

CHAPTER 112

WATERSHEDS

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112.01-112.33 [Repealed, 1955 c 799 s 52]

112.34 WATERSHED ACT; DECLARATION OF POLICY, CITATION.

Subdivision 1. In order to carry out conservation of the natural resources of the state through land utilization, flood control and other needs upon sound scientific principles for the protection of the public health and welfare and the provident use of the natural resources, the establishment of a public corporation, as an agency of the state for the aforesaid purposes, is provided in this chapter of Minnesota Statutes. This chapter shall be construed and administered so as to make effective these purposes.

Subd. 2. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as "Minnesota watershed act."

History: 1955 c 799 s 1; 1967 c 634 s 1

112.35 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. For the purposes of this chapter the terms defined in this section have the meanings ascribed to them.

Subd. 2. "Person" includes firm, copartnership, association, or corporation but does not include public or political subdivision.

Subd. 3. "Public corporation" means a county, town, school district, or a political division or subdivision of the state. Public corporation, except where the context clearly indicates otherwise, does not mean a watershed district.

Subd. 4. "Board" means the Minnesota water resources board established by section 105.71.

Subd. 5. "Managers" means the board of managers of a watershed district.

Subd. 6. "Publication" means publication once a week for two successive weeks in accordance with section 645.11.

Subd. 7. "Public health" includes any act or thing tending to improve the general sanitary conditions of the district.

Subd. 8. "Public welfare," "general welfare," and "public benefit" include any act or thing tending to improve or benefit or contribute to the safety or well-being of the general public or benefit the inhabitants of the district.

Subd. 9. "County auditor" means the county auditor of any county affected by a watershed district.

Subd. 10. "Court administrator" means the court administrator of the district court of the county in which any judicial proceeding concerning a district is pending.

Subd. 11. "Engineer" means the engineer designated by the managers to act as engineer.

Subd. 12. "Appraisers" means the persons appointed by the managers of the district to ascertain and report benefits and damages arising from proposed work.

Subd. 13. "Director" means the director of the division of waters, soils and minerals.

Subd. 14. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of natural resources.

Subd. 15. "Petition" means an initiating petition for "work", and may consist of one or more petitions therefor.

Subd. 16. "Nominating petition" means an initiating petition for the creation of a watershed district, and may consist of one or more petitions therefor.

Subd. 17. "Hearing" means a hearing conducted by either the managers or the board, which, if conducted by the board pursuant to rules promulgated by it, may be formal, provided, however, that all interested parties shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

Subd. 18. "Interested party" means any public corporation or any person having an interest in the subject matter pending or involved, and shall include the director or any agency of government.

Subd. 19. "Project" or "projects" means any construction, maintenance, repairs or improvements of a watershed district including planning and development to accomplish any of the purposes for which a district is organized.

Subd. 20. "Notice by mail" or "mailed notice" means a notice mailed and addressed to each person entitled to receive notice if the address be known to the auditor or court administrator, or can be ascertained by inquiry at the office of the county treasurer of the county wherein the affected land or property is located.

Subd. 21. "Resident owner" or "resident freeholder" means the owner of land or the contract purchaser, and who resides in the state.

Subd. 22. "Metropolitan area" has the meaning given in section 473.121, subdivision 2.

History: 1955 c 799 s 2; 1961 c 601 s 1; 1967 c 634 s 2; 1967 c 905 s 5; 1969 c 1129 art 3 s 1; 1973 c 712 s 1; 1982 c 509 s 12; 1982 c 540 s 1; 1Sp1986 c 3 art 1 s 82

112.36 ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICTS.

Subdivision 1. General power. The board is hereby vested with jurisdiction, power, and authority, upon filing of a nominating petition, to establish a watershed district and define and fix the boundaries thereof, all areas of which shall be contiguous and which may be entirely within or partly within and partly without any county, and may include the whole or any part of any watershed or watersheds within the discretion of the board and may include the whole or any part of one or more counties, and to appoint the first board of managers thereof, as herein provided.

Subd. 2. Purposes of district. A watershed district may be established for any or all of the following conservation purposes:

- (1) control or alleviation of damage by flood waters;
- (2) improvement of stream channels for drainage, navigation, and any other public purpose;
- (3) reclaiming or filling wet and overflowed lands;
- (4) providing water supply for irrigation;
- (5) regulating the flow of streams and conserving the waters thereof;
- (6) diverting or changing watercourses in whole or in part;
- (7) providing and conserving water supply for domestic, industrial, recreational, agricultural, or other public use;
- (8) providing for sanitation and public health and regulating the use of streams, ditches, or watercourses for the purpose of disposing of waste;
- (9) repair, improve, relocate, modify, consolidate, and abandon, in whole or in part, drainage systems within a watershed district;
- (10) imposition of preventive or remedial measures for the control or alleviation of land and soil erosion and siltation of watercourses or bodies of water affected thereby;
- (11) regulating improvements by riparian landowners of the beds, banks, and shores of lakes, streams, and marshes by permit or otherwise in order to preserve the same for beneficial use;
- (12) providing for the generation of hydroelectric power;
- (13) protecting or enhancing the quality of water in watercourses or bodies of water; and
- (14) providing for the protection of groundwater and regulating groundwater use to preserve groundwater for beneficial use.

History: 1955 c 799 s 3; 1957 c 279 s 1; 1959 c 239 s 1; 1961 c 601 s 2; 1969 c 971 s 1; 1981 c 256 s 2; 1985 c 236 s 1

112.37 PROCEDURE FOR ESTABLISHMENT.

Subdivision 1. Proceedings for the establishment of a watershed district shall be initiated by the filing of a nominating petition with the secretary of the board. The nominating petition shall be signed by any one of the following groups:

- (1) at least one-half of the counties within the proposed district; or
- (2) by a county or counties having at least 50 percent of the area within the proposed district; or
- (3) by a majority of the cities within the proposed district; or
- (4) by at least 50 resident freeholders of the proposed district, exclusive of the resident freeholders within the corporate limits of any city on whose behalf the authorized official has signed the petition.

Subd. 1a. The nominating petition shall set forth the following:

- (1) the name of the proposed district and a statement in general terms setting forth the territory to be included in the district;
- (2) the necessity for the district, the contemplated improvements within the district, and the reasons why the district and the contemplated improvements would be conducive to public health and public welfare, or accomplish any of the purposes of this chapter;
- (3) the number of managers proposed for the district shall be not less than three nor more than nine, and shall be selected from a list of nominees containing at least twice the number of managers to be selected. No manager shall be a public officer of the county, state, or federal government, provided that a soil and water conservation supervisor may be a manager;
- (4) a map of the proposed district; and,
- (5) a request for the establishment of the district as proposed.

Subd. 1b. The petitioners shall cause to be served upon the county auditor or auditors of the counties affected by the proposed district, the commissioner, and the director, a copy of the nominating petition, and proof of service shall be attached to the original petition, to be filed with the secretary of the board.

Subd. 2. Upon receipt of a copy of such nominating petition the county auditor or auditors, as the case may be, shall determine whether or not the petitioners are freeholders, which determination shall be made upon the tax records, which shall be prima facie evidence of ownership, and from which the auditor shall certify a determination to the board.

Subd. 3. Upon receipt of a copy of the nominating petition, the director shall

(1) Acknowledge receipt thereof to the board;

(2) Prepare a preliminary watershed map of the proposed district showing the natural boundaries and subdivisions thereof;

(3) Prepare a preliminary report based upon the nominating petition and other available data, stating an opinion as to the desirability of organizing the district, and submit the report to the board with such recommendation as the director may deem proper, which report shall be submitted to the board within 30 days from the date of the service of the petition upon the director, unless such time is extended by the board.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1967 c 634 s 17]

Subd. 5. No petition containing the requisite number of signatures or petitioners or signed by the requisite number of counties or cities shall be void or dismissed on account of any defects therein, but the board shall, at any time prior to the close of hearing, permit the petition to be amended in form and substance to conform to the facts by correcting any errors in the description of the territory or by supplying any other defects therein. Several similar petitions, or duplicate copies of the same petition, for the establishment of the same district may be filed and altogether be regarded as one petition. All petitions filed prior to the hearing hereinafter provided shall be considered by the board as part of the original petition.

After a petition has been filed, no petitioner may withdraw therefrom except with the written consent of all other petitioners filed with the water resources board.

