



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

3A
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: 1-27-26

Title of Item: Comments to DNR Public Water Inventory Update

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA	Action Requested: <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing *provide copy of hearing notice that was published	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only
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Submitted by:

John Welle

Department:

Highway Department

Presenter (Name and Title):

John Welle, Aitkin County Engineer/Andrew Carlstrom, Environmental Services Direct

Estimated Time Needed:

10 minutes

Summary of Issue:

Attached is an Environmental Services Memo for background information on the Minnesota DNR Public Waters Inventory Update.

Also attached is a response from the Highway Department regarding Segment ID M-117-D001-D001 on the list of Preliminary Corrections for discussion prior to the January 28, 2026 public meeting.

Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:

Recommended Action/Motion:

None.

Financial Impact:

Is there a cost associated with this request?

Yes

No

What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$

Is this budgeted?

Yes

No

Please Explain:



AITKIN COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PLANNING & ZONING

Aitkin County Government Center
307 2nd Street NW, Room 219
Aitkin, MN 56431

aitkinpz@aitkincountymn.gov
Phone: 218-927-7342
Fax: 218-927-4372

MEMORANDUM TO AITKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DATE: January 27, 2026

FROM: Andrew Carlstrom, Environmental Services Director – Planning & Zoning Administrator

RE: **Public Waters Inventory (PWI) Update**

On August 15, 2025, Aitkin County was contacted by the Minnesota DNR informing us that they were beginning work on the Public Waters Inventory (PWI) Update Project. On September 18, 2025, myself and Aitkin County staff met online with DNR staff assigned to this project. On October 14, 2025, DNR staff presented the project in-person to the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners, and answered any questions they had regarding the PWI Update Project. On December 15, 2025, Aitkin County was contacted by the DNR and notified that the technical review of public waters was completed, and a preliminary map had been created. In the letter provided by the DNR, a 60 day public comment period was opened from December 29, 2025 until 4:30 p.m. on February 27, 2026. A public meeting is to be hosted and held by the DNR PWI staff at the Aitkin Public Library at 6 p.m. on January 28, 2026.

In 2017, sixteen designated public water watercourses were removed at the direction of the DNR Commissioner. According to the December 15, 2025 preliminary map of corrections, DNR staff is now recommending that sixteen be added back to the public waters inventory. The DNR staff is recommending one public water watercourse remain removed from the PWI and it is located in Section 2, Township 46, and Range 27 (Parcel ID – 07-0-002700). The Public Waters Inventory referenced in Appendix V of the current Aitkin County Shoreland Management Ordinance was not amended in 2017 to reflect The Commissioner's Order. However, Aitkin County has continued to recognize these watercourses as protected consistent with the 2017 Commissioner's Order. Therefore, no parcel will be affected by this Public Waters Inventory update.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 218-927-7342 or by email at andrew.carlstrom@aitkincountymn.gov.



AITKIN COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Aitkin County Highway Department
1211 Air Park Drive
Aitkin, MN 56431

highway@co.aitkin.mn.us
Phone: 218-927-3741
Fax: 218-927-2356

Public Waters Inventory Update
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

January 20, 2026

RE: Aitkin County Public Waters Inventory (PWI) Update Comments

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Minnesota DNR proposed Public Waters Inventory Update.

A segment of Aitkin County Ditch 37 appears as ID M-117-D001-D001 on the list of Preliminary Corrections to Public Water Inventory Aitkin County, Minnesota. This 0.32-mile segment is part of Branch 1 of Aitkin County Ditch 37 that was included in the drainage improvement petition to the Aitkin County Board on July 7, 1921 and included in the preliminary survey dated August 8, 1921. Construction of this ditch system began in June 1922 and was completed in November of 1924.

Since this segment is part of Aitkin County Ditch 37, it should not be included on the list of Preliminary Correction to Public Water Inventory in Aitkin County.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Welle Digitally signed by John Welle
Date: 2026.01.21 05:59:58
-06'00'

John Welle, P.E.
Aitkin County Engineer

Preliminary Corrections to Public Waters Inventory

Aitkin County, Minnesota

A. Proposed Additions as Public Waters

1. The following are natural and altered watercourses to be added.

ID	Start Point			End Point			Length (mi)
	UTM X	UTM Y	TWN-RNG-SEC	UTM X	UTM Y	TWN-RNG-SEC	
M-055-044	484092.6	5130054.6	T:44 R:23 S:02	484430.5	5129857.1	T:44 R:23 S:02	0.30
M-117-D001	454114.9	5196181.2	T:51 R:26 S:11	453250.7	5194554.6	T:51 R:26 S:14	2.62
M-111.5	442244.2	5157019.5	T:47 R:27 S:09	442533.5	5158449.4	T:47 R:27 S:04	1.97
M-117-013	441759.6	5199779.5	T:52 R:27 S:33	442040.8	5200353.2	T:52 R:27 S:34	0.44
M-120	489960.6	5163268	T:48 R:22 S:28	490711.4	5162969	T:48 R:22 S:27	0.55
M-123	471680.4	5196486.8	T:51 R:24 S:10	473708.2	5194520	T:51 R:24 S:14	1.97
M-118	464275.6	5173185	T:49 R:25 S:23	464871.5	5173368.7	T:49 R:25 S:24	0.46
M-120-011	490282	5163279	T:48 R:22 S:22	490648.2	5163339.4	T:48 R:22 S:22	0.23
<u>M-117-D001-</u> <u>D001</u>	<u>457363.1</u>	<u>5199435.9</u>	<u>T:51 R:25 S:31</u>	<u>457358.6</u>	<u>5198918.1</u>	<u>T:52 R:25 S:06</u>	<u>0.32</u>
<u>M-123-127</u>	<u>474394.9</u>	<u>5203593</u>	<u>T:52 R:24 S:13</u>	<u>473670</u>	<u>5203910</u>	<u>T:52 R:24 S:14</u>	<u>0.54</u>
M-117	458298.4	5192707.4	T:51 R:25 S:20	457633	5192978.6	T:51 R:25 S:19	1.13
M-117	443214.2	5199097.9	T:52 R:27 S:34	442429.5	5199811.9	T:52 R:27 S:34	1.13
M-113	454210.7	5142464.9	T:46 R:26 S:26	452634.7	5141987.4	T:46 R:26 S:34	1.16
M-117-001	454806.6	5175702.8	T:49 R:26 S:14	454763	5174797.9	T:49 R:26 S:14	0.7
M-050-044-047	483738	5131878.7	T:45 R:23 S:35	484238	5132045	T:45 R:23 S:35	0.45
M-120-010	486368	5162965.8	T:48 R:22 S:30	487522.4	5161253.4	T:48 R:22 S:32	1.37

