

**Public Scoping Meeting Comment Form**

**Judicial Ditch #14**

**NRCS Watershed Plan**

April 21, 2016

**Background**

The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District (MSTRWD) has taken an effort to develop solutions to flooding within the district to alleviate impacts caused by high flows. One of the recent focuses of the MSTRWD is aimed towards the Judicial Ditch #14 watershed. It has been well documented that frequent flooding has occurred along the majority of Judicial Ditch #14 watershed. The majority of Judicial Ditch #14 watershed is controlled by a 60" culvert through the Lilac Ridge. Upstream of the Lilac Ridge, Judicial Ditch #14 is very flat and provides minimal ditch grade. Flooding and extensive periods of wet conditions result making farming practices very difficult. Substantial erosion downstream of the Lilac Ridge 60" culvert has also been experienced due to much steeper ditch grades.

In 2015, the MSTRWD secured funding provided by the NRCS through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). This funding allocated \$12 million dollars to eligible applicants as determined by the Red River Retention Authority (RRRA). The RCPP funding was made available to the MSTRWD for watershed planning in the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed. Because these funds are provided by the NRCS, watershed planning must follow NRCS agency guidelines for compliance with National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) requirements. Tasks required for the NRCS Watershed Plan are available in the *Feasibility Study and Plan of Work* document.

**Purpose of Today's Meeting**

The initial step in NRCS Watershed Planning, as directed by NEPA, is to allow for input from all interested parties including federal, state, and local agencies and other interested groups or persons. Initial input will be focused on resource concerns within the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed. Scoping must consider the following, but is not limited to this list. In order to gather input on resource concerns within the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed, we would request that the attached comment form be completed and provided to the MSTRWD.

Required NEPA Concerns for Scoping:

- National Economic Development (NED)
- Air quality
- Coral reefs
- Cultural Resources
- Ecologically critical areas
- Endangered and threatened species
- Environmental justice and civil rights
- Essential fish habitat
- Fish and wildlife (including coordination requirements)
- Floodplain management
- Forest resources
- Invasive species
- Land use
- Migratory birds
- Natural areas
- Parklands
- Prime and unique farmland, and farmland of statewide significance
- Public health and safety
- Regional water resource plans (including coastal zone plans)
- Riparian areas
- Scenic beauty
- Scientific resources
- Sole source aquifers
- Social issues
- Soil resources
- Water quality
- Water resources
- Waters of the United States, including special aquatic sites
- Wetlands
- Wild and scenic rivers

Other possible concerns:

- Delayed planting
- Prevented planting
- Crop damages from prolonged inundation
- Road damages
- Culvert and bridge wash outs
- Field erosion/deposition
- Breakout flows JD #14 & downstream CD 22
- Community impacts
- Channel erosion/deposition
- Transportation disruptions
- Business/Commerce disruptions



Please fill out the following information based on your priorities in the Judicial Ditch #14 Watershed. Comment forms will be accepted for all forms postmarked on or before May 20, 2016. Completed comment forms can be mailed to the MSTRWD office at:

Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District  
 PO Box 154  
 Warren, MN 56762

Or via email to [mstrwd@hotmail.com](mailto:mstrwd@hotmail.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

*(agency, resident, commissioner, mayor, etc...)*

Circle the most appropriate ranking for each concern listed below. Refer to the KEY for definitions of each ranking. Concerns where the degree of concern is not indicated will be considered a zero value (No Concern or Not Relevant).

**KEY:**    **0 = No Concern or Not Relevant**    **1 = Minimal Concern**    **2 = Minor Concern**  
               **3 = Moderate Concern**                **4 = Significant Concern**                **5 = Severe Concern**

Required NEPA Concerns for Scoping:

• National Economic Development (NED).....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Air quality.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Coral reefs.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Cultural Resources.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Ecologically critical areas.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Endangered and threatened species.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Environmental justice and civil rights.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Essential fish habitat.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Fish and wildlife (including coordination requirements).....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Floodplain management.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Forest resources.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Invasive species.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Land use.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Migratory birds.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Natural areas.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Parklands.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Prime and unique farmland, and farmland of statewide significance.....	0	1	2	3	4	5
• Public health and safety.....	0	1	2	3	4	5

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- Regional water resource plans (including coastal zone plans).....0 1 2 3 4 5
- Riparian areas.....0 1 2 3 4 5
- Scenic beauty.....0 1 2 3 4 5
- Scientific resources.....0 1 2 3 4 5
- Sole source aquifers.....0 1 2 3 4 5
- Social issues.....0 1 2 3 4 5
- Soil resources.....0 1 2 3 4 5
- Water quality.....0 1 2 3 4 5
- Water resources.....0 1 2 3 4 5
- Waters of the United States, including special aquatic sites.....0 1 2 3 4 5
- Wetlands.....0 1 2 3 4 5
- Wild and scenic rivers.....0 1 2 3 4 5