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1985 c 236 s 7]

Subd. 7. The managers of a district wholly within the metropolitan area shall number not less than five nor more than nine. The managers shall be selected to fairly represent by residence the various hydrologic areas within the district. They shall be selected from a list of persons nominated jointly or severally by statutory and home rule charter cities and towns having territory within the district. The list shall contain at least three nominees for each position to be filled. If the cities and towns fail to nominate in accordance with this subdivision, the managers shall be selected as provided in subdivision 1a.

History: 1955 c 799 s 4; 1959 c 248 s 1-3; 1961 c 601 s 3,4; 1967 c 634 s 3,4; 1969 c 1072 s 1; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1982 c 509 s 13,14; 1982 c 540 s 2; 1984 c 411 s 1; 1985 c 236 s 2; 1986 c 444

112.38 HEARING, NOTICE.

When it has been made to appear to the board that a sufficient nominating petition has been filed, the board shall, within 35 days thereafter, by its order, fix a time and place, within the limits of the proposed district, for a hearing thereon; provided that if there is not a suitable place within the proposed district, the board may select a place within the limits of the county or counties in which publication of the notice of the hearing is required. Notice of such hearing shall be given by the board by publication published once each week for two successive weeks prior to the date of hearing in a legal newspaper, published in the county or counties in which a part or all of the affected waters and lands are located, the last publication shall occur at least ten days before the hearing. Notice shall also be mailed by the board to the county auditor and to the chief executive official of any municipality affected, which notice shall contain the following:

- (1) That a nominating petition has been filed with the board, and a copy thereof with the county auditor of the county or counties affected;
- (2) A general description of the purpose of the contemplated improvement, and the territory to be included in the proposed district;
- (3) The date, time, and place of hearing, and
- (4) That all persons affected thereby or interested therein may appear and be heard.

History: 1955 c 799 s 5; 1957 c 279 s 2; 1959 c 245 s 1; 1973 c 712 s 2

112.39 ACTION OF BOARD UPON PETITION.

Subdivision 1. At the time and place fixed for the hearing on the nominating petition, all persons interested in or affected by the proposed watershed district shall be given an opportunity to be heard. The board may continue the hearing from time to time as it may deem necessary.

Subd. 2. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter and to hold hearings, the chair of the board, or any member thereof, shall have the power to subpoena witnesses, to administer oaths, and to compel the production of books, records, and other evidence. Witnesses shall receive the same fees and mileage as in civil actions. All persons shall be sworn before testifying, and the right to examine and cross-examine witnesses shall be the same as in civil actions. The board shall cause a record of all proceedings before it to be made and filed with the secretary of the board. Copies thereof may be obtained upon such terms and conditions as the board shall prescribe.

Subd. 3. Upon the hearing if it appears to the board that the establishment of a district as prayed for in the nominating petition would be for the public welfare and public interest, and that the purpose of this chapter would be subserved by the establishment of a watershed district, the board shall, by its findings and order, establish a watershed district and give it a corporate name by which, in all proceedings, it shall thereafter be known, and upon filing a certified copy of said findings and order with the secretary of state such watershed district shall become a political subdivision of the state and a public corporation, with the authority, power, and duties as prescribed in this chapter.

Subd. 4. The findings and order of the board shall name the first board of managers of the district whose term of office shall be for one year, and until their successors are appointed and qualified, and shall designate the place within the district where the principal place of business of the district shall be located, and define the boundaries of the district, which may be changed upon a petition therefor, signed and provided in section 112.37, subdivision 1 or signed by the board of managers of a watershed district upon resolution duly passed authorizing the same, and a notice and hearing thereon, in the same manner as in the original proceeding. Whenever a petition for a boundary change involves a common boundary of two or more watershed districts the board may determine in which district the hearing shall be held. The principal place of business may be changed within the district by the managers upon resolution duly passed authorizing the same, with a notice and a hearing to be conducted by the managers. Notice of such hearing shall be given by the managers of publication published once each week for two successive weeks prior to the date of hearing in a legal newspaper, published in the county or counties in which a part or all of the affected waters and lands are located, the last publication shall occur at least ten days before the hearing. Notice of hearing shall be mailed to the county auditor of each county affected ten days before the hearing. After the hearing the managers may order the change in place of business which shall be effective upon the filing of a certified copy thereof with the secretary of state and the secretary of the board.

Subd. 5. A copy of the findings and order shall, at the time of filing a certified copy thereof with the secretary of state, be mailed to the county auditor of each county affected, the commissioner, and director.

Subd. 6. If the board should determine that the establishment of a district as prayed for in the nominating petition would not be for the public welfare and public interest, and would not serve the purpose of this chapter, the board shall, by its decision, dismiss the proceedings. A copy of such order shall be forthwith mailed to the county auditor of each county affected, and to the commissioner, and director.

Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1959 c 270 s 2]

Subd. 8. [Repealed, 1959 c 270 s 2]

History: 1955 c 799 s 6; 1959 c 270 s 1; 1965 c 651 s 1; 1967 c 634 s 5,6; 1969 c 1072 s 2; 1982 c 540 s 3; 1986 c 444

112.40 RULES OF PRACTICE.

The board shall adopt rules of practice for its proceedings and hearings, not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter and other provisions of law, as it deems necessary and expedient.

History: 1955 c 799 s 7

112.401 BOARD HEARINGS.

Subdivision 1. **Procedure.** (a) A rulemaking hearing shall be conducted under chapter 14.

(b) A hearing must be conducted as a contested case under the provisions of chapter 14 if the hearing is:

- (1) in a proceeding to establish or terminate a watershed district; or
- (2) of an appeal under section 112.801.

(c) Notwithstanding chapter 14, other hearings under this chapter, except hearings under paragraphs (a) and (b), shall be conducted by the board under this section. The board may refer the hearing to one or more members of the board, or an administrative law judge to hear evidence and make findings of fact and report them to the board.

Subd. 2. **Procedure for noncontroversial plans or petitions.** (a) If the board finds that a watershed plan or petition that would be given a hearing under subdivision 1, paragraph (c), is noncontroversial, the board may proceed under this subdivision.

(b) The board must give notice that the plan or petition has been filed. The notice must be made:

(1) by publication once each week for two successive weeks in a legal newspaper in each county affected;

(2) by mail to the county auditor of each county affected; and

(3) by mail to the chief official of each home rule charter and statutory city affected.

(c) The notice:

(1) must describe the actions proposed by the plan or petition;

(2) invite written comments on the plan or petition for consideration by the board;

(3) state that a person who objects to the actions proposed in the plan or petition may submit a written request for hearing to the board within 30 days of the last publication of the notice of filing of the plan or petition; and

(4) state that if a timely request for hearing is not received, the board may make a decision on the plan or petition at a future meeting of the board.

(d) If one or more timely requests for hearing are received, the board must hold a hearing on the plan or petition.

Subd. 3. **Appeal.** A party that is aggrieved by the decision made by the order of the board may appeal the order to the district court.

History: 1961 c 601 s 24; 1985 c 236 s 3

112.41 PERPETUAL EXISTENCE.

A district created under the provisions of this chapter shall have perpetual existence with power, but only to the extent necessary for lawful conservation purposes, to sue and be sued, to incur debts, liabilities and obligations, to exercise the power of eminent domain, to provide for assessments, and to issue certificates, warrants, and bonds and do and perform all acts herein expressly authorized, and all other acts necessary and proper for carrying out and exercising the powers expressly vested in it.

History: 1955 c 799 s 8

112.411 PROCEDURE FOR TERMINATION.

Subdivision 1. Proceedings for the termination of a watershed district shall be initiated only by the filing of a petition with the secretary of the board, which petition shall be signed by not less than 25 percent of the resident freeholders of the district. Such petition shall state that the existence of the district is no longer in the public welfare and public interest and that it is not needed to accomplish the purposes of the Minnesota watershed act.

The petitioners shall cause to be served upon the county auditor or auditors of the counties affected a copy of said petition and proof of service thereof shall be attached to the original petition, to be filed with the secretary of the board.

Subd. 2. Upon receipt of a copy of such petition the county auditor or auditors shall determine whether or not the petitioners are resident freeholders within the district, which determination shall be made, upon the tax records, which shall be prima facie evidence of ownership, and from which the auditor shall certify the determination to the board.

Subd. 3. At the time of filing the petition or before notice of a hearing thereon is given, a bond shall be filed by the petitioners with the board to be approved by it and in such sum as the board may determine, conditioned that the petitioners, in case the petition is dismissed or denied, will pay all costs and expenses therefrom.

Subd. 4. When it appears to the board that a sufficient petition has been filed, the board shall within 35 days thereafter, by its order fix a time and place, within the district, for a hearing thereon. The provisions of this section relating to notice and conduct of a hearing upon a nominating petition shall govern.

