Minnesota Water Resources Board 353 Centennial Building St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF RAMSEY

AFFIDAVIT

ERLING M. WEIBERG, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and says:

THAT HE IS the Administrative Secretary of the Water Resources Board; that he has compared the attached copy of an Order relating to Buffalo Creek Watershed District, dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota, the 30th day of January 1969, with the original thereof on file in his official custody; and '

THAT SAID COPY is a true and correct copy of said original and the whole thereof.

Erling M. Weiberg

Administrative Secretary

Subscribed and sworn to before me this <u>6</u> day of <u>Je6</u> 1969.

all

DOROTHY J. O'CONNELL Notary Public, Ramsey County, Minn. My Commission Expires Jan. 11, 1970.

#20468

STATE OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF STATE FILED FEB6- 1969

Late Secretary of State nhi

Minnesota Water Resources Board 353 Centennial Building St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

In the Matter of the Petition for the Establishment of the Buffalo Creek Watershed District, located in the Counties of Kandiyohi, McLeod, Renville, Sibley, and Carver.

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FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, ORDER

A nominating petition, initiated by the County Boards of Commissioners of McLeod, Sibley and Carver, having been filed with the Minnesota Water Resources Board on July 18, 1967, praying for the establishment of a watershed district to be known as Buffalo Creek Watershed District, and the appointment of a Board of Managers thereto, for the general purposes of managing and making provident use of the waters and natural resources within the Buffalo Creek watershed, by controlling and alleviating flood water damage to lands in the Buffalo Creek flood plain; and, to improve stream channels and other watercourses for drainage and any other public purpose; to regulate the flow of water and conserve the waters of the basin for beneficial purposes and prevent damage to roads, bridges, and other public and private improvements within the watershed; to adopt preventive and remedial measures for the control or alleviation of land and soil erosion and siltation of watercourses or bodies of water affected thereby; to provide and conserve water for industrial, domestic, agricultural, recreational or other public use;

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To modify, consolidate and coordinate existing public drainage systems within the watershed; to regulate improvements by riparian landowners of the beds, banks, and shores of lakes, streams, and marshes by permit or otherwise in order to preserve the same for beneficial use; to provide wildlife and recreational areas, such as parks and camps by controlling, preserving, and regulating waters through reclaiming and filling wet and overflowed lands, and acquiring lands where necessary and in the public interest;

To create new artificial water storage sites and maintain and improve existing natural storage areas such as lakes and marshes within the watershed, and to provide a plan for the orderly management of waters for all beneficial purposes under provisions of Minnesota Laws of 1955, Chapter 799, as amended;

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And the Board on February 9, 1968, having ordered a hearing to be held on said petition on the 28th day of March 1968 at 10:00 A.M., CST, in the Auditorium, Hector Community School, Hector, Minnesota;

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And the Board was informed at a meeting on March 27, 1968, that there was not due notice given to owners of lands in Renville County because of the failure of publication of its Notice of Hearing in a legal newspaper in Renville County. On March 28, 1968 the Board convened its scheduled hearing and continued said hearing to 10:00 A.M. CST, on April 25, 1968 at the same location and caused publication to be made in a Renville County newspaper and having held said continued hearing on April 25, 26, 30, May 1 and 2, 1968;

And Mr. Frank J. Murray, Special Assistant Attorney General, St. Paul, Mr. Richard Hessburg, Special Assistant Attorney General, St. Paul, Mr. Erling M. Weiberg, Administrative Secretary for the Minnesota Water Resources Board, St. Paul, having appeared for the Board; Mr. John Keefe, McLeod County Attorney, Hutchinson, and Mr. Raymond A. Haik, Attorney, Minneapolis, having appeared for the petitioners; Mr. Thomas J. Simmons, Renville County Attorney, Olivia, having appeared for the Renville County Board of Commissioners, and others; Mr. Cedric

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Williams, having appeared for the Village of Hector; Mr. DePaul Willette, Attorney, Olivia, Mr. James Zeug, Attorney, Olivia, and Mr. W. C. Nelson, Attorney, Fairfax, having appeared for the objectors to the establishment of said watershed district; Mr. Donald Hunter, Attorney, New Ulm, having appeared for the managers of the High Island Watershed District; and other persons having appeared, some for and some against the establishment of a watershed district;

And Mr. Rector H. Putnam, member and Secretary of the Board, Blue Earth, having removed himself from all hearings, deliberations, and decision-making, as the record shows, in the above matter because of his interest in land within the proposed watershed district;

And, the Board having heard the testimony and evidence offered and having duly considered the same, and having considered all the records and files of the Board relating to said petition and other data relating to the matter, now makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

I. A duly executed nominating petition by the County Boards of Commissioners of McLeod, Sibley and Carver Counties was filed with the Minnesota Water Resources Board on July 18, 1967. Filed with the nominating petition were the required proofs of service.

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II. On February 9, 1968, having found the nominating petition to be sufficient, the Board ordered a hearing to be held at 10:00 A.M., March 28, 1968, in the Auditorium, Hector Community School, Hector, Minnesota, 55342. At a meeting in Hector on March 27, 1968, the Board was informed that the owners of lands of concern in the Buffalo Creek watershed in Renville County had not been given proper notice, due to the failure to publish the Board's Notice of Hearing in a legal newspaper in Renville County, as ordered. The Board convened its scheduled hearing at 10:00 A.M., March 28, 1968 and continued said hearing to 10:00 A.M., April 25, 1968 and caused its Notice of Hearing to be published in a legal newspaper in Renville County. Proper Notices of Hearings having been given, the Board held said hearing on April 25, 26 and 30; May 1 and May 2, 1968.

III. Due and proper notice was given to the owners of all lands affected by publication in appropriate legal newspapers.

IV. The Director of the Division of Waters, Soils and Minerals, Department of Conservation, filed a written preliminary report with the Board based upon the nominating petition and other available data in his file. The Director's report was received in evidence at the hearing and was supported by oral testimony. The Director recommended the establishment of the proposed district.

