



CRWD establishes permit fees for rules

Move part of watershed district's effort to reduce flooding, improve water quality

AUSTIN, Minn. – Friday, March 23 – Permitting fees approved Wednesday night are effective immediately under the Cedar River Watershed District's new rules aimed at reducing future flooding and improving water quality.

At its monthly meeting, the CRWD's Board of Managers voted to establish a fee/fine schedule regarding permits, which are required through the CRWD for certain projects, such as cleaning a ditch (public or private) or altering or filling land below the projected 100-year high water elevation of a waterbody or detention area.

All government entities in the watershed district, though, are exempt from a permit fee in accordance with state statutes.

As part of the fee/fine schedule, CRWD board members voted to set a \$1,000 fine for any project required to have a CRWD permit but that is started without one. That fine will be split equally by the project's landowner and contractor.

Overall, the CRWD board set the following fee/fine schedule:

- Permit fee: \$10.
- After-the-fact permit fine: \$1,000 (\$500 each for the landowner and contractor).
- Permit inspection fee: First inspection – no charge; additional inspections – \$50.
- The potential need for assistance from the district's engineers, legal consulting fees and site inspections will be discussed at a scoping meeting with the CRWD staff.

Who: Cedar River Watershed District.
What: Permitting fees are in place for the CRWD's new rules focused on keeping water quality and flooding from worsening.

When: Fees are effective immediately; rules went into place Dec. 1.

Where: Areas within the Cedar River Watershed District in Mower, Freeborn, Dodge and Steele counties.

Why: Formed in 2007 due to frequent major flooding, the CRWD is required by state law to implement rules to accomplish its goals. Permitting fees are part of the rules process.

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CRWD board members approved the new rules in July, following nearly two years of work. The rules went into effect Dec. 1 after the 2011 construction season.

They cover areas related to stormwater, flood plains, water body alterations, erosion control and enforcement. The rules intend to fill gaps in existing federal, state and local regulations, not duplicate them.

All watershed districts are required by state law to implement rules to accomplish their purpose.

Following state statute, the CRWD has done the necessary steps and more to notify the public and certain agencies about the rules and permitting program. CRWD staff also has conducted an educational campaign on the approved rules after doing a similar effort for the draft rules.

Copies of the rules are at the Mower County Soil & Water Conservation District office in Austin as well as online at the CRWD's website – www.cedarriverwd.org. Brochures with a summary of the CRWD rules also are available at the SWCD office.

Cedar River Watershed District

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