If the board should determine that the existence of the district is no longer in the public welfare and public interest and that it is not needed to accomplish the purpose of the Minnesota watershed act the board shall by its findings and order terminate the district. Upon filing a certified copy of said findings and order with the secretary of state such district shall cease to be a political subdivision of the state.

Subd. 5. The board shall not entertain a petition for termination of a district within five years from the date of its formation nor shall it make determinations pursuant to petitions in accordance with provisions of this section, more often than once in five years.

History: 1959 c 244 s 1; 1961 c 563 s 1,2; 1986 c 444

112.42 MANAGERS; ORGANIZATION, APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSORS.

Subdivision 1. At the time of filing a certified copy of the findings and order with the secretary of state, the board shall cause personal service of a copy thereof to be made upon the managers named therein. Within ten days after such personal service has been made the managers shall meet at the designated principal place of business of the district and shall take and subscribe the oath defined in Minnesota Constitution, article V, section 6, which oath as subscribed shall be forthwith filed with the secretary of the board. Each manager shall thereupon file with the board a bond in the sum of \$1,000, the premium to be paid by the district for the faithful performance of the manager's duties. The amount of such bond may be increased by the board if in the judgment of the board it becomes necessary. The managers shall thereupon organize by electing one of their number as president, another as secretary, and another as treasurer, and

provide the necessary books, records, furniture, and equipment for the conduct and the transaction of their official duties.

In lieu of the individual bonds required to be furnished by managers in a watershed district, a schedule or position bond or undertaking may be given by the managers of the watershed district or a single corporate surety fidelity, schedule or position bond or undertaking covering all managers and employees of the watershed district, including officers and employees required by law to furnish an individual bond or undertaking, may be furnished in the respective amounts fixed by law or by the person or board authorized to fix the amounts, conditioned substantially as provided in section 574.13.

Subd. 2. The board of managers shall adopt a seal and shall efficiently keep a record of all proceedings, minutes, certificates, contracts, bonds of its employees, and all other business transacted or action taken by the board, which record shall be, at all reasonable times, open to inspection by the property owners within the district, and all other interested parties.

Subd. 3. At least 30 days prior to the expiration of the term of office of the first managers named by the board, the county commissioners of each county affected shall meet and proceed to appoint successors to the first managers. If the nominating petition that initiated the district originated from a majority of the cities within the district or if the district is wholly within the metropolitan area, the county commissioners shall appoint the managers from a list of persons nominated jointly or severally by the townships and municipalities within the district. The list shall contain at least three nominees for each position to be filled. Managers for a district wholly within the metropolitan area shall be appointed to fairly represent by residence the various hydrologic areas within the district. It shall be submitted to the affected county board at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the term of office. If the list is not submitted within 60 days prior to the expiration of the term of office the county commissioners shall select the managers from eligible individuals within the district. The county commissioners shall at least 30 days before the expiration of the term of office of any managers meet and appoint the successors. If the district affects more than one county, distribution of the managers among the counties affected shall be as directed by the board. Ten years after the order of establishment, upon petition of the county board of commissioners of any county affected by the district, the board after public hearing thereon, may redistribute the managers among the counties if redistribution is in accordance with the policy and purposes of this chapter. No petition for the redistribution of managers shall be filed with the board more often than once in ten years. The term of office of each manager, if the number does not exceed three, shall be one for a term of one year, one for a term of two years, and one for a term of three years. If the managers consist of five members, one shall be for a term of one year, two for a term of two years, and two for a term of three years. If the board of managers consists of more than five members, the managers shall be appointed so that as nearly as possible one-third serve terms of one year, one-third serve terms of two years, and one-third serve terms of three years. If the district affects more than one county, the board shall direct the distribution of the one, two and three year terms among the affected counties. Thereafter, the term of office for each manager shall be for a term of three years, and until a successor is appointed and qualified. If the district affects more than five counties, in order to provide for the orderly distribution of the managers, the board may determine and identify the manager areas within the territory of the district and select the appointing county board of commissioners for each manager's area. Any vacancy occurring in an office of a manager shall be filled by the appointing county board of commissioners. A record of all appointments made under this subdivision shall be filed with the county auditor of each county affected, with the secretary of the board of managers, and with the secretary of the water resources board. No person shall be appointed as a manager who is not a voting resident of the district and none shall be a public officer of the county, state, or federal government, provided that a soil and water conservation supervisor may be a manager.

Subd. 3a. The board shall restructure the boards of managers of districts estab-

lished before the effective date of Laws 1982, chapter 509 and located wholly within the metropolitan area to ensure compliance with the requirements of sections 112.37, subdivision 7 and 112.42, subdivision 3. The board shall request recommendations from the district and the affected local government units. Additional managers, if any, shall be appointed by the county designated by the board, to terms designated by the board, at the time of and in the manner provided for the next regular appointment of successors to managers of the district.

Subd. 4. The provisions of section 351.02, shall apply to members of the board of managers.

Subd. 5. The compensation of managers for meetings and for performance of other necessary duties shall not exceed \$50 per day. Managers shall be entitled to reimbursement for all traveling and other expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of official duties.

Subd. 6. The managers shall adopt bylaws and rules not inconsistent with this chapter for the administration of the business and affairs of the district. Rules adopted under this subdivision are not subject to the provisions of section 112.43, subdivision 1c.

Subd. 7. The managers shall meet annually and at such other times as may be necessary for the transaction of the business of the district. If public facilities are not available for a district's principal place of business within the district, the board shall determine and designate the nearest suitable public facility as the district's principal place of business. A meeting may be called at any time upon the request of any manager, and when so requested the secretary of the district shall mail a notice of such meeting to each member at least eight days prior thereto.

History: 1955 c 799 s 9; 1959 c 340 s 1; 1961 c 601 s 5,6; 1967 c 259 s 1; 1967 c 634 s 7; 1969 c 1072 s 3; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1973 c 712 s 3; 1976 c 2 s 172; 1978 c 513 s 1; 1982 c 509 s 15,16; 1982 c 540 s 4-6; 1984 c 411 s 2; 1986 c 444

112.421 PROCEDURE FOR INCREASING NUMBER OF MANAGERS.

Subdivision 1. **Petition and notice.** A petition must be filed with the secretary of the board to initiate proceedings to increase the number of managers of a watershed district. The petition must be signed as provided in section 112.37, subdivision 1, or signed by the board of managers of the watershed district. When the petition is filed, the board shall order a hearing to be held on the petition. Notice of hearing must be given in the same manner as a nominating petition.

Subd. 2. **Hearing.** If the board determines at the hearing that an increase in the number of managers would serve the public welfare, public interest, and the purpose of this chapter, the board shall increase the number of managers. If the district affects more than one county, the board, by order, shall direct the distribution of the managers among the affected counties.

History: 1985 c 236 s 4

112.43 MANAGERS; POWERS, DUTIES.

Subdivision 1. The managers, in order to give effect to the purposes of this chapter may:

(1) Make necessary surveys or utilize other reliable surveys and data and develop projects to accomplish the purposes for which the district is organized and may initiate, undertake, and construct projects not required to be instituted by a petition under section 112.47.

(2) Cooperate or contract with any state or subdivision thereof or federal agency or private or public corporation or cooperative association.

(3) Construct, clean, repair, alter, abandon, consolidate, reclaim or change the course or terminus of any public ditch, drain, sewer, river, watercourse, natural or artificial, within the district.

(4) Acquire, operate, construct, and maintain dams, dikes, reservoirs, water supply systems, and appurtenant works.

(5) Regulate, conserve, and control the use of water within the district.

(6) Acquire by gift, purchase, or the right of eminent domain necessary real and personal property. The district may acquire such property without the district where necessary for a water supply system.

(7) Contract for or purchase such insurance as the managers deem necessary for the protection of the district.

(8) Establish and maintain devices for acquiring and recording hydrological data.

(9) Enter into all contracts of construction authorized by this chapter.

(10) Enter upon lands within or without the district to make surveys and investigations to accomplish the purposes of the district. The district shall be liable for actual damages resulting therefrom.

(11) To take over when directed by the district court or county board all judicial and county drainage systems within the district, together with the right to repair, maintain, and improve the same. Whenever such judicial or county drainage system is taken over in whole or in part, the same, to the extent so taken over, shall become a part of the works of the district.

(12) Provide for sanitation and public health and regulate the use of streams, ditches, or watercourses for the purpose of disposing of waste and preventing pollution.