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V. The following facts are found to exist:

A. The source of Buffalo Creek is essentially in the northeast corner of Renville County. The Creek traverses through the northeast part of Renville County easterly and southerly to the McLeod County line; thence continues easterly and southerly in the south edge of McLeod County to the extreme northwest corner of New Auburn Township, (Township 114 North, Range 28 West) Sibley County, where it continues easterly and northerly in McLeod County to its confluence with the South Fork of Crow River in Camden Township, (Township 116 North, Range 26 West) Carver County.

B. The watershed of Buffalo Creek is the most southerly sub-watershed of the Crow River. Buffalo Creek terminates where it flows into the South Fork of the Crow River northeast of the Village of Plato. The South Fork of the Crow River joins the North Fork of the Crow River near Rockford to become the Crow River, which outlets into the Mississippi River near Dayton.

C. Lands of the watershed which contribute runoff water to Buffalo Creek are located in extreme southeast Kandiyohi County, northeast Renville County, south and east McLeod County, extreme northwest Sibley County and eastern Carver County. The area of Buffalo Creek watershed

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is about 415 square miles, of which over half is in the upper reaches of the watershed lying in Renville and Kandiyohi Counties.

<u>D</u>. At a point on the north ridge line of the watershed in Kandiyohi County the elevation is approximately 1,145 feet above sea level. In the vicinity of the junction of the Buffalo Creek with the South Fork of the Crow River the elevation is approximately 945 feet above sea level. The watershed extends approximately 50 miles from east to west.

<u>E.</u> To the south of Buffalo Creek watershed and adjoining it is the watershed of the High Island Creek, a tributary of the Minnesota River. This Board has established the High Island Watershed District, which includes all lands contributing runoff to High Island Creek. The portion of the divide which is common to the two watersheds extends generally eastward from the southwest corner of Township 114 North, Range 32 West (Martinsburg Township) in Renville County to the northwest corner of Township 114 North, Range 27 West (Green Isle Township) in Sibley County.

<u>F.</u> The Board found that no runoff water from Meeker County flows into the Buffalo Creek watershed.

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<u>G.</u> The Board took judicial notice of the Surveyor General Land Office Plats of original land surveys, made in the late 1850's, of the townships involved in this proceeding. In the 1850's the combined area of all of the meandered and non-meandered lakes, sloughs and marshes in the Buffalo Creek watershed was approximately 40 square miles or nearly 10 percent of the total area. Today the combined area in the remaining meandered lakes is about 7 square miles or less than 2 percent of the total watershed area. The area of marshes and sloughs that remains is not known, but their aggregate area is presumed to be relatively small.

H. Since the late 1850's the character of the watershed in many respects has been altered by man. One of the most prominent alterations has been the construction of public ditches, both open and tiled, in various parts of the watershed. This has been accomplished under Minnesota public drainage laws.

I. The natural appearance of the watercourse of Buffalo Creek has been substantially changed in certain places by the construction of drainage ditches. Beginning at the Renville-McLeod County line and proceeding upstream, the creek has been modified by a part of Judicial Ditch No. 15 and by Judicial Ditch No. 28-A and Judicial Ditch No. 27.

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DRAINAGE SYSTEM DATA	- BUFFALO CRE	EK - RENVILLE COU	JNTY
<u>Item Name</u>	Year <u>Established</u>	Watershed <u>Area</u> Est. Sq. Miles	Ditches Dpen & Tile Miles
l. *J.D. No. 27 and Laterals	1954	81.6	46.6
2. J.D. No. 28-A and Lateral	1959	111.2	15.1

TABLE I

J. So far as it appears from the record the natural state of Buffalo Creek, from the Renville-McLeod County line in Section 30, Township 115 North, Range 30 West to its confluence with the South Fork of the Crow River, has not been altered.

<u>K</u>. Within the watershed, in Kandiyohi and Renville Counties, the following ditch systems, including laterals and branches, have been established and are tributary from the north and east to Buffalo Creek:

* In the above table and elsewhere herein the abbreviations J.D. and C.D. mean Judicial Ditch System and County Ditch System respectively. Some Judicial Ditch Systems in the Buffalo Creek watershed are wholly within one county.

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<u>Ľ</u>	RAINAGE SYSTEM DA	ATA - KANDIYOHI	AND RENVILLE (COUNTIES
Item	<u>Name</u>		Watershed <u>Area</u> Est. Sq. Miles	Ditches <u>Open & Tile</u> Miles
1.	J.D. No. 2 and Laterals	1908	57.4	54.0
2.	J.D. No. 9, Laterals and Branches	1911	10.9	16.0
3.	C.D. No. 4	1898	24.0	27.5
4.	C.D. No. 7A	1901	8.5	9.6
5.	C.D. No. 48	1911	1.2	5.0
6.	C.D. No. 65	1915	2.6	6.1
7.	C.D. No. 67	1916	9.0	26.7
8.	C.D. No. 134	1958	3.0	5.3
9.	C.D. No. 137	1959	0.6	1.8

TABLE II

L. To the north and east of Buffalo Creek in parts of Boon Lake and Preston Lake Townships, Renville County, excess water flows off certain lands through County Ditch No. 132 to Allie Lake, thence through a natural channel to Preston Lake, into which County Ditch No. 133 empties from the northeast. There is a natural watercourse leading southwesterly from Preston Lake to Judicial Ditch No. 28-A. In the latter natural watercourse a concrete carp barrier exists.

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DRAINAGE	SYSTEM DATA - RI	ENVILLE COUNTY	
<u>Item Name</u>	Year <u>Established</u>	Watershed <u>Area</u> Est. Sq. Miles	Ditches <u>Open & Tile</u> Miles
1. C.D. No. 132	1958	6.0	9.3
2. C.D. No. 133	1958	3.5	5.5

TABLE	TTT
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<u>M</u>. The drainage systems shown in Tables I, II and III above, afford excess water removal from about one half of the area in Renville County and all of the land in Kandiyohi County within the watershed.

<u>N</u>. The remaining watershed area in Renville County is essentially drained by Judicial Ditch System No. 15, including its laterals or branches, together with County Ditches Numbers 33, 114, and 129. Judicial Ditch System No. 15 outlets into Buffalo Creek in Section 15, Township 115 North, Range 31 West, at the downstream terminus of Judicial Ditch No. 28-A, and Buffalo Creek from this point to the Renville County-McLeod County boundary in Section 25, Township 115 North, Range 31 West, is part of Judicial Ditch No. 15.

