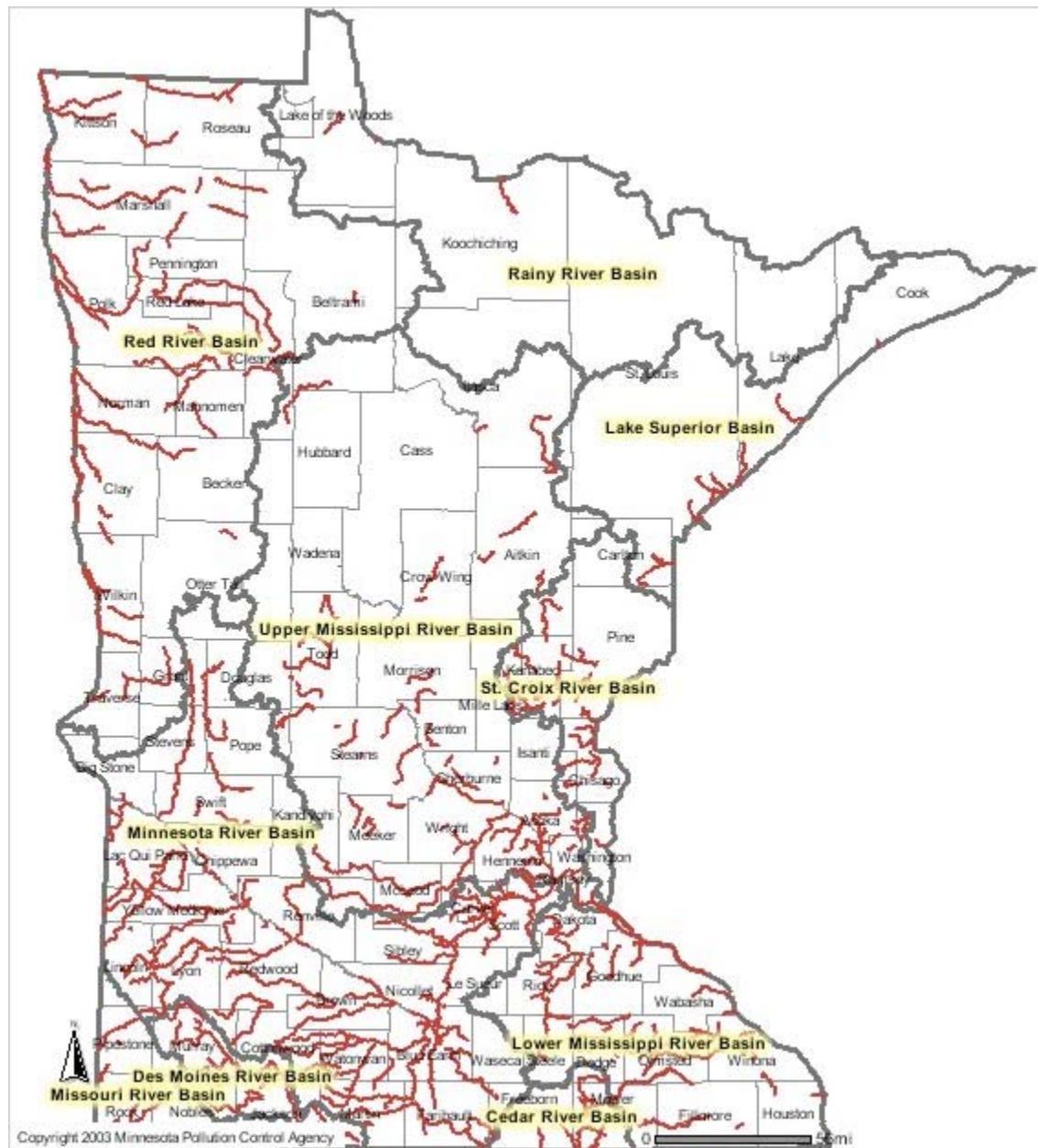
- **Types of records:** maps, plats, profiles, plans, specifications, engineer's field books, orders, exhibits, charts and other records of proceedings
- Must identify proceedings by drainage project and system number
- May file using computerized methods authorized for public records in Minnesota Statutes Section 15.17 Official Records
- County Auditor is responsible to keep county drainage system records and an index



