

Drainage Policy

Polk County, MN

Repairs

1. Drainage systems will have routine operations called “repairs,” to restore drainage system as nearly as practicable to original condition, which consist of cleaning to legal grade, depth and bottom width, re-sloping of side slopes, removing obstructions and maintaining the efficiency of the system. (M.S.A. § 103E.701)
2. The Drainage Authority may do routine repairs under their own motion when notified by the Drainage Inspector or a request for repair form was submitted. (M.S.A. § 103E.705. Subd. 4)
3. Major non-routine repairs will require a petition to be filed from an individual or entity affected by the drainage system. Requires hearings. (M.S.A. § 103E.715)
4. Repair of damage incurred to a roadway in-slope as the direct result of a drainage system is the responsibility of the drainage system. Repair of damage to the roadway surface or actual roadbed is the responsibility of the road authority.
5. The drainage system will repair field side slopes and spoil banks only up to the right of way. Damage beyond that is the responsibility of the landowner.
6. The drainage system will not pay for snow removal unless a farmstead is in danger of flooding or other extenuating circumstances.

Crossings & Culverts

1. Existing private farm and field crossings/culverts will be maintained at the cost of the drainage system, providing it was part of the original construction. (M.S.A. § 103E.701, Subd. 4)
2. The road authority is responsible for the cost of furnishing, installation and maintenance of culverts, flap gates and bridges through roads. Permits must be acquired from the county and the appropriate watershed district. (M.S.A. § 103E.525, Subd. 2 & 103E.701, Subd. 4)
3. Furnishing, installation and maintenance of culverts and flap gates through field side dikes shall be the responsibility of the landowner, unless it was part of the original construction.
4. Furnishing, installation and maintenance of crossings/culverts and flap gates in road ditches intersecting with a legal drainage system will not be the responsibility of the drainage system.
5. Cost of furnishing and placing riprap at ends of culverts shall be born by the drainage system, if it is being done to maintain the efficiency of the drainage system.
6. Crossings and culverts that are on a section line, and used only as a field crossing are considered to be a private crossing and will be maintained by the drainage system, providing it was part of the original construction.
7. New private farm or field crossings may only be installed by meeting the hydraulic and construction criteria of the Polk County Drainage Authority, and acquiring permits from the county and appropriate watershed district. All costs would be born by the entity or person installing the crossing. Any crossings and culverts installed after the original construction are the responsibility of the landowner for future maintenance and repair.

Dikes

1. After a drainage system has been cleaned the spoil may be leveled to form a dike. The Drainage Authority has jurisdiction over the height of the spoil banks. For the safety and integrity of an adjacent roadway, spoil should be leveled at least six inches below the roadway shoulder elevation.

* These are general policies of the Polk County Drainage System, but all final decisions on the policy are at the discretion of the Polk County Drainage Authority subject to compliance with Minnesota Statutes 103E.