

# 2024 Annual Drainage Report

Operation Year from 9/1/2023 – 8/31/2024

## WINNEBAGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT

### DRAINAGE DISTRICT OFFICIALS

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD      Howard Miller

SUPERVISORS                      John Kunde  
Mike Pfankuch  
Peter Romberg  
David Sleik

SUPPORT SERVICES              Holly Stevens – Administrative and Clerical Services

TREASURER                        Diana Hellman (Winnebago County)

CONSULTANT ENGINEER        Ben Hamblin, P.E. - McMahon Associates

### STATE DRAINAGE DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

ENGINEER                          Barton Chapman

# Financial Report

## INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the financial components of the Winnebago County Drainage District Annual Report. The Winnebago County Drainage Board supervises the drainage districts in Winnebago County, which currently only includes the Larsen Drainage District. The 2024 operating year is from 9/1/2023 to 8/31/2024.

COUNTY: Winnebago  
DISTRICT: Larsen Drainage District  
DATE: 08/31/2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENT	DEBTS	CREDITS
Starting balance on September 1:		165,370.31
Assessments collected:		15,683.40
Interest earned on assessments:		
Interest earned on borrowed funds:		
Other receipts:		
TOTAL OF ALL RECEIPTS		181,053.71
Amount paid out for district activities:	29,569.69	
Amount paid out to repay loans or bonds:		
Other payables (Board Per diems):	815.04	
Total of all expenditures	30,384.73	
Ending balance on August 31, 2024:		150,668.98
Uncollected Assessment:		

No bonds have been issued or paid during the preceding twelve months.

# Engineering Report

## INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the engineering components of the Winnebago County Drainage District Annual Report. The Winnebago County Drainage Board supervises the drainage districts in Winnebago County, which currently only includes the Larsen Drainage District. The 2024 operating year is from 9/1/2023 to 8/31/2024.

## LARSEN DRAINAGE DISTRICT

The Larsen Drainage District is the sole drainage district under the oversight of the Winnebago County Drainage Board. The Larsen Drainage District is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Arrowhead River, which drains 5.6 square miles of land distributed throughout the following municipalities:

- Town of Winchester
- Town of Winneconne
- Town of Clayton
- Town of Vinland
- Allenville (unincorporated)
- Larsen (unincorporated)
- Mlkesville (unincorporated)

This Annual Report is being completed based on applicable state regulations, Chapter 88 of the Wisconsin State Statutes and Drainage Rule ATCP 48 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. Briefly, the Drainage Board has the responsibility for:

- Operating and maintaining district drains and dams within drainage districts.
- Levying assessments against landowners who benefit from the drainage provided.
- Awarding appropriate damages to landowners injured by the construction and maintenance of district drains.
- Inspecting the district drains and corridors.
- Making or recommending modifications to a drainage district.
- Resolving drainage disputes.
- Notifying landowners that their property is within a drainage district.

## LARSEN DRAINAGE DISTRICT OPERATING YEAR ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Within the Larsen Drainage District, the Winnebago County Drainage Board completed only minor maintenance activities. No major storm occurred, and no major storm reports were filed. The following activities occurred during the 2024 operating year:

- Held three public meetings: Annual Meeting on 09/28/2023; and Business Meetings on 01/25/2024 and 06/20/2024
- Requested Circuit Court renewal for the reappointment of Peter Romberg to a 5-year term expiring in 2029.
- Continued a General Engineering Agreement to continue Professional Engineering Services with McMahon Associates, Inc.
- Continued establishment and implementation of financial plans recommended by the Administrative Services for managing operating budgets, tax assessments, and minimum fund balances, developing and approving a long-term plan to achieve financial solvency utilizing small incremental increases in assessment rates with the intent to achieve the goal while managing and minimizing the impact on landowners.
- Established Minimum Fund Balance at \$100,000.
- Continued a river flow monitoring program at various bridges crossing the Arrowhead River adding additional data collection points.
- Completed an annual inspection of the Arrowhead River Corridor with the use of a UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) “Drone”.
- Further developed a Geographical Information System with McMahon Associates, Inc. to spatially capture, record, and document various sets of data associated with the Arrowhead River, including documenting various existing river corridor conditions. The GIS system is an efficient tool that can be used to track and document the Arrowhead River, providing a timeline of the river’s evolution and providing critical information needed to identify maintenance requirements.
- Identified five locations with obstructions in the river corridor. Property owners were notified of the issues with requests for removal of the obstructions. The Board will conduct follow up and monitoring procedures to ensure the elimination of the obstructions.
- Completed maintenance and repair of the stormwater runoff issue identified in 2022 which previously caused erosion and a significant sediment deposit along the corridor. Board Members executed their plan for removal of sediment and remediation of conditions to minimize and prevent future issues.
- Completed brush cutting and bank and terrace mowing on approximately 1 mile of the river corridor (2 miles of bank and terrace) located west and of STH 45.
- Chairman Howard Miller attended each of the following providing reports to the Winnebago County Drainage Board.
  - 10/03/2023 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lake Winnebago Water Level Fall Review
  - 01/31/2024 Fox-Wolf Water Shed Alliance Water Level Assessment
  - 02/08/2024 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lake Winnebago Water Level Assessment

## **LARSEN DRAINAGE DISTRICT OPERATING YEAR ACTIVITY SUMMARY continued**

- Discussions and consideration to amend District boundaries to capture all property owners who are benefitting from the District drains continued. The Board and District Engineers believe there are more properties benefitting from the drain as a direct result of increased development which produces added and expanded storm water management systems, as well as increased and expanded use of agricultural tiling and drainage techniques. Consideration of expansion was postponed until the financial solvency is achieved.
- Board members continued conversations with staff from the US Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) regarding a federal program which provides grant funding to supplement the costs relating to the maintenance of secondary ditches. Lynn Szulczewski of the US Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation Service reported that the program did not have the necessary funding to complete the project.