(13) Borrow funds from the following: (a) any agency of the federal government; (b) any state agency; (c) any county in which the district is located in whole or in part; (d) a financial institution authorized under chapter 47 to do business in this state. A county board may lend the amount requested by a district. No district may have more than a total of \$50,000 in loans from counties and financial institutions under this clause outstanding at any time.

(14) Prepare a flood plain map of the lands of the district which are in the flood plain of lakes and watercourses, which map shall be made available to the counties and local municipalities for inclusion in flood plain ordinances and shall be in conformity with state rules setting standards and criteria for designation of flood plain areas.

(15) Prepare an open space and greenbelt map of the lands of the district which should be preserved and included in the open space and greenbelt land areas of the district, which map shall be made available to the counties and local municipalities for inclusion in flood plain and shoreland ordinances.

(16) Appropriate necessary funds to provide for membership in a state association of watershed districts which has as its purpose the betterment and improvement of watershed governmental operations.

(17) To control the use and development of land in the flood plain and the greenbelt and open space areas of the district, the managers may adopt, amend or repeal rules to control encroachments, the changing of land contours, the placement of fill and structures, the placement of encumbrances or obstructions and to require the landowner to remove fill, structures, encumbrances, or other obstructions and to restore the previously existing land contours and vegetation. The managers may by rule provide a procedure whereby the district can do the work required and assess the cost thereof against the affected property as a special assessment. The rules shall be applicable only in the absence of county or municipal ordinances for the regulation of those items set forth in this clause. The rules shall be adopted in accordance with subdivision 1c.

Subd. 1a. No resolution or rule approved by the managers after August 1, 1978, which affects land or water within the boundaries of a home rule charter or statutory city shall be effective within the city's boundaries prior to notifying the governing body of the city.

Subd. 1b. A watershed district located wholly within the metropolitan area shall have the duties and authorities provided in sections 473.875 to 473.883. Notwithstanding any contrary provision of subdivision 1, a watershed district located wholly

within the metropolitan area shall have authority to regulate the use and development of land only under the conditions specified in section 473.877, clause (c).

Subd. 1c. Each district shall adopt rules to accomplish the purposes of this chapter and to implement the powers of the managers. Rules of the district shall be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the board of managers, after public notice and hearing. They shall be signed by the secretary of the board of managers and shall be recorded in the board's official minute book. For each county of the district the board shall publish a notice of any hearing or adopted rules in one or more legal newspapers published in the county and generally circulated in the district, and shall file any adopted rules with the county recorder of each county affected. A copy of the rules shall be mailed by the board to the governing body of each municipality affected.

Any ordinance of a district in effect on March 23, 1982 shall remain in full force and effect until the district adopts rules pursuant to this subdivision.

Subd. 2. The district court may enforce by injunction or other appropriate order the provisions of sections 112.37 to 112.801 and any rule or regulation adopted or order issued by the managers thereunder.

Subd. 3. The managers shall annually make and file a report of the financial conditions of the district, the status of all projects therein, the business transacted by the district, other matters affecting the interests of the district, and a discussion of the managers' intentions for the succeeding year. Copies of the report shall be transmitted to the secretary of state water resources board, the commissioner, and the director within a reasonable time.

Subd. 4. The exercise of said powers by the managers shall at all times be subject to review by the board as herein provided.

History: 1955 c 799 s 10, 12 subd 3; 1961 c 601 s 7; 1963 c 834 s 1-4; 1965 c 51 s 17; 1969 c 971 s 2; 1969 c 1072 s 4; 1971 c 662 s 1; 1978 c 513 s 2; 1Sp1981 c 4 art 1 s 71; 1982 c 509 s 17; 1982 c 540 s 7-9; 1985 c 248 s 70

112.431 DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS.

Subdivision 1. **Findings.** The legislature finds that because of urban growth and development in the metropolitan area problems arise for the improvement and repair of drainage systems which were originally established for the benefit of land used for agricultural purposes and that the procedure for the improvement and repair of drainage systems now in the metropolitan area should be simplified to more adequately and economically improve and repair drainage systems.

Subd. 2. **Definitions.** (a) For the purpose of this section the terms defined in this subdivision have the meanings ascribed to them.

(b) "Drainage system" means a ditch as defined by section 106A.005, subdivision 11.

(c) "Watershed district" means any watershed district established pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, wholly or partially in a metropolitan county.

(d) "Metropolitan county" means any one of the following counties: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott or Washington.

(e) "Metropolitan area" means the combined area of the metropolitan counties.

Subd. 3. **Drainage improvements.** With the concurrence of the governing bodies of the home rule charter or statutory cities and the town board of the towns where the drainage system is located, the board of managers of a watershed district in which there exists a drainage system shall have the power to improve and repair any drainage system transferred to the watershed district pursuant to section 112.65, by conforming to sections 429.031; 429.041, subdivisions 1 and 2; 429.051; 429.061 and 429.071.

Subd. 4. **Alternative power.** With the concurrence of the governing bodies of the home rule charter or statutory cities and the town boards of the towns where the drainage system is located, the managers in their discretion may improve and repair a drainage system under the power granted to them elsewhere in this chapter.

Subd. 5. **Appeal.** Any person aggrieved by an order for improvement or repair by the managers or by an assessment may appeal as provided in sections 112.801 and 112.82.

History: 1980 c 614 s 85; 1985 c 172 s 113

112.44 ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The managers, upon qualifying, shall appoint an advisory committee consisting of at least five members, who shall be selected if practicable as follows: one shall be a supervisor of a soil and water conservation district; one shall be a member of a county board; one shall be a member of a sporting organization, and one shall be a member of a farm organization and others may be appointed at the discretion of the managers, which appointees shall be residents of the district, and shall serve during the pleasure of the managers. The committee shall advise and assist the managers upon all matters affecting the interests of the district, and shall make recommendations to the managers upon all contemplated projects and works of improvement within the district. In addition the managers may appoint other interested and technical persons who may or may not reside within the district who shall serve during the pleasure of the managers. Each member of the advisory committee, in the discretion of the managers, shall be entitled to reimbursement for actual traveling and other expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of duties as provided for state employees.

History: 1955 c 799 s 11; 1959 c 247 s 1; 1969 c 637 s 1; 1969 c 1072 s 5; 1973 c 712 s 4; 1986 c 444

112.45 EMPLOYEES, DUTIES.

The managers may employ a chief engineer, professional assistants, and such other employees as may be necessary, and provide for their qualifications, duties and compensation. The chief engineer shall be superintendent of all the works and improvements; the chief engineer shall make a full report to the managers each year, or more often if necessary. A copy of such report and all recommendations by the chief engineer shall be transmitted to the managers and the director. The managers may require any officer or employee of the district to give a bond for the faithful performance of duties, in an amount prescribed by them, the cost thereof to be paid from the funds of the district.

History: 1955 c 799 s 12; 1961 c 601 s 8; 1986 c 444

112.46 OVERALL PLAN.

Subdivision 1. **Plan contents.** The managers shall, within a reasonable time after qualifying, adopt an overall plan for any or all of the purposes for which a district may be established. The overall plan shall be composed of narrative statements of existing water and water related problems within the district, possible solutions thereto and the general objectives of the district. The overall plan may also include as a separate section any proposed projects. The separate statement of proposed projects or petitions for projects to be undertaken pursuant to the overall plan shall be considered as a comprehensive plan of the district for all purposes of review by the metropolitan council under section 473.165, if the district is within the metropolitan area.

Subd. 2. **Adoption procedures.** A copy of the plan shall forthwith be transmitted to the county auditor of each county affected, the secretary of the board, the commissioner, the director, the governing bodies of all municipalities, any soil and water conservation district having territory within the district and the metropolitan council if the district is within the metropolitan area. Upon receipt of the copy the director and the council shall examine it and within 60 days thereafter, unless the time is extended by the board, the director and the council shall transmit to the board recommendations in connection therewith, a copy of which shall be transmitted to the managers, the county auditor of each county affected, the governing bodies of all affected municipalities and any affected soil and water conservation districts. Within

45 days from receipt of the director's and the council's recommendations the board shall have a public hearing on the proposed overall plan. The provisions of this chapter relating to notice, time, and place of hearing upon a nominating petition shall govern the hearing. After the public hearing the board shall, by its order, prescribe an overall plan for the district. A copy of the order shall be transmitted to the managers, the county board of each county affected, the commissioner, the director, the governing bodies of all municipalities affected, any affected soil and water conservation districts and the council. Upon transmittal the plan shall become the overall plan for the district. The plan may be amended upon a petition submitted by the managers, and the board shall have a hearing on the amendment in the same manner as in the original overall plan proceeding.

