

BENTON COUNTY DITCH AUTHORITY

January 20, 2026, 9:00 AM
Benton County Board Room

AGENDA

1. Commissioner Scott Johnson, Benton County Ditch Authority Chair
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Approve or Amend the Agenda
2. Open Forum Announcement by the Ditch Authority Chair
 - Public Input and/or Informational Matters Not Requiring Action by the Ditch Authority
3. Consent Agenda
 1. Approve or Amend the Ditch Authority Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2025
4. Regular Agenda
 - Consider the Quotes for Ditch Maintenance of CD 9 and CD 14
5. Adjourn

Benton County Board of Commissioners/Benton County Ditch Authority
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Pursuant to MN Statutes §13D.02 and County Policy, the following County Board members may participate from a remote location:

- Commissioner Scott Johnson, District 1
- Commissioner Ed Popp, District 2
- Commissioner Steve Heinen, District 3
- Commissioner Jared Gapinski, District 4
- Commissioner Pam Benoit, District 5

BENTON COUNTY DITCH AUTHORITY
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026
BENTON COUNTY BOARDROOM

The Benton County Ditch Authority met in regular session on January 6, 2026, in the County Boardroom in Foley, MN with County Board members Pam Benoit, Scott Johnson, Steve Heinen, Jared Gapinski and Ed Popp present. Also present was Montgomery Headley, County Administrator, and Beth Stay, Executive Assistant.

County Board Chair Heinen called the meeting to order at 10:40 AM.

Gapinski nominated Johnson for the 2026 Chair of the Drainage Authority. Nominations were closed and a unanimous ballot was cast for Johnson as the Chair of the 2026 Drainage Authority. Johnson asked for nominations for Vice-Chair of the 2026 Ditch Authority. Gapinski nominated Popp for the 2026 Vice-Chair of the Drainage Authority. Nominations were closed and a unanimous ballot was cast for Popp as the Vice-Chair of the Drainage Authority.

Johnson requested to add a standing Open Forum to every Ditch Authority Meeting, beginning with today's meeting. Popp/Heinen to approve the amended Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Headley requested to schedule the regular meetings of the Ditch Authority for 2026. At the first organizational meeting of the year, the Ditch Authority shall adopt its schedule of regular meetings for the year. Once adopted and kept on file, no further notice of meetings is required. If a change is required in the date and time of a regular meeting, it becomes a "special meeting" under the MN Open Meeting Law and a three-day posted notice is required. Also, special meeting agendas may not be amended on the day of the meeting, whereas regular meeting agendas may be amended the day of. Headley requested consideration of the date of the meeting to discuss annual maintenance assessments. There was a consensus of the Drainage Authority to discuss date/time/location at the upcoming Annual Goal Setting Session on Monday, January 12, 2026. Headley proposed the 2026 Drainage Authority meeting dates follow the traditional meeting dates of the "first and third" Tuesday of each month at 9:00 AM with the exception of the first Tuesday in December which will be on Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at 6:00 PM to coincide with the "Truth in Taxation" meeting. Motion by Popp and seconded by Heinen to approve the regular meetings of the Drainage Authority for 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Popp/Benoit to approve Consent Agenda item #1: 1) approve the Ditch Authority Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2025, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Under Open Forum, Mike Deppa addressed the Drainage Authority with concerns about being assessed for County Ditch (CD) 7, arguing that past neighbor actions diverted water onto his property, forcing him to spend over \$30,000 on tiling and buffer zones to protect and drain his land. Deppa contended that CD 7 does not run through his property, that he and neighboring landowners paid for private drainage improvements themselves, and that it is unfair for him to continue paying CD 7 assessments. Johnson explained that he will reach out to H2OverViewers to explain to Deppa how his "benefit" was determined, and if still dissatisfied, Deppa may formally file a petition to be removed from the ditch system for the County Board to consider, which is the only statutory way to change Deppa's assessment. Popp and Gapinski also agreed to visit the area in question on Deppa's property.

The Ditch Authority Meeting adjourned 10:55 AM.

Scott Johnson, Chair
Benton County Ditch Authority

ATTEST:

Montgomery Headley
Benton County Administrator

DRAFT

BENTON COUNTY DRAINAGE AUTHORITY AGENDA ITEM REQUEST



MEETING DATE 1-20-2026

☒ REGULAR AGENDA

☐ CONSENT AGENDA

REQUESTING DEPARTMENT Public Works/Highway

TITLE OF REQUESTED ITEM AS IT WILL APPEAR ON BOARD AGENDA

Review Quotes for Ditch Maintenance of CD 9 and CD 14

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- We solicited for quotes regarding CD 9 and CD 14 mowing of buffer strips on 12-16-2025.
- Quotes were due at 12:00 PM on 1-9-2026.
- 4 quotes were received.
- See below quote amounts.
- Mowing will be done in the spring of 2026 when weather conditions are favorable.

*County Ditch 9 Maintenance Assessment for 2026 was approved for **\$10,000**

*County Ditch 14 Maintenance Assessment for 2026 was approved for **\$15,000**

ACTION REQUESTED

Accept or deny quotes for ditch maintenance. Approve a contractor to complete the work.

FISCAL IMPACT

ESTIMATED COST (\$) Depends on quote

SOURCE OF FUNDS Specific ditch maintenance fund

NEW / ADDITIONAL REVENUE (\$) _____

COST BUDGETED IN CURRENT YEAR? ☐ YES ☐ NO

SUBMITTED/APPROVED

SUBMITTER/SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE Adam Ritsche DATE 1/13/2026

DEPARTMENT HEAD SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

COUNTY ATTORNEY SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

☐ STATE GRANT CONTRACT/AGREEMENT NOT REVIEWED BY COUNTY ATTORNEY (GRANT RENEWAL WITH NO CHANGES IN TERMS AND CONDITIONS).

DURATION 15 min

PREFERRED PLACEMENT ON AGENDA Best Fit

**BENTON COUNTY DRAINAGE AUTHORITY
AGENDA ITEM REQUEST**



RFQ Abstract

CD 9 (5.02 Miles of Mowing)

Company	Hours	Rate	Total
TreeStory	35x2units	\$320 unit 1, \$280 unit 2	\$21,000
Helmin Construction	73	\$190	\$13,870
Carr's Tree Service	32.46	\$199	\$6,460
MNL	24	\$248 HR + \$400 fee	\$6,352

*Received 40 min past deadline

CD 14 (7.34 Miles of Mowing)

Company	Hours	Rate	Total
TreeStory	45x2units	\$320 unit 1, \$280 unit 2	\$27,000
Helmin Construction	108	\$190	\$20,520
MNL	40	\$248 HR + \$400 fee	\$10,320
Carr's Tree Service	47.68	\$199	\$9,488

*Received 40 min past deadline