



Summary of Watercourses Rationale & Criteria for identification of “Other Watercourses”

In accordance with MN Statutes §103B.48 Subd. 4, Becker Soil and Water Conservation District has developed a summary of watercourses not identified on the MN DNR Buffer Protection Map for inclusion in the Becker County Local Water Management Plan.

Hydrologically conditioned LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) derived digital elevation models were processed to identify hydrologic features within Becker County that meet the definition of public water courses as described in MN Statutes § 103G.005 Subd. 15: Natural and altered watercourses with a total drainage area greater than two square miles.

Existing MN DNR Public Water Inventory data and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service’s national wetland inventory were also reviewed to identify public water wetlands as defined in MN Statutes § 103G.005 Subd. 15a: "Public waters wetlands" meaning all types 3, 4, and 5 wetlands, as defined in United States Fish and Wildlife Service Circular No. 39 (1971 edition), not included within the definition of public waters, that are ten or more acres in size in unincorporated areas or 2-1/2 or more acres in incorporated areas.

It is the unanimous opinion of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors that these criteria meet the objectives of Sec 6. Minnesota Statutes 2015 Supplement, section 103F.48, subdivision 4 as amended in 2016, and that the identified areas may benefit from voluntary best management practices, protective measures or other efforts to reduce nutrient and sediment loading to surface waters.

Becker Soil and Water Conservation District acknowledges that the development and identification of these summaries of watercourses are in no way subject to any State or local authority, including but not limited to Minnesota Statute §103F.48, or further regulation and have been generated solely for potential future voluntary conservation efforts.