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January 8, 2026

Board of Supervisors
Dickinson County Courthouse
1802 Hill Avenue,
Spirit Lake, IA 51360

Re: Updated Engineer's Report 2024 Flood Damages Repairs

Board Members,

The rainfall events of June 2024 damaged several drainage district open ditches in Dickinson County. The widespread damages experienced throughout the county resulted in a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Dickinson County and several surrounding counties. In Iowa, drainage districts are eligible for disaster recovery cost-share funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Iowa Department of Homeland Security. The board had directed Beck Engineering, Inc., to assess ditches selected by the County Engineer for possible damages and to assist the board in applying for funding as needed.

Eleven Drainage Districts were selected for review, and ultimately, applications for disaster recovery funding assistance were filed for five of these districts and one subdistrict.

These districts include:

Joint Drainage District #1 (Dickinson & Osceola County)
Joint Drainage District #2 (Dickinson & Osceola County)
Joint Drainage District #3 (Dickinson & Osceola County)
Joint Drainage District #61 (Dickinson, Emmet, Clay, Palo Alto County)
Joint Drainage District #61 Branch 61 (Dickinson, Emmet, Clay, Palo Alto County)
Drainage District #19 (Dickinson County)

Please see the attached plan sets and cost estimates, which include locations, descriptions, and quantities of the damages and proposed repairs for each district.

Estimated Cost

Eligible projects receive a cost share of 75% Federal and 10% State for the construction cost of the repairs, engineering design, and administration to the drainage district's facilities. Grant Application Administration reimbursement is covered but is capped at 5% of the Project's Construction, Design, and Administration costs.

See below for a breakdown of the estimated project costs.

District	Construction Estimate	Engineering Design and Administration Estimate	Grant Administration Estimate	Estimated Total Project Cost	Potential Funding Assistance
JDD#1	$117,555.00	$16,900.00	$5,877.00	$140,332.00	$114,286.75
JDD#2	$29,495.00	$11,850.00	$1,474.00	$42,819.00	$35,143.25
JDD#3	$74,160.00	$12,600.00	$3,708.00	$90,468.00	$73,746.00
JDD#61	$1,105,425.00	$72,000.00	$18,800.00	$1,196,225.00	$1,000,811.25
JDD#61 BR #61	$48,522.00	$11,800.00	$2,426.00	$62,748.00	$51,273.70
DD#19	$274,695.00	$25,000.00	$13,700.00	$313,395.00	$254,740.75

The proposed project for JDD#61 also includes work that isn't considered eligible for reimbursement—a previously approved work order for an area of repair with an estimated repair cost of $17,920, and a work order for a tile blowout will also be addressed.

At this time, applications have been submitted to FEMA for cost share. Four of the districts have been obligated funding from FEMA. Those include JDD#1, JDD#2, JDD#3, & DD19.

Joint Drainage District #61 is currently awaiting obligation, with no timeline provided.

The state had granted an extension for all Cat D (permanent work) for the DR-4796-IA federal disaster event. The current deadline for construction completion is December 24, 2028.

The original intent was to combine the districts into one construction contract to incentivize more competition in the bidding process, as well as provide economy in the similar repair work between the districts. One contract would have also streamlined the backend grant administration and auditing process.

However, the current funding status timeline of Joint Drainage District #61 still unknown. My recommendation is to proceed with a public hearing for the repair work on the currently obligated districts. We will package them together under one contract. This will allow the project to follow a timeline for construction for this spring.

Respectfully submitted,

John G. Hight, P.E.
Beck Engineering, Inc.