



June 11, 2015

DITCH 13 TAXPAYER  
MAILING ADDRESS  
CITY, STATE, ZIP

Parcel ID# 123456789012345

**PHYSICAL ADDRESS OF PROPERTY**

This letter has been sent to you because the property you own, or are associated with, has been identified to be within the benefitting area of an official County Drainage Ditch. Specifically, your property is one of 730 parcels associated with Crow Wing County Ditch 13.

Minnesota State Statute 103E requires properties within the benefiting area of an official county ditch to be assessed costs related to repairs and general upkeep. The use of county levy dollars for these purposes is expressly prohibited by this law. Exemptions only exist when conditions pose an imminent threat to public infrastructure such as roads.

Recently an official petition to repair Ditch 13 was filed with the Crow Wing County Board of Commissioners. State law requires the ditch authority to take action to investigate repair requests upon receiving them via an official petition. In this case only one signature is required.

The first step is to study the current condition of Ditch 13 to determine if it is functioning properly. This study may include a determination of its original configuration and the repairs needed to restore it. The cost of the initial engineering investigation is anticipated to be \$25,000.

The second step will be to ensure that repairs recommended by the study are implemented so that the ditch continues to serve its intended purpose. At this point the need, scope and cost of future projects is unknown. The potential exists for projects in the range of tens of thousands of dollars.

After the ditch is repaired, the establishment of an annual ditch maintenance fund is proposed. This funding source is intended to provide the needed revenue to properly maintain the Ditch 13 and protect the investments made to repair it. The intent of the County is to create a fund that supplies approximately \$10,000 annually to conduct routine maintenance activities.

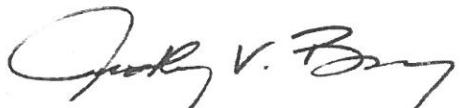
Minnesota State Statute 103E requires that all costs to study, repair and maintain Ditch 13 be assessed back to all benefiting property owners. The anticipated one-time assessment for parcel #730241302C00009 associated with the initial engineering study is estimated to be

\$3.46. This figure equates to .01385% of the project cost and is derived from historic ditch assessment records. The same percentage will be applied to future projects including an annual maintenance fund assessment. For example, this parcel would be assessed approximately \$1.39 annually to generate the \$10,000 needed to properly maintain Ditch 13.

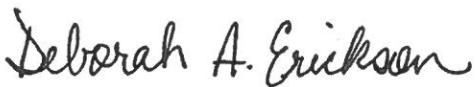
Crow Wing County recognizes that many property owners are unaware of their property's connection to this drainage feature. References to County Ditch 13 do not commonly appear on real estate documents. County ditches commonly occupy private property, however, recorded easements commonly do not exist. Records that do exist are limited to historic assessment documents drafted when Ditch 13 construction was completed in 1907.

Crow Wing County invites you to a public meeting to discuss your connection to Ditch 13 and the process of assessing your property for the items listed above. This meeting will take place at **6:00 pm Thursday July 9, 2015 at the Lake Edward Township Hall: 23977 County Road 4, Nisswa**. If you are unable to attend, please feel free to submit your comments or concerns on the enclosed questionnaire or visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DITCH13>.

Sincerely,



Timothy Bray  
Crow Wing County Engineer



Deborah Erickson  
Crow Wing County Auditor-Treasurer

County Highway  
Department  
16589 County Road 142  
Brainerd, MN 56401

Office: (218) 824-1110  
Fax: (218) 824-1111  
[www.crowwing.us](http://www.crowwing.us)



# Ditch 13 Property Owners Survey

Property Owner Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parcel ID # \_\_\_\_\_

(If you own more than one parcel, please complete a separate survey for each.)

**Which of the following best describes this parcel?**

Lake Edward:  frontage  back lot

Mollie Lake:  frontage  back lot

North Long Lake:  frontage  back lot

Ditch 13 runs through or abuts this parcel

This parcel is more than a half mile away from any portion of Ditch 13

None of these

I'm not sure

**Using a scale of 0-10, with 0 being the least:**

**What is your perceived benefit of Ditch 13 to this parcel?**

1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10

**How concerned are you regarding the ditch's ability to properly drain this parcel?**

1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10

**How concerned are you regarding Ditch 13's ability to maintain area lake levels?**

1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10

**What best describes how Crow Wing County should proceed with Ditch 13?**

- Conduct in-depth engineering study and restore it to its original configuration (then maintain it)
  - Conduct engineering study only to the level necessary to and improve without complete restoration (then maintain it)
  - Maintain Ditch 13 in its current condition. Only remove beaver/beaver dams and other minor obstructions to keep it flowing.
  - Other
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I plan to attend the meeting at 6:30 pm on Thursday July 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Lake Edward Township Hall.