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<u>Item Name</u> .	Year <u>Established</u>	Watershed <u>Area</u> Est. Sq. Miles	Ditches <u>Open & Tile</u> Miles
1. J.D. No. 15-Laterals and Branches*	s 1923	112.0	505.5
2. C.D. No. 33	1906	1.2	1.6
3. C.D. No. 114	1952	1.2	3.5
4. C.D. No. 129	1957	2.5	3.0
* Involves a small p			

TABLE IV

DRAINAGE SYSTEM DATA - RENVILLE COUNTY

* Involves a small part of Section 30, Township 115 North, Range 30 West (McLeod County) and approximately 980 acres in Township 114 North, Range 31 West (Sibley County).

O. Drainage systems constructed during the period 1897 to 1915, within the watershed area of Judicial Ditch No. 15 in Renville County, have been incorporated into Judicial Ditch No. 15.

<u>P.</u> About $l\frac{1}{2}$ square miles of land in Renville County drain into Judicial Ditch No. 4 (Renville-Sibley). This system also drains about $4\frac{1}{2}$ square miles in McLeod County. Judicial Ditch No. 4 outlets into the north side of Buffalo Creek in Section 20, Township 115 North, Range 30 West, McLeod County. It is estimated that there are 6 3/4 miles of open ditch and tile in Judicial Ditch No. 4 established in 1913.

Q. The following McLeod County Drainage Systems enter Buffalo Creek from the north side:

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<u>Item Name</u>	Year Established	Watershed <u>Area</u> Est. Sq. Miles	Ditches <u>Open & Tile</u> Miles
1. C.D. No. 12-A	1906	6.0	Est. 6.0
2. C.D. No. 33	1920	2.0	5.4
3. C.D. No. 15	1944	2.3	3.2

TABLE V DRAINAGE SYSTEM DATA - MC LEOD COUNT

<u>R</u>. The following McLeod County Drainage Systems enter Buffalo Creek from the south side:

TABLE VI

DRAINAGE SYSTEM DATA - MC LEOD COUNTY

<u>Item Name</u>	Year <u>Establis</u>	Watershed <u>hed Area</u> Est. Sq. Miles	Ditches <u>Open & Tile</u> Miles
1. C.D. No. 2	8 1916	3.8	7.2
2. C.D. No. 3	0 1917	4.0	6.9
3. C.D. No, 6	4 1967	2.8	4.9

<u>S</u>. Judicial Ditch No. 8 (Sibley and McLeod) enters Buffalo Creek from the south in Section 16, Township 115 North, Range 27 West, McLeod County. Approximately 2 square miles of land in Sibley County, Sections 5 and 6, Township 114 North, Range 27 West, contribute runoff to the system. This system is located in the southeast corner of Township 115 North, Range 27 West, McLeod County:

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DRAINAGE :	SYSTEM DATA - MC LEO	D AND SIBLEY COU	NTIES
<u>Item Name</u>	Year <u>Established</u>	Watershed <u>Area</u> Est. Sq. Miles	Ditches <u>Open & Tile</u> Miles
1. J.D. No. 8	1917	14.0 E	st. 24.2

TABLE VII

<u>T</u>. The following table shows the establishment of Judicial Ditch projects in the watershed arranged by decades:

TABLE VIII

ESTABLISHMENT OF JUDICIAL DRAINAGE PROJECTS IN WATERSHED BY DECADES

Period	Number of <u>Project</u> s	Watershed <u>Area</u> Est, Sq. Miles	Ditches <u>Open & Tile</u> Miles
1900 - 1909 1910 - 1919 1920 - 1929 1930 - 1939	1 (1908) 2 1 None	42.0 20.4 100.0	15.9 36.4 500.0
1940 - 1949 1950 - 1959 1960 - 1967	None 11 2	193.2 4.5	52.1 1.8
TOTALS	17	360.1	606.2

 \underline{U} . The following two tables show the establishment of County Ditch projects in the watershed arranged by decades:

TABLE	IX

ESTABLISHMENT	ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNTY DRAINAGE PROJECTS IN RENVILLE COUNTY IN THE WATERSHED-BY DECADES		
<u>Period</u>	Number of Projects	Watershed <u>Area</u> Est. Sq. Miles	Ditches <u>Open & Tile</u> Miles
1900 - 1909 1910 - 1919 1920 - 1929	1 (1906) 5 None	1.2 36.3	1.6 58.7
1930 - 1939 1940 - 1949 1950 - 1959 1960 - 1967	None 1 21 6	1.0 50.7 7.6	3.6 92.2 14.6
TOTALS	34	96.8	170.7

TABLE X

ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNTY DRAINAGE PROJECTS IN MC LEOD COUNTY IN THE WATERSHED-BY DECADES

Period	Number of <u>Projects</u>	Watershed Area Est. Sq. Miles	Ditches <u>Open & Tile</u> Miles
1900 - 1909 1910 - 1919 1920 - 1929 1930 - 1939	None 2 1	7.8 1.4	14.1 5.4
1950 - 1959 1940 - 1949 1950 - 1959 1960 - 1967	None 1 1 3	2.3 0.9 8.0	3.2 0.4 16.6
TOTALS	8	20.4	39.7

 \underline{V} . In addition to the above facts relating to public drainage systems, much private ditching has occurred within the watershed. A study of the map in the Division of Waters, Soils and Minerals exhibit reveals a large

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community system in the southeast corner of Township 115 North, Range 27 West (McLeod County) and extending into certain sections of Township 115 North, Range 26 West (Carver County). The outlet of this system is Buffalo Creek in Section 15, Township 115 North, Range 27 West. A similar unidentified system is located in Sections 1 and 12, Township 114 North, Range 29 West, (McLeod County) and Sections 5 and 6, Township 114 North, Range 28 West (Sibley County) with its outlet into Buffalo Creek in Section 5, Township 114 North, Range 28 West (McLeod County). An inspection of recent annual reports of the Renville and McLeod Soil and Water Conservation Districts shows that work activity in both of these districts has been an aid to farmers in drainage matters, commonly referred to as "on-the-farm drainage".

