

Dave Jutz Ellsworth Township Supervisor Meeker County

The reason for this Appropriation project is to address drainage issues which primarily involve private property land owners. The waterways are most often at the end of lakes and wetlands. Cleaning these waterways are viewed by the landowner as resulting in little to no advantage to them. As a Township, we cannot use taxpayer funds to clean waterways that drain public water unless there is damage to Township roads, property, or Town Halls. The alternative would be to sue landowners to force maintenance. This is not an option for the Township.

This bill will fund projects that are not covered by any other funding sources. This appropriation can only be used for cleaning, maintenance and repair of waterways that have no other funding mechanism.

Upon completion of needed repairs and servicing, the new ditch system coordinates with county or counties to establish guidelines to ensure future quality upkeep of lakes, wetlands and watersheds.

The targeted waterways have not been maintained in 60 plus years. Townships are prohibited by law to use taxpayer funds to clean waterways that drain public waters. Townships do, however, have authority if waterways cause damage to Township roads, damage to Township property or Township town halls.

I have photos that chronicle the erosion of shorelines. High water levels also flood farm land and nesting habitat in wetlands. These waterways have been neglected for 60-100 years according to available records and conversations.