

**OTTER TAIL COUNTY DRAINAGE SYSTEM NO. 16
PROPERTY OWNER'S REPORT**

To: The Proposed Benefited and/or Damaged Property Owners of Otter Tail County Drainage System No. 16

The Otter Tail County Drainage Authority is sending this report to you as the owner of property benefited and/or damaged by Otter Tail County Drainage System Number 16. The Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners, drainage authority for County Drainage System Number 16, was approached by property owners and persons affected by County Drainage System Number 16 with regard to the possibility of repair and/or maintenance to the system. The Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners, acting in their capacity as Drainage Authority, held a series of informal informational meetings, received information from the public and county staff. Based upon the information received the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners, acting in their capacity as Drainage Authority, found the following: 1.) the drainage system was established in 1906, 2.) total benefits were established at \$2,108 and have not been re-determined since that time, 3.) that the original benefits determined in the original drainage proceeding do not reflect reasonable present day land values, and 4.) the benefited areas have changed since the original determination of benefits in 1906. Based upon these findings, the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners as drainage authority, on January 8, 2008 decided to have benefits and damages re-determined for Otter Tail County Drainage System Number 16.

A copy of the ditch viewers' preliminary report, dated September 9, 2008, is enclosed for your information and is incorporated as a part of this property owners' report. The Ditch Viewers' filed their preliminary report with the Otter Tail County Auditor on Tuesday, December 2, 2008. The preliminary Ditch Viewers' Report is available for public inspection during normal business hours Monday through Friday at the County Auditor's office in the Government Services Center located at 510 Fir Ave W., Fergus Falls, MN and is also available on Otter Tail County Web Site at <http://www.co.ottertail.mn.us/>. The total benefits assigned to the properties that are considered to benefit from Otter Tail County Drainage System Number 16 are \$23,555,943.62.

The preliminary Ditch Viewers' report states that 3,906 acres of private lands, 109 acres of Township roads, 28 acres of County roads and 42 acres of State roads will be benefited by Otter Tail County Drainage System No. 16. The benefits assigned to the private lands total \$23,514,801, to the City of Clitherall total \$30,400, to the Township roads total \$6,543, to the County roads total \$1,668 and to the State road total \$2,532. These benefited properties are located within Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 36 of Clitherall Township, Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31, and 32 of Nidaros Township, Sections 5, 6, 7, and 8 of Leaf Mountain Township and Section 1 of Eagle Lake Township.

The first two pages of the enclosed preliminary Ditch Viewers' Report describe what the ditch viewers' examined, determined and reported to the County Auditor's office. The third and fourth pages are the value chart for County Drainage System Number 16. The pages following the first four pages present the benefits and damages as assigned by the Ditch Viewers to each benefited property within Otter Tail County Drainage System Number 16.

The Otter Tail County Drainage Authority will convene a public hearing at 7:00 pm on Thursday, April 2, 2009 to discuss and reviewed the benefits and/or damages as re-determined for Otter Tail County Drainage System Number 16. This public hearing will be held in the Battle Lake Public School's Royal S. Broberg Memorial Auditorium located at 402 West Summit Ave in Battle Lake, Minnesota.

There are no benefits assessed for the drainage of public waters or wetlands. There are no benefits assessed for the drainage of areas, which would require federal or state permits to work in public waters or wetlands before benefits could be realized. There are no benefits assessed for acres that would be considered the conversion of wetlands, under United States Code, Title 16, Section 3821, if drained and placed in agricultural production. There are no damages to riparian rights.

Wayne Stein
Otter Tail County Auditor

February 17, 2009