Subd. 3. Plan revision. The managers and the board shall revise the overall plan for the district at least once every ten years after the board originally prescribes the overall plan and shall make amendments as it deems advisable. The managers shall consider including the following items in the revised overall plan, and any other information deemed appropriate:

- (1) Updates and supplements of the existing hydrological and other statistical data of the district;
- (2) Specific projects completed;
- (3) A statement setting forth the extent to which the purposes for which the district had been established have been accomplished;
- (4) A description of problems requiring future action by the district;
- (5) A summary of completed studies on active or planned projects, including financial data;
- (6) An analysis of the effectiveness of the district's rules and permits in achieving its water management objectives in the district.

Subd. 4. Board review of revised outline. After ten years and six months have elapsed from the date that the board prescribed an overall plan or the last revised plan, the managers shall adopt a revised overall plan outline and shall transmit a copy of the outline to the board. Upon receipt of a copy the board shall examine it and within 60 days thereafter adopt recommendations regarding the outline and report them to the managers.

Subd. 5. Further review. Within 120 days after receiving the board's recommendations regarding the revised overall plan outline, the managers shall complete the revised overall plan. A copy of the plan shall be transmitted to the board, the county board and county auditor of each county affected, the director, the governing bodies of all municipalities affected, any soil and water conservation district having territory within the district, and the metropolitan council if the district is within the metropolitan area. Upon receipt of the copy, the director and the council shall examine it and within 60 days thereafter, unless the time is extended by the board, the director and the council shall transmit recommendations on the revised plan to the board, a copy of which shall be transmitted to the managers, the county auditor of each county affected, the governing bodies of all affected municipalities, and any affected soil and water conservation districts.

Within 45 days from transmittal of the revised overall plan to the board, the board shall have a public hearing on the proposed revised overall plan. The provisions of this chapter relating to notice, time, and place of hearing upon a nominating petition shall govern this proceeding. After public hearing the board shall, by its order, prescribe a revised plan for the district. A copy of the revised plan shall be transmitted to the managers, the county board of each county affected, the commissioner, the director, the governing bodies of all municipalities affected, any affected soil and water conservation districts and the council. Upon transmittal the plan shall become the overall plan for the district.

History: 1955 c 799 s 13; 1959 c 246 s 1; 1963 c 834 s 5; 1965 c 652 s 1; 1967 c 634 s 8; 1969 c 637 s 1; 1971 c 662 s 2; 1980 c 509 s 25; 1982 c 540 s 10

112.47 PROJECTS INSTITUTED.

All projects of the district which are to be paid by assessment upon the benefited properties, shall be instituted: (1) by a petition filed with the managers; (2) by unanimous resolution of the managers; or (3) as otherwise prescribed by this chapter:

History: 1955 c 799 s 14; 1965 c 652 s 2; 1973 c 712 s 5; 1982 c 540 s 11

112.48 APPROVAL OF PROJECT; FILING OF PETITION; CONTENTS; HEARING; BONDS.

Subdivision 1. After the overall plan of the district has been prescribed by the board, as provided in section 112.46, a petition may be filed with the managers for any project within the district conforming in general with the plan. The petition must be signed:

(1) by not less than 25 percent of the resident freeholders, or by the owners of more than 25 percent of the land within the limits of the area proposed to be improved unless the project consists of the establishment of a drainage system as defined in sections 106A.005 to 106A.811 or the improvement of an existing drainage system;

(2) by a majority of the resident owners of the land over which the proposed project passes or is located, or by the owners of at least 60 percent of the area of the land, if the project consists of the establishment of a drainage system as defined in sections 106A.005 to 106A.811;

(3) by not less than 26 percent of the resident owners of the property affected by the proposed project or over which the proposed project passes or by the owners of not less than 26 percent of the area affected or over which the proposed project passes if the project consists of the improvement of an existing drainage system as defined in sections 106A.005 to 106A.811;

(4) by a county board of any county affected; or

(5) by the governing body of any city lying wholly or partly within the area proposed to be improved; provided that if the proposed project affects lands exclusively within a city, the petition shall originate from the governing body of the city.

For the purpose of this subdivision, holders of easements for electric or telephone transmission or distribution lines are not considered freeholders or owners.

The petition shall contain the following:

(a) a description of the proposed project, and the purpose to be accomplished;
(b) a description of the lands over which the proposed project passes or is located;
(c) a general description of the part of the district which will be affected, if less than the entire district;

(d) the need and necessity for the proposed improvement;

(e) that the proposed project will be conducive to public health, convenience, and welfare;

(f) a statement that the petitioners will pay all costs and expenses which may be incurred in case the proceedings are dismissed or for any reason no construction contract is let for the project.

Subd. 2. Upon the filing of a petition and before any action is taken on it, one or more of the petitioners shall deposit not less than \$2,000 with the board of managers, conditioned to pay all costs and expenses incurred if the project petitioned for is not constructed. Alternatively, with the approval of the board of managers, one or more of the petitioners may make and file a bond payable to the watershed district named in the petition in the sum of not less than \$2,000 with good and sufficient sureties, to be approved by the board of managers of the district with which the bond is filed, conditioned to pay all costs and expenses which may be incurred in case the proceedings are dismissed or for any reason no contract is entered into for the construction of the project petitioned for.

If it appears at any time prior to the making of the order establishing a project that the deposit or bond of petitioners is insufficient in amount to protect the watershed

district from loss on account of any costs or expenses incurred or to be incurred, the watershed district shall require an additional deposit or bond. In that event all further proceedings shall be stayed until the deposit or bond is furnished and if the additional deposit or bond is not furnished within the time the watershed district fixes, the proceedings may be dismissed.

In all project proceedings, the expenses incurred prior to establishment shall not exceed the required deposit or the penalty named in the bond or bonds given by the parties. No claim in excess of the amount of the deposit or bond or bonds shall be audited or paid by direction of the watershed district unless one or more parties in the proceeding, within the time the watershed district directs, files an additional deposit or bond in an amount as directed by the watershed district.

If the petition is signed by the proper officials of a county or city, no bond shall be required.

Subd. 3. Where an improvement is to be constructed within the district under an agreement between the managers and the state of Minnesota, or any department or agency thereof, or the United States of America, or any department or agency thereof, wherein the cost of the improvement is to be paid for in whole or in part by the governmental agency but the rights of way, and the expenses of the improvement are assumed by the district or where the managers are undertaking all or a portion of the basic water management project as identified in the overall plan, the following procedure shall be followed. A copy of the project plan shall be forwarded to the board and director for their reports after which the managers shall hold a public hearing on the proposed improvement following publication once each week for two successive weeks prior to the date of the hearing in a legal newspaper, published in the county or counties in which a part or all of the affected waters and lands are located. The last publication shall occur not more than 30 days and at least ten days before the hearing. The notice shall state the time and place of hearing, the general nature of the proposed improvement, the estimated cost thereof and the method by which the cost of the improvement is to be paid, including the cost to be allocated to each affected municipal corporation or the state of Minnesota or any department thereof. Not less than ten days before the hearing, notice by mail shall be given to the director and to the municipal corporations wholly or partly within the improvement project area, but failure to give mailed notice or defects in the notice shall not invalidate the proceedings. At the time and place specified in the notice the managers shall hear all parties interested in the proposed project or improvement. If upon full hearing the managers find that the improvement will be conducive to public health and promote the general welfare, and is in compliance with the overall plan and the provisions of this chapter, they shall make findings accordingly and authorize the project.

Subd. 4. The board of managers may institute projects upon a resolution of not less than a majority of the board if:

(a) Each project is financed by one or more grants totaling at least 50 percent of the estimated cost; and

(b) The engineer's estimate of local costs to the district, including any assessments against benefited properties but excluding any state, federal or other grant, is not over \$750,000 for any single project. No resolution under this subdivision shall be used for the establishment of a project, the essential nature and purpose of which is for drainage.

The managers shall hold a public hearing on the proposed resolution for the project following publication published once each week for two successive weeks. The publication shall be in a legal newspaper published in the county or counties in which the watershed district is situated. The last publication shall occur at least ten days before the meeting at which the resolution will be heard. The notice shall contain the date, time and place of hearing, the substance of the proposed resolution, the means of financing the project, and a statement that all persons who might be affected by the project or who may be interested in it may appear and be heard. Defects in the notice shall not invalidate the proceedings.