<u>W</u>. Agricultural pursuits and related services is the major economic activity within the watershed. In the upper reaches of the watershed agricultural crop production of corn, soybeans and small grains predominates. In the lower reaches livestock enterprises are important, especially dairy. A large number of landowners in Buffalo Creek watershed have provided for drainage which involves the removal of excess water from the land by artificial means.

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X. Census figures show that the average size of a farm in Renville County is 241 acres, and 148 acres in McLeod County.

Y. An excellent system of state, county, township and private roads exists in the watershed. U.S. Highway No.212 passes through the watershed from east to west, closely paralleling Buffalo Creek, and is an important arterial route from the watershed eastward to the Twin City Metropolitan Area. State Highway No. 22 crosses the easterly part of the watershed from north to south and passes through Glencoe, McLeod County.

Z. A major county seat in the watershed, Glencoe, is situated mostly on the north side of Buffalo Creek. The Village of Brownton, located near Lake Addie, is on Buffalo Creek. Among the other communities in the watershed from east to west in McLeod County, are Plato, part of Stewart, and in Renville County, are Buffalo Lake and Hector. The water supply for these communities is obtained by wells from underground sources.

AA. Fox Lake in Renville and Kandiyohi Counties, Swan Lake in Renville County, three unnamed lakes in McLeod County, one unnamed lake in Sibley and McLeod Counties, have been drained. Berges Lake, in Sections 2 and 11, Township 114 North, Range 28 West (Sibley County) does not

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now exist as a lake. An unmarked drainage system, presumably private, traverses the lake area and surrounding land to outlet into Buffalo Creek in Section 34, Township 115 North, Range 28 West, McLeod County.

There are several meandered lakes now within the watershed:

	TABI	Æ	XI
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MEANDERED LAKES WITHIN WATERSHED

<u>Item</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Lake Name</u>	<u>Size</u> Acres
	Renville County	Preston Lake Allie Lake Hodgson Lake Phare Lake	659 479 150 139
2.	McLeod County	Clear Lake Lake Mary Lake Addie Marion Lake Lake Barber Whitney Lake Eagle Lake	80 106 271 518 129 220 390
3.	Sibley County	Schilling Lake	810

There are a number of unnamed lakes within the watershed situated mostly in McLeod County.

<u>BB</u>. There is within the watershed publicly-owned land used for wildlife purposes. This land is at the following locations:

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TABLE XII

in an	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS IN MC LEOD CC	UNTY
<u>Item</u>	Location	<u>Size</u>
1.	Section 34, Township 116 North, Range 30 West	280 Acres
2.	Sections 32 and 33, Township 116 North, Range 30 West and Sections 4 and 5, Township 115 North, Range 30 West	536 Acres

1.

A 160-acre tract in Section 34, Township 115 North, Range 29 West, McLeod County, remains as a remnant of the virgin prairie in this part of the state. The Minnesota Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, Inc., a private corporation, is the owner of the tract, known as the Schaefer Prairie Preserve. Approximately 1,000 acres, both privately and publicly owned, are reserved for wildlife, park and aesthetic purposes within the watershed.

CC. The Board estimates that the population of the entire watershed numbers approximately 13,000, distributed as follows:

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<u>I</u>	STIMATED PO	PULATION DISTRI	30, FTOM	
Item		County	Number	
1.	K	andiyohi County	76	
2.	R	enville County	4,970	
3.	M	CLeod County	7,664	
4.	S	ibley County	148	
5.	C	arver County	40	
		/ΤΟ!	TAL 12,898	

TABLE XIII

Floods have occurred on the lands in Buffalo DD. Creek watershed in 1859, 1878, 1896, 1918, 1924, 1930, 1940, 1943, 1946, 1948, 1949, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1961, 1964, 1965, 1967 and 1968. Occasionally some floods have occurred throughout the watershed, as in the case of the "Great Flood" of 1965. The years of occurrence of some of the earliest floods, as noted above, was made a part of the record by reference to historical papers. Floods of recent times were recalled by many witnesses. In some of the years listed above, floods have occurred, more than once a year on some of the land in the watershed depending upon the rainfall pattern. Others have resulted from spring thaw or storms, or a combination of both. Some land in the lower reaches along Buffalo Creek is subject to flooding even without precipitation in the immediate area. Sometimes storms have passed over the watershed miles upstream and days earlier.

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<u>EE</u>. The City of Glencoe, county seat of McLeod County, is located mostly on the north bank of Buffalo Creek. Buffalo Creek flows through part of the city. Floods have caused the closing of bridges over the Creek within the City. In the 1965 flood, city lift stations for sanitary sewers had to be sandbagged to prevent damage. High water in Buffalo Creek has caused ground water to back up into the city sanitary sewer system. This increased the load on the sewage plant and resulted in higher plant operating costs.

<u>FF</u>. Flood waters have interfered with timely spring planting of crops on lands in the lower and upper reaches of Buffalo Creek, notwithstanding the extensive public ditch systems established, as noted above, and the on-the-farm drainage facilities that some landowners have established.

<u>GG.</u> Pasture lands used for grazing or for hay production adjacent to Buffalo Creek in the lower reaches have been frequently flooded. Photographic evidence showed water standing in some fields of hay in windrows, interfering with the normal haying process and resulting in the loss of crops or damage to the quality of the crop. The loss of the hay crop due to flooding has been extensive enough to deprive some dairy operators of the needed quantities of home-grown feed for winter feeding of their dairy herds.

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HH. In recent years the increase in the frequency of flooding of some land along the lower reaches of Buffalo Creek has required farmers to alter drastically their farm operations. Some farmers were compelled to use cropland for pasturing livestock. Others were forced to abandon the use of flooded land for all agricultural purposes.

<u>II</u>. Bridges and culverts of the road system in the watershed have presumably been provided to permit the unobstructed flow of water in Buffalo Creek and its tributaries. In times of flooding, the frequency of which has increased in recent years, many of the bridges in the watershed have been damaged by high water. This has resulted in increased repair costs.. Some bridges were raised to accommodate the anticipated flood water. Road grades, adjacent to the bridges and culverts, also had to be raised. Public safety and convenience is involved in such instances.

