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ENGINEERS REPORT  
TO THE  
BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE  
MIDDLE RIVER SNAKE RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

BACKGROUND REPORT  
JUDICIAL DITCH #68

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN, SPECIFICATION OR REPORT  
WAS PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND  
THAT I AM A DULY REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER UNDER  
THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

*Ronald Maharis*

Registration Number 13,675 Date 8 Feb 94

A) INTRODUCTION

This report concerning Judicial Ditch #68 is prepared under the direction of the Board of Managers of the Middle River-Snake River Watershed District. The intent of this report is to provide information needed by the Board to manage this system. The information presented here is summary of the information available concerning Judicial Ditch #68 supplemented by data provided by the staff of the Middle River Snake River Watershed District.

To make this report as complete as possible the following sources were checked for information:

- 1) Clerk of Court - Polk County
- 2) County Auditor - Polk County
- 3) Surveyor - Polk County

Neither the original Engineers Report nor the original plan was found for Judicial Ditch #68. However, a plan for the Repair of Judicial Ditch #68 prepared in 1969, was found in the office of the Polk County Surveyor. In addition to this plan information was found in the offices of the Clerk of Court and County Auditor of Polk County. The original plan was not found. The information presented is primarily from documents on file with the Clerk of Court and the 1968 plan.

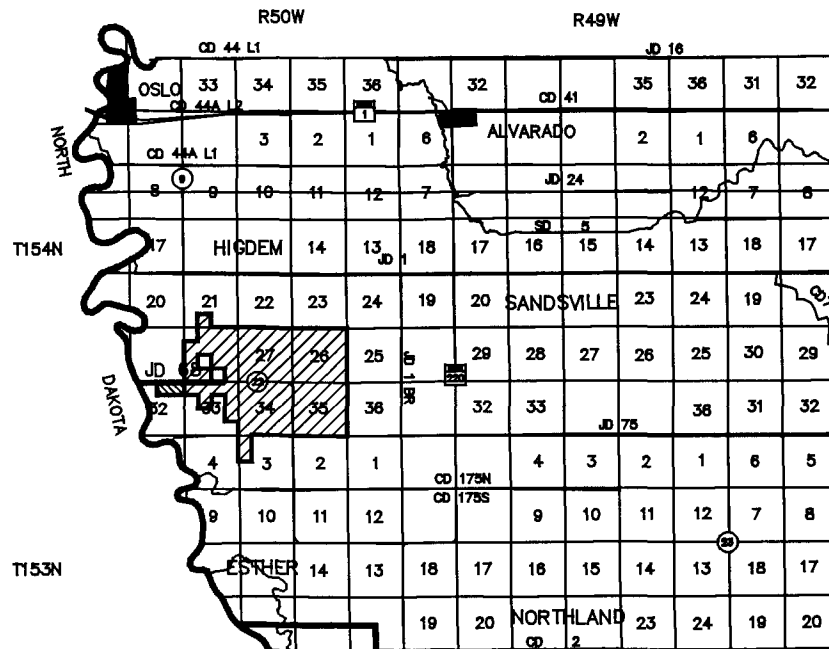


Figure 1  
 Judicial Ditch #68, Benefited Area  
 From Auditors Tabular Statement August 26, 1919

Every effort was made to make the information presented here as accurate as possible. If questions arise about the accuracy of the data it will be necessary to consult the original sources.

Judicial Ditch #68 was established by order of Judge William Watts of the 14th Judicial District on May 3, 1918. The drainage system as it was established consists of approximately 1.5 miles of open channel and 1.5 miles of roadway in Higdem township in Polk County. This drainage system originates 1 mile east, and 5 miles south of the village of Oslo. The ditch outlets into the Red River of the North. The location of Judicial Ditch #68 is shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2.

In addition to the channel it appears that at least 2 crossings were established but the available information does not indicate where these were installed.

All of this system is within the boundary of the Middle River-Snake River Watershed District.

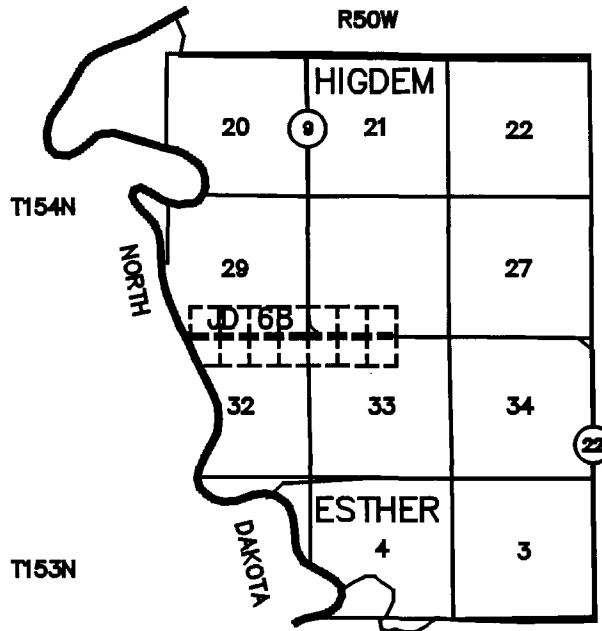


Figure 2  
Judicial Ditch #68  
Channel Location

B) BENEFITS AND COSTS

Benefits

The information concerning the original benefits and costs has been derived from the "Auditors Tabular Statement for the Construction of Judicial Ditch #68", filed with the Clerk of court for Polk County on August 26, 1919.