The managers shall secure from the district engineer or other competent person of

their selection a report advising them in a preliminary way whether the proposed project is feasible and estimating the cost of the project. No error or omission in the report shall invalidate the proceeding. The managers may also take other steps prior to the hearing which will in their judgment provide helpful information in determining the desirability and feasibility of the improvement. If after the hearing it appears to the managers that the proposed project promotes the public interest and welfare, and is practicable and in conformity with the overall plan of the district, they shall adopt a final resolution for the project, and properly identify the proceeding by name and number. If the report of the engineer is unfavorable the managers shall fix a time and place for a hearing in the manner provided for the hearing on the resolution. Thereafter the matter may be referred back to the engineer for further study and report or the managers may dismiss the proceeding.

When a final resolution is adopted, the matter shall proceed as in the case of a project instituted by petition as is prescribed by this chapter. Upon the filing by the managers with the auditor of a county of a statement listing the property and corporations benefited or damaged or otherwise affected by any project under this subdivision as found by the appraisers and approved by the managers, proceedings shall be commenced pursuant to section 112.60.

History: 1955 c 799 s 15; 1959 c 243 s 1; 1961 c 601 s 9,10; 1965 c 647 s 1; 1969 c 1072 s 6,7; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1973 c 712 s 6-8; 1978 c 513 s 3; 1982 c 540 s 12-14; 1985 c 172 s 114

112.49 SURVEYS, PLANS.

Subdivision 1. If it appears to the managers that the petition is sufficient, that the proposed project promotes the public interest and welfare and is practicable and in conformity with the overall plan of the district, they shall properly identify the proceeding by name and number and shall cause to be made, at the earliest time possible, all necessary surveys and maps for the proposed project as provided in this subdivision. The engineer designated by the managers shall make a report to the managers of findings and recommendations relative to the proposed project. If the engineer finds the improvement feasible the engineer shall include in the report a plan of the proposed project including:

- (1) A map of the area to be improved, drawn to scale, showing the location of the proposed improvements; the location and adequacy of the outlet; the watershed of the project area; the location of existing highways, bridges and culverts; all lands, highways and utilities affected, together with the names of the owners, so far as known; the outlines of any public lands and public bodies of water affected; and any other physical characteristics of the watershed necessary for the understanding of the area;

- (2) The estimated total cost of the completion of the project including costs of construction and all supervision and administrative costs of the project;

- (3) The acreage which will be required and taken as right-of-way listed by each lot and 40 acre tract, or fraction thereof, under separate ownership; and

- (4) Other details and information to inform the managers of the practicability and necessity of the proposed project together with the engineer's recommendations on these matters.

Subd. 2. The engineer may adopt and approve and include as a part of the report, any project of the state of Minnesota or the United States which is pertinent to the project and may accept any data, plats, plans, details, or information pertaining to such state or federal project furnished to the engineer by the state or federal agency and the engineer shall omit from the report those items called for in subdivision 1 if the data furnished by the state or federal agency is sufficient to meet the requirements of subdivision 1.

Subd. 3. If the engineer's report is unfavorable the managers shall within 35 days thereafter by order fix a time and place within the district for a hearing at which the petitioners shall show cause why the managers shall not refer the petition back to the

petitioners for such further proceedings thereon as the managers may determine or dismiss the petition. The notice shall state that the engineer's report is unfavorable, that it is on file with the managers and is subject to inspection, and the time and place for hearing thereon. The managers shall mail a copy of the notice to each of the petitioners at least 14 days before the hearing.

Subd. 4. The petitioners may dismiss the petition, upon payment of costs and expenses.

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1963 c 834 s 26]

Subd. 6. Upon the filing of the engineer's report, a complete copy thereof shall be transmitted to the director and to the board by the managers.

The director and the board shall examine the same and within 30 days make their reports thereon to the managers. If they find the report incomplete and not in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, they shall so report. If they approve the same as being a practical plan they shall so state. If they do not approve the plan they shall file their recommendations for changes as they deem advisable, or if in their opinion the proposed project or improvement is not practical they shall so report. If a soil survey appears advisable they shall so advise and in such event the engineer shall make the soil survey and report thereon before the final hearing. Their reports shall be directed to and filed with the managers. Such reports shall be deemed advisory only.

No notice shall issue for the hearing until the board's and the director's reports are filed or the time for filing thereof has expired.

Subd. 7. The findings, recommendations and content of engineering reports for projects under this chapter shall conform as nearly as practicable to the requirements of this section and a copy of each report shall be transmitted to the board by the managers.

History: 1955 c 799 s 16; 1959 c 242 s 1-3; 1961 c 601 s 11; 1963 c 834 s 6,7; 1967 c 634 s 9; 1969 c 1072 s 8; 1978 c 513 s 4; 1982 c 540 s 15,16; 1986 c 444

112.50 APPRAISALS.

Subdivision 1. Upon the filing of the engineer's report the managers shall, with the least possible delay, appoint three disinterested resident freeholders of the state to act as appraisers. These appraisers shall subscribe an oath to faithfully and impartially perform their duties, and with or without the engineer, shall determine the benefits or damages to all lands and properties affected by the proposed project or improvement, including lands owned by the state of Minnesota or any department thereof, highways, and other property likely to be affected by the proposed improvement or that may be used or taken for the construction or maintenance thereof. Benefits and damages to lands owned by the state of Minnesota or any department thereof held and used for the purposes described in sections 106A.025 and 106A.315, subdivision 1, shall be determined subject to the provisions thereof, so far as applicable. Each appraiser may be paid on a per diem basis for every day necessarily engaged in the performance of duties and for actual and necessary expenses. The compensation shall be fixed by the managers, to be paid by the district and included in the cost of improvement. The managers of the watershed districts may in their discretion use the following procedure for the purpose of determining benefits and damages. Upon the filing of the engineer's report the managers with the assistance of the engineer shall determine the benefits or damages to all lands and properties affected by the proposed project or improvement, including lands owned by the state of Minnesota or any department thereof, highways, and other property likely to be affected by the proposed improvement or that may be used or taken from the construction or maintenance thereof. Benefits and damages to lands owned by the state of Minnesota or any department thereof held and used for the purposes described in sections 106A.025 and 106A.315, subdivision 1 shall be determined subject to the provisions thereof, so far as applicable. The managers shall also determine the amount to be paid and generally assessed by the watershed district for the basic water management portion of the improvement projects.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1959 c 313 s 2]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1959 c 313 s 2]

History: 1955 c 799 s 17; 1959 c 313 s 1; 1961 c 601 s 12; 1963 c 834 s 8; 1971 c 662 s 3; 1978 c 513 s 5; 1985 c 172 s 115; 1986 c 444

112.501 BENEFITED PROPERTY, DETERMINATION.

Subdivision 1. Where the proposed improvement, includes or prays for the construction or improvement of any ditch, stream, river, or watercourse, or any structures for the control or alleviation of damages from flood waters, the appraisers shall be governed by sections 106A.311 to 106A.321.

Subd. 2. In all proceedings under this act assessments for benefits against lands shall be made upon benefits to such lands by reason of the project or improvement affecting the same. Benefited properties shall include:

(1) All lands, including lands owned by the state of Minnesota or any subdivision thereof receiving direct benefits. Direct benefits include, but are not limited to assessments for drainage, recreation, commercial navigation, disposal of sewage or waste material, bank stabilization, flood control, land reclamation, prevention of siltation, control of erosion, and maintenance of lake levels;

(2) All lands that are contributing water or are furnished an improved drainage outlet and all lands that contribute waters that are stored, handled or controlled by the proposed improvement;

(3) All lands that are not receiving but need drainage and that are furnishing waters that are handled or controlled by the proposed improvement.

(4) Benefits to the state by reason of the improvement of lakes, streams, or other bodies of water as a place for propagation, protection and preservation of fish and other forms of wildlife, which benefits shall be assessable against the state of Minnesota to the extent and in the manner provided for assessments against the state in section 84A.55, subdivision 9, and within the available appropriation.

(5) Benefits to municipal corporations which occur to the lands in the municipality generally and which may be in addition to special benefits to specific lands within the municipality.

(6) Benefits that will result to all lands used for railway or other utility purposes.

History: 1959 c 272 s 1; 1961 c 563 s 3; 1963 c 834 s 9,10; 1965 c 774 s 1,2; 1969 c 1072 s 9; 1985 c 172 s 116

112.51 APPRAISERS' REPORT, EXAMINATION.

Upon filing of the appraisers' report the managers shall examine it to determine if it was made in conformity with the requirements of this chapter, and if the total benefits thus found are greater than the total estimated costs and damages. If the appraisers' report is lacking in any particulars the managers may recommit it to the appraisers for further study and report.