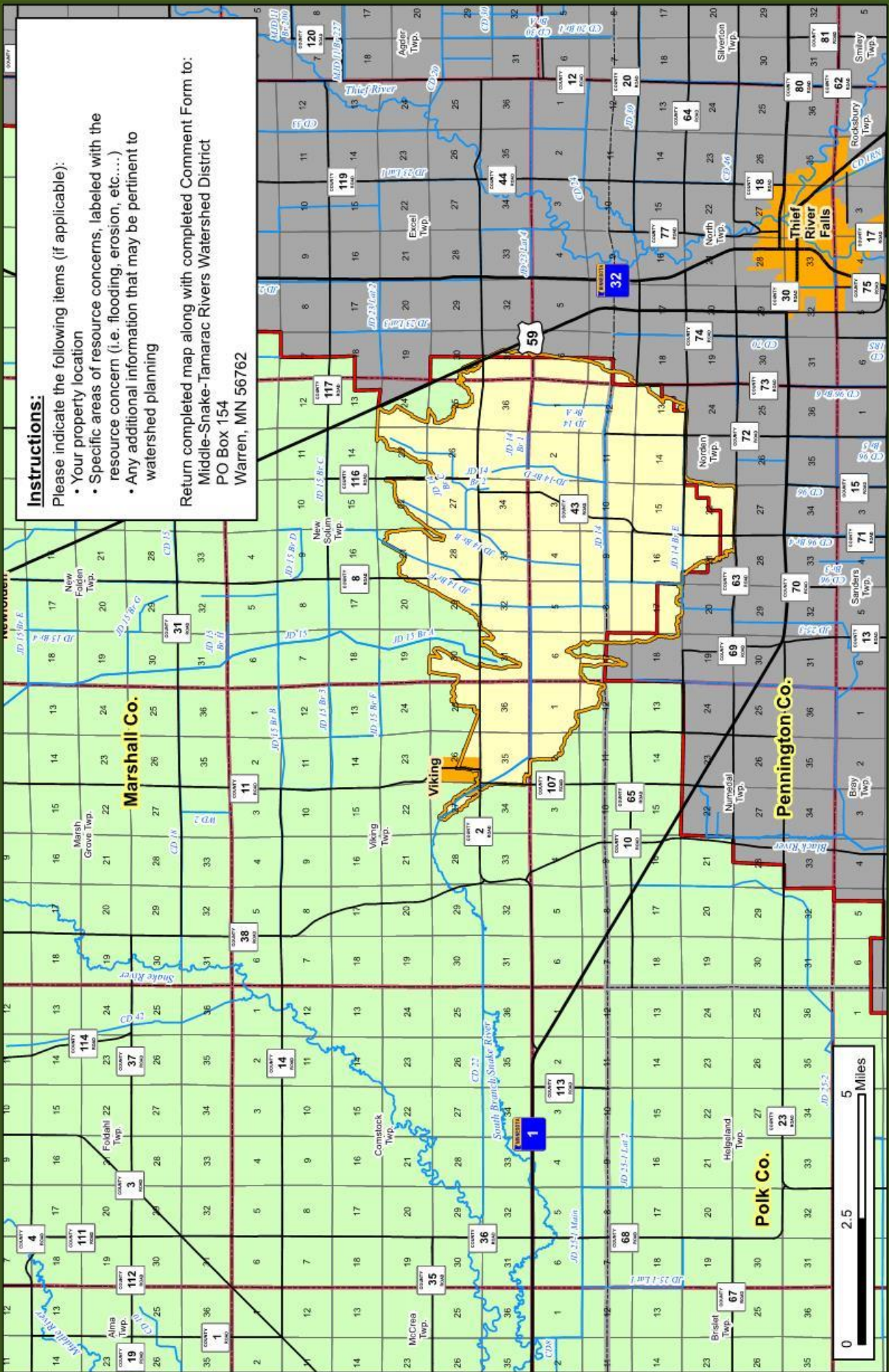
Other possible concerns:

- Delayed planting.....0 1 2 3 4 5
- Prevented planting.....0 1 2 3 4 5
- Crop damages from prolonged inundation.....0 1 2 3 4 5
- Road damages.....0 1 2 3 4 5
- Culvert and bridge wash outs.....0 1 2 3 4 5
- Field erosion/deposition.....0 1 2 3 4 5
- Breakout flows to other drainage systems.....0 1 2 3 4 5
- Community impacts.....0 1 2 3 4 5
- Channel erosion/deposition.....0 1 2 3 4 5
- Transportation disruptions.....0 1 2 3 4 5
- Business/Commerce disruptions.....0 1 2 3 4 5
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in).....0 1 2 3 4 5
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in).....0 1 2 3 4 5
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in).....0 1 2 3 4 5
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Write-in).....0 1 2 3 4 5

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Instructions:**  
 Please indicate the following items (if applicable):

- Your property location
- Specific areas of resource concerns, labeled with the resource concern (i.e. flooding, erosion, etc....)
- Any additional information that may be pertinent to watershed planning

Return completed map along with completed Comment Form to:  
 Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District  
 PO Box 154  
 Warren, MN 56762

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