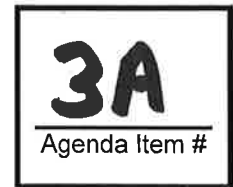




# Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request



**Requested Meeting Date:** 9-8-15

**Title of Item:** Public Drainage Ditch Maintenance/County Ditch 37

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	<b>Action Requested:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing* <small>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</small>
<b>Submitted by:</b> John Welle		<b>Department:</b> Highway Department
<b>Presenter (Name and Title):</b> John Welle, Aitkin County Engineer		<b>Estimated Time Needed:</b> 60 minutes
<b>Summary of Issue:</b> <p>As requested, time is being scheduled to discuss fiscal challenges to maintaining our public drainage ditches in compliance with M.S. 103E. This discussion will take place in the context of Aitkin County Ditch 37, which is a 38-mile public drainage ditch in northwest Aitkin County near Hill City and Haypoint. Benefitted property owners of this ditch system have recently (and historically) requested that portions of CD 37 be repaired to restore drainage that is currently being impeded by numerous beaver dams that exist in a four mile-mile segment of ditch that generally is accessible only by walking and/or by use of a small boat or canoe. The US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) from Grand Rapids, MN was recently asked to inspect this segment of ditch and submit a proposal to remove the beaver dams and trap the beaver out of this area. They subsequently submitted a proposal to remove approximately 40 beaver dams by hand and/or explosives and to remove all resident beaver for a 30-day period for a cost not-to-exceed \$7,500.</p> <p>There are currently no funds in the County Ditch No. 37 fund. Although a \$10,000 assessment was authorized on this ditch system on December 12, 2000, less than \$1,500 of that assessment was actually collected. The nearly \$8,500 that wasn't collected was for assessments on state-owned land for which the State of Minnesota refused to pay the assessment. The 120 property owners that paid the assessment for this ditch paid an average of approximately \$12, with the single largest assessment among these property owners being \$140. Only nine property owners paid more than a \$50 total assessment.</p>		
<b>Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:</b>		
<b>Recommended Action/Motion:</b> Discussion only with possible direction or action regarding the APHIS agreement.		
<b>Financial Impact:</b> Is there a cost associated with this request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ 7,500 Is this budgeted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i> Public Drainage Ditch repairs typically are not included in the annual budget.		

Legally binding agreements must have County Attorney approval prior to submission.