History: 1955 c 799 s 18

112.52 HEARING UPON PETITION AND REPORTS.

Upon the filing of the report of the engineer and the appraisers appointed herein by the managers, they shall, within 35 days thereafter, by order, fix a time and place within the district for a hearing upon the petition or resolution and reports. Due notice thereof shall be given by the managers as herein provided.

History: 1955 c 799 s 19; 1959 c 220 s 1; 1963 c 834 s 11; 1973 c 712 s 9

112.53 NOTICE OF HEARING, CONTENTS.

Subdivision 1. The managers shall by publication give notice of the pendency of the petition or resolution; the time and place for hearing thereon; and that the engi-

neer's and appraisers' reports, including the plans, have been filed with the managers and are subject to inspection. The notice shall contain a brief description of the proposed project, together with a description of the properties benefited or damaged, the names of the owners of the properties, the public and other corporations affected by the project as shown by the engineer's and appraisers' reports. A map of the affected area may be included in the notice in lieu of the names of the owners or of the descriptions of the properties affected by the project or both. The notice shall require all parties interested in the proposed project to appear before the managers at the time and place designated in the notice to present any objections they may have, and to show cause why an order should not be made by the managers granting the petition, confirming the reports of the engineer and appraisers, and ordering the establishment and construction of the project.

Subd. 2. **Mailing.** The managers shall give notice by mail, within one week after the beginning of publication, to the director and to each person, corporation, and public body that owns property benefited or damaged by the proposed improvement as shown by the engineers and appraisers report. The notice shall contain a brief description of the proposed improvement and state: that the engineer's and appraisers' report are on file with the managers and available for public inspection; the time and place of hearing; and that the addressee's name appears as an affected party.

Subd. 3. When it is required that the managers acquire land in fee simple estate, they shall, prior to the filing of the appraiser's report, record in the office of county recorder of the county in which the lands are situated, a notice of the pendency of a proceeding initiated by the managers to acquire the lands, which notice shall state the purpose for which the lands are to be taken. At least 20 days before the hearing, notice of the hearing in addition to that required in subdivisions 1 and 2 hereof shall be served upon owners of the property, in the same manner as the summons in a civil action, which notice shall describe the land, state by whom and for what purpose it is to be taken and give the names of all persons appearing of record or known to the managers to be the owners. The notice shall also state that benefits and damages have been determined, and that a hearing will be held by the managers at the time and place specified in the notice.

Subd. 4. Where the improvement affects the lands and properties in more than one county, separate notices shall be prepared and published in each county affected showing only the general description of the proposed improvement and the names and descriptions of the properties affected in the county or, in lieu of the names or descriptions or both, a map of the area affected in the county. Notice by mail as provided in subdivision 2 shall be given.

History: 1955 c 799 s 20; 1961 c 601 s 13,14; 1963 c 834 s 12-15; 1973 c 712 s 10; 1976 c 181 s 2; 1981 c 256 s 3-5; 1982 c 540 s 17

112.54 HEARING BEFORE MANAGERS.

At the time and place specified in the notice, the managers shall hear all parties interested for and against the establishment of the proposed improvement and confirming the reports. All questions relative to the proposed improvement including jurisdiction, sufficiency of the petition or resolution, practicability and necessity shall be determined upon evidence presented at the hearing. Any findings made by the managers prior to the hearing shall not be conclusive but shall be subject to further investigation, consideration, and determination at the hearing. They may order and direct the modification of the engineer's report within the scope of the overall improvement plan for the district, and the assessment of benefits and damages and amend or change the list of property reported as assessable for the construction and maintenance thereof. If the amended reports include property not included in the original reports, the managers shall adjourn and cause to be published and mailed, as in the original notice, the proper notice with reference to all lands and properties not included in the previous notice. If upon full hearing the managers find that the improvement will be conducive to public health and promote the general welfare, and is in compliance with the provisions and

purposes of this chapter, and that the benefits resulting therefrom will be greater than the cost of the construction and damages, they shall make findings accordingly and order and direct the construction of the improvement and confirm the report of the engineer and the findings and report of the appraisers and may by this order authorize the construction of the proposed improvement as a whole or for different parts thereof separately. The managers shall order the engineer to proceed with making the necessary surveys and preparing such plans and specifications as are needed to construct the proposed improvements and report the same to the managers with reasonable dispatch. The hearing then shall be recessed to await the engineer's report and receipt of bids, when it may again be recessed to allow compliance with section 112.541 if said section 112.541 becomes applicable.

History: 1955 c 799 s 21; 1959 c 241 s 1; 1963 c 834 s 16; 1973 c 712 s 11

112.541 PROCEDURE WHEN CONTRACT IS NOT LET.

If after the receipt of the bids, no bids are received except for a price more than 30 percent in excess of the engineers estimate as contained in the engineer's report, or for a price in excess of the benefits, less damages and other costs, the managers shall follow the procedure described in section 106A.511.

History: 1963 c 834 s 18; 1985 c 172 s 117; 1986 c 444

112.55 ORDER OF MANAGERS ESTABLISHING IMPROVEMENT, FILING.

Any order of the managers establishing the improvement and authorizing the construction thereof shall forthwith be filed with the secretary of the district, and a certified copy thereof shall be filed with the auditor of each county affected, the board, the commissioner, the director, the Minnesota pollution control agency and the state department of health.

History: 1955 c 799 s 22; 1973 c 712 s 12; 1978 c 513 s 6

112.56 [Repealed, 1963 c 834 s 26]

112.57 BIDS.

After an order has been made by the managers directing the establishment of each improvement, the managers shall call for bids for the construction of the work and give notice thereof by publication specifying therein the time and place when the bids will be opened for the letting of a contract for the construction of the work. The contract may be let in sections or as a whole, as the managers may direct. Notice thereof shall be published in at least one of the newspapers in the state where such notices are usually published. At a time and place specified in the notice, the managers may accept or reject any or all bids and may let the contract to the lowest responsible bidder, who shall give a bond, with ample security, conditions for the carrying out of the contract. Bids shall not be entertained which in the aggregate exceed by more than 30 percent the total estimated cost of construction. Such contract shall be in writing and shall be accompanied by or shall refer to the plans and specifications for the work to be done, and prepared by the engineer for the district. The plans and specifications shall become a part of the contract. The contract shall be approved by the managers, signed by the president and secretary thereof, and by the contractor.

History: 1955 c 799 s 24; 1963 c 834 s 17

112.58 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.

If the managers find that conditions exist which present a clear and imminent danger to the health or welfare of the people of the district, and that to delay action would prejudice the interests of the people of the district or would be likely to cause irreparable harm, the managers may declare the existence of an emergency and designate the location, nature and extent of the emergency. When an emergency has been declared, and to the extent necessary to protect the interests of the district, the

managers may order that work be done under the direction of the managers and the engineer, without a contract. The cost of work undertaken without a contract may be assessed against benefited properties or, if the cost is not more than 25 percent of the latest administrative ad valorem levy of the district and the work is found to be of common benefit to the district, may be raised by an ad valorem tax levy upon all taxable property within the district, or both.

History: 1955 c 799 s 25; 1982 c 540 s 18

112.59 CONTROL OF CONTRACTS.

In all cases where contracts are let by the managers, they shall have full control of all matters pertaining thereto. If a contractor fails to complete the improvement within the time or in the manner specified in the contract, the managers may extend the time for completion or may refuse an extension of time or may cancel the contract and readvertise and relet the contract. They may require the surety for the contractor to complete the improvement or proceed to have the contract otherwise completed at the expense of the contractor and the surety. They may take such other action with reference thereto that the occasion may require in the interest of the district. The provisions of sections 106A.005 to 106A.811, so far as pertinent, apply to and govern the relations between the engineer and the contractor, including the examination and report of the engineer and the amount and time of payment. The managers shall keep an accurate account of all expenses incurred, which shall include the compensation of the engineer and the assistants, the compensation and expenses of the appraisers as provided in section 112.50, the compensation of petitioners' attorney, the cost of petitioners' bond, the fees of all county officials necessitated by the improvement which shall be in addition to all fees otherwise allowed by law, and the time and expenses of all employees of the district, including the expenses of the managers while engaged in any improvement. The fees and expenses provided for herein shall be audited, allowed and paid upon the order of the managers and shall be charged to and be treated as a part of the cost of the improvement.

History: 1955 c 799 s 26; 1961 c 601 s 15; 1985 c 172 s 118; 1986 c 444

112.60 ASSESSMENTS, LEVIES.

Subdivision 1. Upon the filing by the managers with the auditor of any county of a statement listing the property and corporations benefited or damaged or otherwise affected by any improvement as found by the appraisers and approved by the managers, the auditor shall assess the amount specified in such list against the lands and municipalities or other corporations as therein specified in accordance with the pertinent provisions of sections 106A.005 to 106A.811.