JJ. Under flood conditions top soil is carried from flooded fields by the runoff water into the watercourses and deposited on the flood plain or in the channel of Buffalo Creek. In some instances of flooding, sand has been deposited upon the land adjacent to the banks of Buffalo Creek.

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<u>KK</u>. A number of witnesses recalled that, in their boyhood days, fishing was good in Buffalo Creek. Today the creek is not generally used by fishermen. This appears to be due partly to the fluctuation of the water level or the turbidity of the water. A continuous problem in waterways that have fishing potential is the presence of rough fish.

LL. There have been many inconveniences to the residents of the watershed caused by flood waters. In the spring break-up period school bus routes have been affected and the transport of children to and from school has not been normal. In the McLeod County area of the watershed, floods have interfered with the movement of milk to markets. Mail service has been interrupted in the lower reaches of Buffalo Creek. The delay in restoring this service was extensive in some cases because of the necessary length of time required to repair damaged bridges. Telephone service, in a few cases, was disrupted because of floods. Organizations or groups within some local communities have expended their own resources to help flooded farmers by supplying them with needed feed or by hauling their livestock and milk to their community markets. Summer floods have also prevented some farmers from using pastures for a period of time. This had necessitated the unplanned use of feed stuffs that would be held normally for the winter supply. Because of summer floods farmers, in some cases, have had to detour to work fields.

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<u>MM</u>. Flood waters have caused damage to some farm buildings. A creamery in Glencoe has been required at times to protect its property by sandbagging and to remove some of its supplies and goods to a higher storage site because of actual or anticipated flood waters. Many of the farmers along the lower reaches of Buffalo Creek have suffered from flood waters which damaged fences and deposited debris on the land. Some fences have had to be repaired or replaced and the debris removed from the fences and farm land.

<u>NN</u>. Pollution of Buffalo Creek from various sources has occurred. The effluent of the sewage treatment plants of Glencoe and Stewart outlets into Buffalo Creek. There are other communities located near Buffalo Creek that are discharging untreated sewage into Buffalo Creek. Certain farmers, who live along Buffalo Creek below the City of Glencoe, indicated that in the summertime there are undesirable odors coming from the stream; that at times dairy cattle will not drink the water from the stream; and, in recent times, an appreciable fish kill occurred in Buffalo Creek close to the community of Plato.

<u>00</u>. With regard to the effects of removal of excess water within the watershed, the record shows a lack of coordination between the counties and landowners affected.

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Some natural storage areas in the watershed have disappeared. Ditches exist in most all areas of the watershed for the removal of excess water. More than half of the total drained areas in the watershed has been drained in the last 17 years of a 60-year drainage history. Flooding in the lower reaches of Buffalo Creek watershed may be attributed, to a considerable extent, to the man-made changes in the natural water storage areas and watercourses in several parts of the watershed and to other modifications affecting some of the land surface.

VI. The name of the proposed watershed district is to be the Buffalo Creek Watershed District.

VII. A Board of Managers of five residents of the proposed watershed district is to govern the watershed district.

VIII. The proposed watershed district will be for the public welfare and in the public interest and the purposes of the Minnesota Watershed Act will be subserved by the establishment of the watershed district.

Upon the foregoing findings of fact, the Board makes the following:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

IX. The Minnesota Water Resources Board has jurisdiction in the matter of the establishment of the proposed watershed district.

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X. The public welfare and public interest will be served by the establishment of the watershed district and purposes of the Minnesota Watershed Act will be subserved by the establishment of the proposed watershed district.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED

XI. That the Buffalo Creek Watershed District is hereby established and given the corporate name of <u>Buffalo Creek</u> <u>Watershed District</u> by which name it shall hereafter be known and it shall have all authority, powers and duties as provided by law.

XII. The approximate area of the Buffalo Creek Watershed District is 415 square miles. The territory of Buffalo Creek Watershed District includes all 40-acre tracts of land, some of which may be fractional, or tracts of land of less than 40 acres or parts thereof, all government lots or parts thereof, and all lots of lands within platted areas. The lands of Buffalo Creek Watershed District are hereby described belpw:

I. <u>Kandiyohi County</u> 5th Principal Meridian A. Township 117 North, Range 35 West (Roseland)

	SE ¹ / ₄	Section	25
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SE축 of	NE	n	36

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в,	Township	117 No	rth,	Range 34	West (I	Lake	Lillian) I
		SE ¹ / ₄ o S ¹ / ₂ o	$f SW_{\frac{1}{4}}^{\frac{1}{4}}$	Secti "	on 19. 19			
		S ¹ / ₂ o	f SW≟	•	20			
		S ¹ /2 0	f SW≟		21			
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	All	of Sec	tions) •	31,	32,	33	
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		SW≟ o	f SE		36 36.			
c.	Township	117 No	rth,	Range 33	West (East	Lake Li	llian)
		NE ¹ 4 O S블 O NE ¹ 4 O	f NE f NE f SW f SW		Lon 34 34 34 34	-		
		N₩ ¹ 4 o S분 o	f NW f NW S		35 35 35			
			SW	11	36.			
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II. <u>R</u> e	enville Com	<u>unty</u>	5t	h Pri	nci	pal Me	eridia	n	
Α.	Township	116 Nor	th, R	ange	35	West	(Winfi	eld)	
		NE ¹ of	NE≟	Se	ecti	on l			
В.	Township	116 Nor	th, R	ange	34	West	(Kingm	an)	
	All	of Sect	ions	Se	ecti	on l	2,3	, 4,	5
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	All	of Sect	ions		11	10), 11,	12,	13
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		N코 or	f N불		Ü	1,	\$		
		NE¼ of	NE축		Ŧŧ	16	5		
		돈들 이	E E불		Ħ	23	3		
	A11	of Sect	tion		IJ	24	k		
		E ¹ / ₂ of	$\mathbb{N}^{\frac{1}{2}}_{\frac{1}{4}}$ $\mathbb{SE}^{\frac{1}{4}}_{\frac{1}{4}}$		17 11 17	25 25			
		NE_{4}^{1} of	NE ¹ / ₄		98	26			
С.	Township	115 Nort	ch, Ra	ange	34 1	West (Bird	Islar	nd)
		E ¹ of	SE_{4}^{1}	Se	cti	on 12			
		SE_4^1 of	NE≟		Ħ	13			