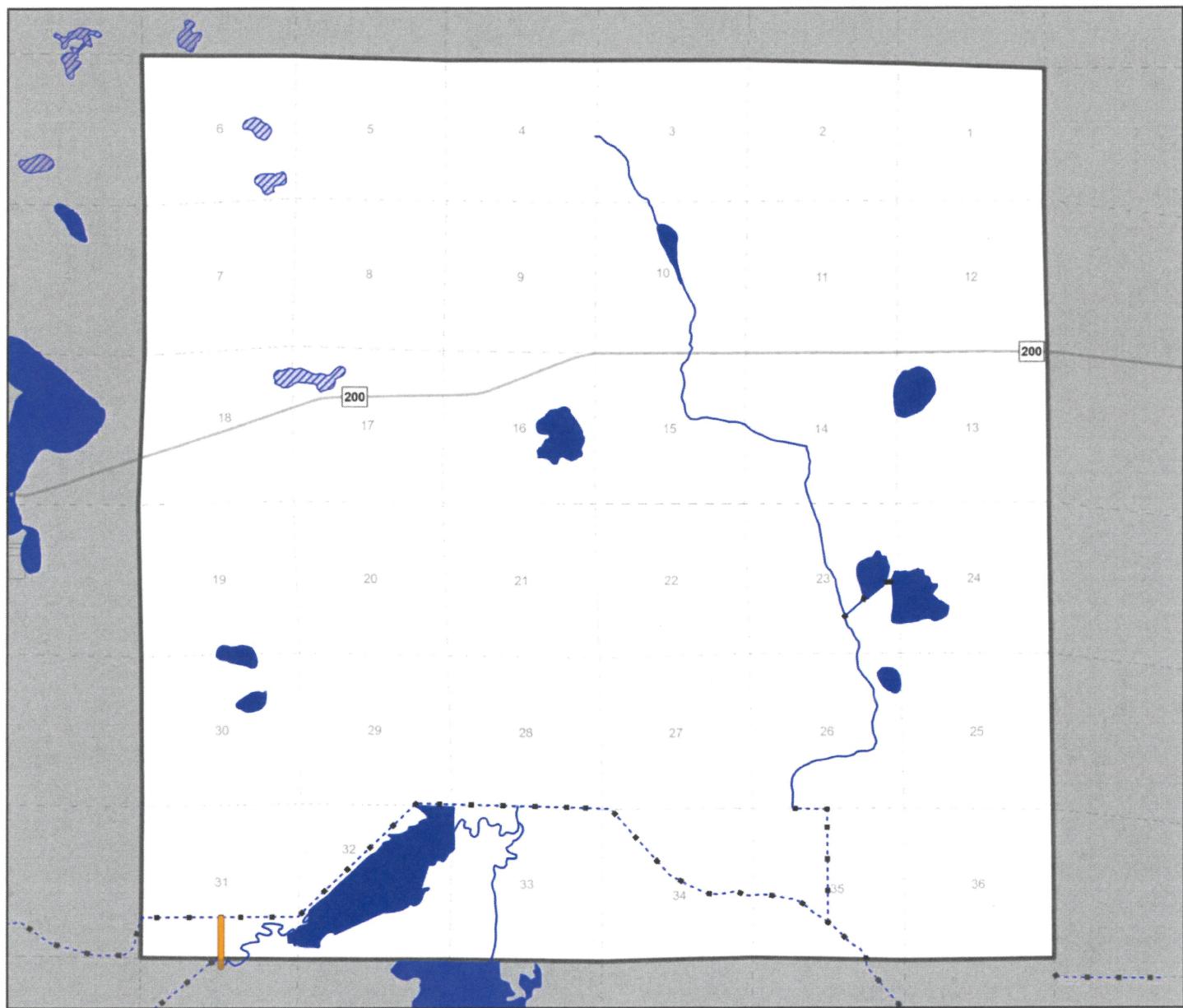
2. The following are basins and wetlands to be added.

(no proposed corrections)

Public Waters Inventory Preliminary Map of Corrections

Aitkin County
T52 R25

Public waters are defined in Minnesota Statute 103G. The boundaries of public waters shown on this map are drawn as accurately as possible, consistent with the map scale, but are still approximate. Public ditches are only shown where they overlap with public waters.



- Public Waters Natural Watercourse
- - - Public Waters Altered Natural Watercourse
- Public Ditch
- Preliminary Recommendation
- Add (1)
- Remove (0)

- Public Waters Basin
- Public Waters Wetland
- Preliminary Recommendation
- Add (0)
- Remove (0)

- MN Trunk Highways
- PLSS Section

Miles 0 0.5 1 2



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