Please document other comments or concerns and mail back to Crow Wing County.

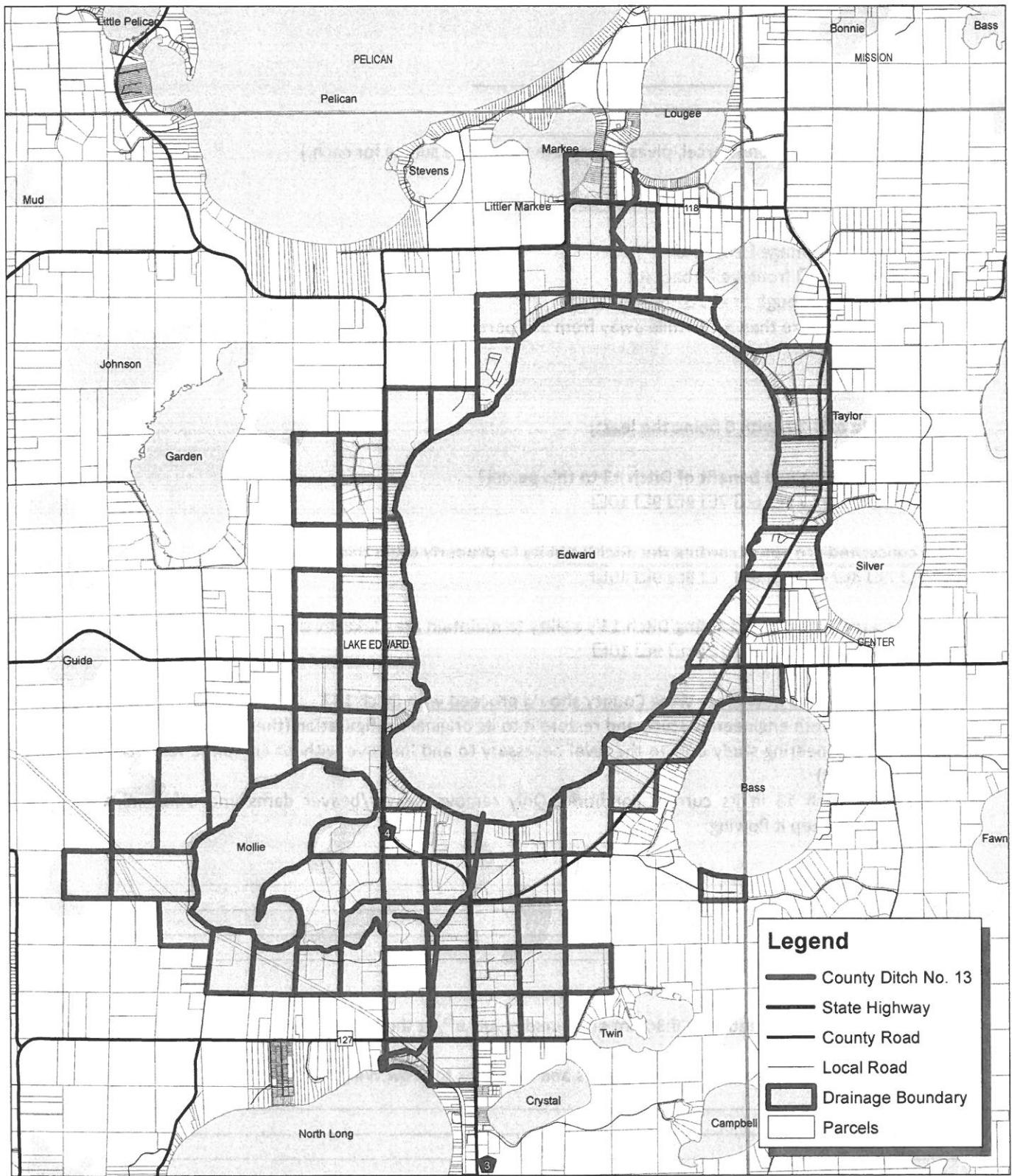
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# CROW WING COUNTY

## County Ditch No. 13



County Drainage Ditch No. 13 assists the drainage pattern for Lake Edward Township along with areas of Center Township. This ditch drains approximately 3350 acres of land and nearly 730 parcels, which cover a wide variety of land use classifications. Ownership of these parcels consist of Private, Corporate, and Multiple Government Agencies.

06/09/2015