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С. Township 115 North, Range 34 West (Bird Island) (Cont.) S를 of NE클 Section 24 SEI Ħ 24 25 25 25 7.1 NE∄ E등 of NW NE4 of SW S등 of SW SE4 11 Ħ. ft. 25 11 25 SE¹/₄ of SE¹/₄ 35 11 All of Section :11 36. D. Township 114 North, Range 34 West (Norfolk) All of Section Section 1 N늘 of NE¹ Ħ. 12. Ε. Township 116 North, Range 33 West (Osceola) NW¹/₄ of NW¹/₄ Section 1 All of Sections Ħ 2 through 11 inclusive NW¹ of SW¹ S블 of SW¹ SE¹ Ť1 12 ŧ 12 11 12 All of Sections ŋ 13 through 30 inclusive NE¹ of SW¹ SE¹ 31 31 31 59 11 71 All of Sections .tt 32 through 36. Township 115 North, Range 33 West (Melville) F. All of Sections Section 1 through 4 N¹/₁₀ of NE¹/₄ SW¹/₄ of NE¹/₄ NE¹/₄ of NW¹/₄ SE¹/₄ of SE¹/₄ Ϊľ 5555 IE 11 11 NE¹ SE¹4 of NW¹4 ŤĽ 777 11 Ħ Sł

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F.	Township	115 North, R	lange 33 West	t (Melville) (Cont.)	
	All	of Sections	Section	8 through 17 inclusive	
		N쿨 SE쿷	и 1973 — 1973 — 1974 —	18 18	
	All	of Sections	1	19 through 36.	
G.	Township	114 North, R	lange 33 West	t (Palmyra)	
	All	of Sections	Section	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	، ، ، ، ، ، ، ، ، ، ، ، ، ، ، ، ، ، ،
		N_{2}^{1} of NE_{4}^{1}	11. 11. 11.	7	
		N코 NE ¹ 4 of SW ¹ 4 N호 of SE ¹ 4 SE ¹ 4 of SE ¹ 4	ti Ti Ti Ti Ti	8 8 8 8	
	All	of Sections		9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14	
		NE Na of NW SE 이 NW Na of NW SE 이 SE SE 이 SE 2	0 11 11 11 11 11	15 15 15 15 15 15	
		NE ¹ / ₄ of NE ¹ / ₄		16	
		NE 1 N늘 of SE1 SE1 of SE1	11 	24 24 24.	
H.	Township	116 North, R	lange 32 West	t (Brookfield)	
		Siz	Section	7	
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		SW ¹ ~ of NW ¹ ~ SW ¹ ~ W ¹ ~ of SE ¹ ~	n an	9 9 9	
		SW ¹ 4 of NE ¹ 4 S ¹ 5 of NW ¹ 4 S ¹ 5	н 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	11 11 11	

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H.	Township 116 North, R	ange 32 West	(Brookfield)	(Cont.)
	S를 of SW 1 SW출 of SE출	Section "	12 12	
	NW불 of NE불 S를 of NE불 NW불 S를		13 13 13 13	
	All of Section		14	
	NE축 SE축 of NW S责		15 15 15	
	All of Sections	N	16 through 36	inclusive.
I.	Township 115 North, R	ange 32 West	t (Hector)	
	All of Sections	Section	1 through 25 i	nclusive
	N <u>늘</u> N늘 of S늘 SE ₁ of SE1	in a star i In a star in a star i In a star in a star i	26 26 26	
	N코 SW 4 N코 of SE 4	dan di seria di seria Seria di seria di seri Seria di seria	27 27 27	
	All of Sections	n	28, 29, 30, 31	, 32, 33
	NW ¹ NW ¹ of SW ¹	H H	34 34	
	NE NE NE Of NW NE Of NW Of NW Of SE Of SE E Of NW Of SE E Of NW Of SE Of SE C SE Of SE Of SE O		36 36 36 36 36 36 36	

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J. 1	Cownship 114 North, Rang	ge 32 West	t (Martinsburg)
	Na SW4 Na of SE SW4 of SE	Section " "	4 4 4 4
	All of Sections	ग	5, 6, 7, 8
	W늘 of NE≟ W늘 W늘 of SEż	n N N	9 9 9
	W 등 of NE NW 등 N 등 of SW 등 N 등 of SW 등 SE 등 of SW 등 SE 등 of SW 등 NW 등 of SE 등	13 11 13 13 14 14	16 16 16 16 16 16
	All of Sections	n	17, 18, 19
	N를 of NE코 SW코 of NE코 W를 of SE쿨 of NE코 W를 W를 of SE쿨	10 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 1	20 20 20 20 20 20
	W늘 of NW of NE NW NW	11 11 11 11	29 29 29 29 29
	NE _‡ NE _‡ of SE _‡	Ħ Ĥ	30 30.
K.	Township 116 North, Ray	nge 31 We	st (Boon Lake)
	SW궆 W늘 of SE글	Section	9 9
	NW ¹ 4 of NE ¹ 4 S블 of NE ¹ 4 W ¹ 5 SE ¹ 4 SE ¹ 4	tt tt tt	16 16 16 16

32 West (Martinsburg) J.

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K. Township 116 North, R	lange 31 West (Boon Lake) (Cont.)
NE ¹ of NE ¹ S클 of NE ¹ SE ¹ of NW ¹ S ¹ S ¹ S ¹ S ¹ S ¹ S ¹	Section 17 " 17 " 17 " 17 " 17
$S_{2}^{\frac{1}{2}}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Government Lots 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 SE $\frac{1}{4}$	" 18 " 18 " 18
All of Section Including All Government Lots Thereof	" 19
All of Sections	" 20, 21
SE 1 of SW ¹ SE ¹	" 23 " 23
SE ¹ of NE ¹ S ¹ S ¹ S	" 24 " 24
All of Sections	" 25, 26, 27, 28, 29
All of Sections Including All Government Lots Thereof	" 30, 31
All of Sections	" 32, 33, 34, 35, 36.
L. Township 115 North, H	Range 31 West (Preston Lake)
All of Sections	Section 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
All of Sections Including All Government Lots Thereof	" 6, 7
All of Sections	" 8 through 17 inclusive
All of Sections Including All Government Lots Thereof	" 18, 19
All of Sections	" 20 through 29 inclusive
All of Section Including All Government Lots Thereof	" 30

