

News from the Roseau River Watershed District

For Immediate Release

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Ditch Retrofits are good news for the Roseau River

For many of us ditches are a nondescript part of the landscape, but the reality is that ditches serve a vital drainage function on land throughout the state. While they do a great job in helping channel water off the land, sometimes they take sediment with them which can cause problems. The Roseau River Watershed District (RRWD) is partnering with local landowners and using Clean Water Fund (CWF) grants to construct side-water inlets to help keep sediment on the land, not in the ditches.

Side inlets are a commonly used tool on the agricultural landscape that keep topsoil on farm fields while protecting drainage systems. The RRWD is currently working with the Roseau County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and landowners to install 8 side-water inlets in 2016. These projects benefit both the Roseau River, which is impaired for turbidity because of sediment runoff, and the landowner by keeping the topsoil on the field and reducing maintenance costs.

“The District is always looking for solutions to water problems that benefit landowners as well as the District,” stated RRWD Administrator Tracy Halstensgard. “One of the District’s goals is to improve water quality. These projects are a step in that direction.”

The RRWD was awarded a CWF for over \$48k in 2012 to construct side-water inlets in the Watershed Ditch #3 system. Sixteen inlets were installed using grant and local funds. In December 2015 the District was awarded a \$147,700 CWF grant for similar work in the Ditch 8 system located just upstream of the City of Roseau.

For more information about side-water inlets, contact Administrator Halstensgard or District Technician Torin McCormack at 218-463-0313 or stop by the office at 108 3rd Ave SW, Roseau, MN 56751.