The benefits determined for the construction of Judicial Ditch #68 totaled \$17,565.50 which were applied to approximately 3,480 acres of land and 1.5 miles of roadway. The average benefits to the lands were \$4.61 per acre for a total of \$16,040.50 and the average benefits to the roadway were determined to be \$1,016.67 per mile for a total of \$1,525. No record was found of any proceedings held since the establishment of this system that would allow a change in the benefits so it is assumed the benefits are as shown in Table 1 and Table 2.

Table 1  
 Judicial Ditch #68  
 Summary of Benefits to Lands by Township

Township	Benefits (\$)	Area Acres*	Benefits per Acre	% of Total
Esther	640.00	80	\$ 8.00	3.64
Higdem	15,400.50	3,400	4.53	87.67
	<u>16,040.50</u>	<u>3,480</u>	<u>\$ 5.05 Avg</u>	<u>91.32</u>

Table 2  
 Judicial Ditch #68  
 Summary of Benefits to Roads by Township

Township	Benefits (\$)	Length Miles	Benefits per Mile	% of Total
Higdem	1,525.00	1.50	1,016.67	8.68

As shown in Table 1 and Table 2; 91.32% of the benefits are to lands and 8.68% of the benefits are to public roadways.

At the time the viewers determined the benefits of Judicial Ditch #68, the lands found to be benefited was all privately owned. All the area benefited by Judicial Ditch #68 is within the boundary of the Middle River-Snake River Watershed District.

Cost of Construction

The cost of construction of Judicial Ditch #68 was \$9,485.37. This cost was apportioned to the properties found to be benefited on the basis of 54.00% of the benefits determined. The breakdown of the costs is shown in Table 3 along with an estimate of the quantities when they could be determined from the information available.

Table 3  
Judicial Ditch #68  
Cost of Construction (1918)

Item	Quantity	Cost (\$)
Preliminary Survey		487.22
Excavation	41,860.8 Cu. Yds.	6,488.42
Bridges and Culverts	1 Bridge & Culverts	858.33
Damages for Right of Way		392.60
Future Engineering		577.91
Roadwork		292.50
Legal		150.95
Fees (Court, Auditor)		237.44
	Total	\$9,485.37

C) Physical Data

Description of Course

The following description of course was taken from the "Clerks Notice of Hearing" filed with the Clerk of Court for Polk County on April 9, 1918.

Commencing at a point one thousand and eighty three (1,083) feet easterly and twenty three (23) feet southerly from the one quarter section corner between sections twenty-eight (28) and thirty-three (33), township one hundred and fifty four (154) north, range fifty (50) west, being the township of Higdem; thence westerly parallel with said section line through sections thirty-three (33) and thirty-two (32) to the Red River of the North.

### Stationing

By convention the Middle River-Snake River Watershed District establishes station 0+00 at the outlet of a channel with increasing station numbers progressing upstream. This is the reverse of the stationing used in the 1969 plan. This difference necessitates the use of a conversion to relate one set of stations to the other. In October 1992 the Middle River Snake River Watershed District completed a survey of Judicial Ditch #68. A conversion from the 1992 stations to the 1969 stations is as follows.

1969 Station to MRSRWD Stationing  
Original Station 78+60 to 0+00  
MRSRWD Station = 82+00 - (1969 Station)

All subsequent references to stationing will be with reference to the stations derived by the Middle River Snake River Watershed District.

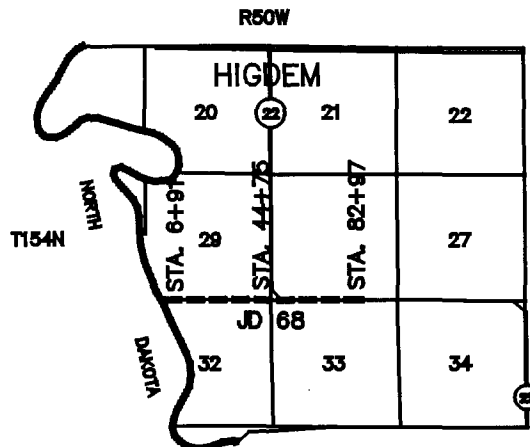


Figure 3  
Judicial Ditch #68  
1992 Stationing