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Township 115 North, Range 31 West (Preston Lake) (Cont.) L. NE1 Section 31 All 16 Government Lots 31 31 NW≟ of SE≟ ... N를 E클 of W클 of SW클 E클 of SW클 SE클 32 32 32 Ð Ϊŧ H 11 32 N늘 SW궃 W를 of W들 of SE궃 33 33 33 IJ . ff TT. NE축 N호 of NW基 N호 of SW국 of NW SE국 of NW국 34 34 34 34 11 n. ų. 11 That part of the Section lying north of the right-of-way of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company in the Section 11 35 That part of the Section lying north of the right-of-way of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company in the Section Ħ. 36. III. McLeod County 5th Principal Meridian Township 116 North, Range 30 West (Lynn) Α. SW쿺 of NW쿺 W늘 of SW킄 Section 16 16 SE¹4 of NE¹4 SW¹4 of NW¹4 S¹5 S¹5 -tt 17 ŤĮ. 17 ų 17 NE¹4 E¹2 of SW¹4 SE¹4 SE¹4 11 18 ,tı 18

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A. Township 116 North, H	Range 30 West (Lynn) (Cont.)
All of Sections	Section 19, 20
W클 of NW코 SW국 S클 of SE클	" 21 " 21 " 21
SW≟ of SW≟	" 22
E^{1}_{2} of SE^{1}_{4}	" 25
W∄ SE¥	" 26 " 26
All of Sections	" 27 through 36 inclusive.
B. Township 115 North, R	ange 30 West (Collins)
All of Sections	Section 1 through 30 inclusive
All land in Section 31 lying north of the right-of-way of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company in the section including any of the platted territory in the Village of Steward, lying north of the Railroad Company right-of-way	" 31
All land in Section 32 lying north of the right-of-way of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company in the Section	" 32
N불 N늘 of SW NW 4 of SE E늘 of SE 도글 of SE	" 33 " 33 " 33 " 33 " 33
All of Sections	" 34, 35, 36.

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C. Township) 114 North, Ra	nge 30 We	st (Round Grove)
N클 c	NE ¹ 4 of SW ¹ 5 NE ¹ 4 of SW ¹ 4 f NW ¹ 4 of SW ¹ 4 N ¹ 5 of SE ¹ 4	Section " "	1 1 1 1
	N 5W N : of SE	11	2 2 2
	NE ¹ 4 N등 of NW ₄ N 등 of SE ¹ 4 SE ¹ 4 of SE ¹ 4	II II II II	3 3 3 3.
D. Township	116 North, Ran	nge 29 Wes	st (Hassen Valley)
	$S^{\frac{1}{2}}$ of $SW^{\frac{1}{4}}$	Section	29
	SW 1 W 등 of SE1 SE1 of SE1	1997 - 19	30 30 30
A1	l of Section	••	31
	SW ¹ of NE Wa SE1	n an	32 32 32
	W늘 of SW 1	in an	33.
E. Township	115 North, Rar	nge 29 Wes	t (Sumter)
	NW_4^{\pm} of SW_4^{\pm}	Section "	4 4
All	of Sections	H	5, 6, 7
	W늘 of E늘 W늘	11 (1	8 8
	$S^{\underline{1}}_{\underline{2}}$ of $NE^{\underline{1}}_{\underline{4}}$ $S^{\underline{1}}_{\underline{2}}$	H Á	13 13

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Township 115 North, Range 29 West (Sumter) (Cont.) Ε. Section 14 S클 Sł 11 15 S<u> </u>of N코 S코 S코 16 16 Ì1 ij. 17 through 36 inclusive. All of Sections Township 114 North, Range 29 West (Penn) F. Section 1, 2 All of Sections N N 등 of S SE SE SW of SE 동 W of SE Jt 3333 ÷1 лï Эł-4 11 N를 of NE를 SE를 of NE를 44 11 ø NW 4 Ħ NW of SW 5 IJ All of Section N N to f SE SE to f SE SE to f SE to f SE 666 11 -11 n 11 Nj at. 12. N늘 of NW= G. Township 115 North, Range 28 West (Glencoe) S늘 of NE NE士 of NW S늘 of NW S클 of NW S클 Section 1 1 1 1 11 11 ŧ1: NE S클 of SW클 SE클 2 Ű ŧŧ 2 ŋ 2 SW클 of SW클 . IQ 3 -37-

G.	Township	115 Nort	:h, I	lange 28	West (C	lencoe)	(Cc	ont.)
		SE_{4}^{1} of	4 1 A I	Secti				
		NE ¹ of S클 of	NE NW NW NW 등	алана (11) (11) (11) (11) (11) (11) (11) (11)	9 9 9 9			
	A11	of Secti	lons	n	10	through	16	inclusive
		S <u>늘</u> of	NE ¹ NW ¹ S ¹ 오 ¹	11 17 19	17 17 17			
	All	of Secti	lons	1 1 1 1 1 1	18	through	36	inclusive.
H.	Township	116 Nort	ch, I	Range 27	West (1	Bergen)		
		$\begin{array}{c} \mathrm{NE}_{\frac{1}{2}}^{1} & \mathrm{of} \\ \mathrm{S}_{\frac{1}{2}}^{\frac{1}{2}} & \mathrm{of} \end{array}$	SW ¹ SW ¹ SE ¹	Secti "	Lon 13 13 13			
		NW _축 of S불 of	SW 14 SE 14 SE 14	H H H	14 14 14			
		NE ¹ of S불 of	NE NE SE 출	11 11 11 11	22 22 22			
	A11	of Secti	lons	#	23	, 24		
		SW^{1}_{4} of	NW쿺 SW쿺	н. Н. Н.	25 25			
	All	of Sect	tion	1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1	26			
		E ¹ / ₂ of	NE NW 지생 S 등	11. 11. 11. 11. 11.	27 27 27			
		E] of	N SW SE 도 도	n 11 0	34 34 34			
	All	of Sect	cion	U	35			
			Wł	11	36	•		