Why Drainage Records Modernization is Important

- Many old, deteriorating hard copy records
- The impaired waters list for Minnesota continues to grow, including many rivers, streams and lakes in areas with public drainage systems
- Drainage management is important for both water quantity and quality and can be facilitated by modern, electronic records, including databases and GIS

Listed Impaired Rivers and Streams in Minnesota 2008





Public Drainage Ditch Buffer Study



Prepared by:

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

In partnership with:

Minnesota State University, Mankato, Water Resources Center

University of Minnesota Water Resources Center

February 2006



Ditch Buffer Study / Drainage Work Group Membership

Drainage Authorities	AMC – Association of Minnesota Counties
	MAWD – Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
Farm Groups	MFB – Minnesota Farm Bureau
	MFU – Minnesota Farmers Union
	Lobbyist for several other Agriculture and Producer Groups
Environmental Groups	MCEA – Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
	FWLA – Fish and Wildlife Legislative Alliance
	MCF – Minnesota Conservation Federation
Other Associations	MASWCD – MN Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
	MVA – Minnesota Viewers Association
	MACO – Minnesota Association of County Officers
	MADI – Minnesota Association of Drainage Inspectors
	RRWMB – Red River Watershed Management Board
State Agencies	BWSR, DNR, MDA, MPCA
Legislature	Legislators and/or House and Senate committee staff



Recommendations of Study / Drainage Work Group

- **Ditch Buffer Study Work Group – 2005 / 2006**
 - Develop recommended method(s) for records modernization, based on experience to date
- **Drainage Work Group – 2006 / 2007**
 - Develop guidelines for records modernization and preservation, based on experience to date
 - Recommend \$2M state cost-share be provided via Local Water Management Challenge Grants to accelerate drainage records modernization



2007 Legislature Funding and BWSR Implementation

- 2007 Legislature funding for Drainage Records Modernization
 - FY 08: \$150,000 to develop guidelines
 - FY 09: \$500,000 additional state cost-share for drainage records modernization
- BWSR contracted with Minnesota State University Mankato, Water Resources Center to:
 - develop drainage authority interview questions
 - interview drainage authorities with modern records
 - develop guidelines in collaboration with BWSR



Drainage Records Modernization Guidelines, September 2008

- Based on collective experience of drainage authorities that have modernized records to date
- Rick Moore, GIS Specialist, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Water Resources Center was key developer
- Available at: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us> under the heading “DRAINAGE”



Purposes of Guidelines

- 1) Share experience of drainage authorities that have modernized drainage records to reduce time and costs of records modernization by others
- 2) Promote drainage records preservation
- 3) Promote more consistent drainage records modernization statewide
- 4) Enable more efficient and effective administration of Chapter 103E drainage systems for water quantity and quality management



Records Modernization Challenge Grants to Date

- Since 1997, 24 drainage authorities have received Local Water Challenge Grants for drainage records modernization (19 counties and 5 watershed districts) (range = \$5 - \$55K average = \$24K) (minimum 1:1 cash or in-kind match)
- 5 counties and 4 watershed districts have pursued drainage records modernization without state cost-share



Current Challenge Grant Information

- Funding available = \$500,000
- County or Watershed District must have a current Comp. Local Water Mgmt. Plan or Watershed Mgmt. Plan (aka Overall Plan)
- Grant maximum based on number or miles of Chapter 103E drainage systems
- Minimum 1:1 cash or in-kind match
- Application deadline October 31, 2008
- Application form on BWSR web site



Challenge Grant Ranking Considerations

- Requested unit rate per system or mile
- Amount of local match above 1:1
- Previous drainage system inventory work by applicant drainage authority
- Multi-jurisdictional modernization project
- Previous Local Water Challenge Grant for drainage records modernization



Challenge Grant Timing

- Anticipate BWSR Board approval of grant allocations at its December 17, 2008 meeting.
- Grant agreements to be sent soon thereafter



Potential for Future State Funding

- Drainage Work Group recommended \$2M and Legislature provided \$500K for FY09
- Potential BWSR request for more \$ and support by the Governor and Legislature depend on:
 - 1) drainage authority demand for current \$500K
 - 2) economic condition of the State
 - 3) BWSR competing priorities for other state funding requests



Other Questions?