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Ι.	Township 115 North, Ran	nge 27 West	t (Helen)
	All of Sections	Section	1,2
	NE NE of NW S of NW S S S S 등		3 3 3 3 3
	S <u></u>	Ħ	4
	S <u></u> :	u	3
	NW ¹ of SW ¹ S블 of S블	n	6 6
	All of Sections	11	7 through 11 inclusive
	NW쿺 of NE긒 W늘	tt H	12 12
	W늘 of NE W클 SE士		13 13 13 13
	All of Sections	81	14 through 23 inclusive
	N늘 of NE士 SW士 of NE士 W글 W늘 of SE士	Η Η Η Η Η Η Η Η Η Η Η Η Η Η Η Η Η Η Η	24 24 24 24 24
	All of Sections	σ	25 through 36 inclusive.
IV. <u>Si</u>	bley County 5th	Principal	Meridian
А.	Township 114 North, Ra	nge 31 Wes	t (Grafton)
	$\mathbb{W}_{\overline{2}}^{\frac{1}{2}}$ of $\mathbb{NW}_{\overline{4}}^{\frac{1}{2}}$ of $\mathbb{NE}_{\overline{4}}^{\frac{1}{2}}$	Section "	4 4
	E ^늘 E늘 of W늘	11 11 11	55
I	$J^{\frac{1}{2}}$ of Government Lot 4	n n	6
	N늘 of NE N늘 of SE士 of NE士	41 FX	888
	N ¹ / ₂ of NW ¹ / ₂	IJ	9.
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B. Township 114 North, Range 28 We	st (Ne	w Au	bur	n)	
All of Sections Section	1, 2	, 3,	4,	5,	6
E늘 of NE축 " N늘 of NW幸 of NE축 " N출 of N늘 of NW幸 "	7 7 7				
N를 " N를 of SW를 " NW를 of SE를 " E를 of SE를 "	8 8 8 8				
All of Section "	9				
N를 " N를 of SW를 " SW를 of SW를 " N를 of SE를 "	10 10 10 10				
N를 (N 등 " N를 of SW를 " SW를 of SW를 " SE를 "	11 11 11 11 11				
All of Section "	12				
N를 of NE量 " N를 of NW를 "	16 16				
$N_{\overline{2}}^{1}$ of NE_{4}^{1} of NE_{4}^{1} "	17.				
C. Township 114 North, Range 27 Wes	t (Gre	en 1	sle)	
$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathrm{NW}_{4}^{\perp} & \mathrm{of} & \mathrm{NE}_{4}^{\perp} & \mathrm{Section} \\ \mathrm{N}_{2}^{\perp} & \mathrm{of} & \mathrm{NW}_{4}^{\perp} & & " \end{array}$	1 1				
$\mathbb{N}^{1}_{\mathbb{Z}}$ of $\mathbb{N}^{1}_{\mathbb{Z}}$ "	2				
$egin{array}{cccc} { m NW}^1_4 & { m of} & { m NE}^1_4 & " & \ { m N}^1_2 & { m of} & { m NW}^1_4 & " & \end{array} \end{array}$	4 4				
N클 " SW코 " W클 of SE클 "	5 5 5				

All of Section 11 6

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C. Township 114 North, Range 27 West (Green Isle) (Cont.) $N_{\overline{2}}^{1}$ of $NE_{\overline{4}}^{1}$ Section 7 $NW_{\overline{4}}^{1}$ " 7 $W_{\overline{2}}^{1}$ of $SW_{\overline{4}}^{1}$ " 7 $N_{\overline{2}}^{1}$ of $NW_{\overline{4}}^{1}$ " 8. V. <u>Carver County</u> 5th Principal Meridian A. Township 116 North, Range 26 West (Camden)

$NW^{\frac{1}{4}}$ of	NW 길 SW 길	of of	SW SE SE SE	Section "	18 18 18
	NW 월	of	NW 실 SW 실	1997 - 19	19 19.

B. Township 115 North, Range 26 West (Young America)

	SW_{4}^{1} of SW_{4}^{1}	Section	18
	NW士 of NW士 S责 of NW士 SW士	 A second sec second second sec	29 29 29
A11	of Section	H	30
	N클 of SW 클	U U	31 31.

XIII. The boundary of Buffalo Creek Watershed District is hereby declared to be determined and is defined as the extremity of the whole land area described in Paragraph XII above.

XIV. The Board of Managers of the Buffalo Creek Watershed District shall consist of five managers.

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XV. The distribution of the managers among the affected counties is as follows:

1. McLeod County - Two Managers

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- 2. Renville County Two Managers
- 3. Sibley County One Manager

XVI. One year beyond the date of this Order, when the managers will be appointed by the McLeod, Renville and Sibley County Boards of Commissioners, the distribution of the terms of managers shall be as follows:

- 1. Two Managers' Terms Each for Three Years -McLeod County
- 2. Two Managers' Terms Each for Two Years -Renville County
- 3. One Manager's Term For One Year -Sibley County

After the expiration of the above terms of the managers appointed by the County Boards of Commissioners, the succeeding terms of each manager shall be for three years.

XVII. The first Board of Managers of the Buffalo Creek Watershed District, whose terms shall be for one year effective the date of this Order, and until their successors are appointed and qualified, is as follows:

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- 1. Mr. Milo Ayer, Glencoe, Minnesota, 55336, Sibley County;
- 2. Mr. Erwin Koebnick, Buffalo Lake, Minnesota, 55314, Renville County;
- 3. Mr. Norman Kottke, Stewart, Minnesota, 55385, Renville County;
- 4. Mr. Arthur Lindeman, Brownton, Minnesota, 55312, McLeod County;
- 5. Mr. Clarence Tonn, Brownton, Minnesota, 55312, McLeod County.

XVIII. The principal place of business of the Buffalo Creek Watershed District shall be located at Glencoe, Minnesota.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota, this 30th day of

January 1969.

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MINNESOTA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

G. E. Loughland

G. E. Loughland Chairman

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#20468 STATE OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF STATE FILED

Secretary of State

FEB6 - 1969