Subd. 2. Upon filing of the statement as provided in subdivision 1 the county board of each county affected shall provide funds to meet its proportionate share of the total cost of the improvements, as shown by the report and order of the managers of the district, and for such purposes is authorized to issue bonds of the county in such amount as may be necessary in the manner provided by section 106A.635. In the event an improvement is to be constructed under the provisions of section 112.69, the provisions of section 106A.635 requiring the county board to let a contract for construction before issuing bonds shall not be applicable to bonds issued to provide the funds required to be furnished by this section.

Subd. 3. The respective county auditors and county treasurers shall levy and collect the amount shown in the tabular statement and lien as provided in sections 106A.601 to 106A.631. All money received by the treasurer of any county from the sale of bonds, assessments, or otherwise, for the benefit of the district shall be accounted for by the auditor and paid over to the treasurer of the district.

Subd. 4. No assessment shall be levied against any property or corporations benefited under the provisions of this chapter in excess of the amount of benefits received as fixed by the order of the managers authorizing the construction of the improvement or subsequently determined on appeal.

History: 1955 c 799 s 27; 1963 c 41 s 1; 1985 c 172 s 119-121; 1986 c 444

112.61 FUNDS OF DISTRICT.

Subdivision 1. The money of any district organized under the provisions of this chapter consist of:

Subd. 2. An organizational expense fund, which consists of an ad valorem tax levy, not to exceed two-thirds of one mill on each dollar of assessed valuation of all taxable property within the district or \$60,000 whichever is the lesser. Such funds shall be used for organizational expenses, and preparation of an overall plan for projects and improvements. The managers of the district shall be authorized to borrow from the affected counties up to 75 percent of the anticipated funds to be collected from the organizational expense fund levy and the counties affected are hereby authorized to make such advancements. The advancement of anticipated funds shall be apportioned among affected counties in the same ratio as the assessed valuation of the area of the counties within the district bears to the assessed valuation of the entire district. In the event an established district is enlarged, an organizational expense fund may be levied against the area added to the district in the same manner as above provided. Unexpended funds collected for the organizational expense may be transferred to the administrative fund and used for the purposes authorized therein;

Subd. 3. An administrative fund, which consists of an ad valorem tax levy not to exceed one mill on each dollar of assessed valuation of all taxable property within the district, or \$125,000, whichever is the lesser. Such funds shall be used for general administrative expenses and for the construction and maintenance of projects of common benefit to the district. The managers may make an annual levy for this fund as provided in section 112.611. In addition to the annual administrative levy, the managers may annually levy a tax of not to exceed one-third of one mill for a period of not to exceed 15 consecutive years to pay the cost attributable to the basic water management features of projects initiated by petition of a municipality of the district.

Subd. 4. A bond fund, which consists of the proceeds of bonds issued by such district, as herein provided secured upon the property of the district which is producing or is likely to produce a regular income and is to be used for the payment of the purchase price of the property or the value thereof as fixed by the court in proper proceedings, and for the improvement and development of such property;

Subd. 5. A construction fund, which is to be supplied by: the sale of county bonds; construction loans from any agency of the federal government; and by special assessments to be levied as herein provided to supply funds for the construction of the improvements of the district, including reservoirs, ditches, dikes, canals, channels, and other works, together with the expenses incident thereto and connected therewith. Construction loans from any agency of the federal government may be repaid from moneys collected by special assessments upon properties benefited by the improvement as herein provided;

Subd. 6. A preliminary fund, which consists of funds provided as herein specified, and is to be used for preliminary work on proposed works of the district.

Subd. 7. Repair and maintenance funds to be established pursuant to the provisions of section 112.64 as amended or hereafter amended.

Subd. 8. A survey and data acquisition fund which shall be established or used only when no other funds are available to the district to pay for making necessary surveys and acquiring data. The fund consists of an ad valorem levy, which can be levied not more than once every five years, not to exceed one mill on each dollar of assessed valuation of all taxable property within the district. At no time shall the balance of the survey and data acquisition fund exceed \$50,000. In a subsequent proceeding for a work where a survey has been made, the attributable cost of the survey as determined by the managers shall be included as a part of the cost of the work and that sum shall be repaid to the survey and data acquisition fund.

History: 1955 c 799 s 28; 1959 c 271 s 1; Ex1959 c 67 s 1; 1961 c 601 s 16; 1963 c 834 s 19; 1965 c 648 s 1,2; 1967 c 634 s 10-12; 1969 c 1072 s 10; 1971 c 662 s 4; 1973 c 773 s 1; 1978 c 513 s 7; 1982 c 540 s 19

112.611 BUDGET; TAX LEVY.

Subdivision 1. On or before October 1 of each year the managers shall adopt a budget for the ensuing year and shall decide upon the total amount necessary to be raised from ad valorem tax levies to meet its budget. Before adopting a budget the managers shall hold a public hearing on the proposed budget. The managers shall publish a notice of the hearing together with a summary of the proposed budget in one or more newspapers of general circulation in each county into which the watershed district extends. The notice and summary shall be published once each week for two successive weeks before the hearing. The last publication shall be at least two days before the hearing.

After adoption of the budget and no later than October 1, the secretary of the district shall certify to the auditor of each county within the district the county's share of such tax, which shall be an amount bearing the same proportion to the total levy as the assessed valuation of the area of the county within the watershed bears to the assessed valuation of the entire watershed district. The maximum amount of any levy shall not exceed that provided for in Minnesota Statutes 1961, Section 112.61 and acts amendatory thereof.

Subd. 2. The auditor of each county in the district shall add the amount of any levy made by the managers to the other tax levies on the property of the county within the district for collection by the county treasurer with other taxes. When collected, the county treasurer shall make settlement of such taxes with the treasurer of the district in the same manner as other taxes are distributed to the other political subdivisions. The levy authorized by this section shall be in addition to any other county taxes authorized by law.

History: 1959 c 256 s 1; 1963 c 834 s 20; 1981 c 88 s 1

112.62 DISTRICT COURT TO CREATE PRELIMINARY FUND.

Subdivision 1. When a proper petition has been filed with the managers for the construction of a project within the district, the managers may file a petition with the district court in the county where the district has its principal place of business asking that a preliminary expense fund be created for the district, and may subsequently amend or supplement the petition if necessary. At least ten days' notice of a petition or amended or supplementary petition shall be given to the auditor of each county affected by the proposed project. The fund applied for shall be of a size proportionate to meet the needs of the district for preliminary work on the proposed project.

Subd. 2. The district court upon hearing may designate the amount of the fund and fix the proportionate amount that each county affected by the improvement shall pay, in proportion to the area in the county affected by the proposed improvement. The court shall order the auditor of each county to draw a warrant upon the treasurer of the county for the payment of the amount specified in the order, payable to the treasurer of the district. The sum so advanced by the county shall be charged to the district, and shall be repaid with interest as soon as the district has funds for that purpose. The funds so provided shall be used by the managers for preliminary work. When the managers incur expenses for surveys or other preliminary work on any proposed improvement, all expenses connected with such work shall be included in the cost of construction of the proposed improvement. When the construction of the improvement is authorized by the managers the funds advanced from the preliminary fund shall be repaid out of receipts from assessments.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1963 c 834 s 26]

Subd. 4. The state of Minnesota and any department or political subdivision thereof may appropriate such sums as are necessary to pay its proportionate share of such preliminary expenses, determined by the managers according to the benefits that will probably accrue to the corporation from the contemplated improvements.

Subd. 5. The district court may order a preliminary fund for all works of the district instituted pursuant to section 112.47.

History: 1955 c 799 s 29; 1963 c 834 s 21,22; 1978 c 513 s 8; 1982 c 540 s 20; 1986 c 444

112.63 WARRANTS.

The managers of any district may issue warrants of the district in payment of any contracts for the construction of any improvements, for all ordinary general expenses, and for all expenses incurred in making repairs, which have been approved by the managers only when there are sufficient funds available for payment in the district treasury.

History: 1955 c 799 s 30; 1969 c 1072 s 11

112.64 LEVY FOR REPAIR OF IMPROVEMENT.

Subdivision 1. The board of managers shall be responsible for maintaining the projects of the district in such condition that they will accomplish the purposes for which they were constructed. The cost of normal or routine maintenance of the projects of the district, and the cost of removing obstructions and accumulations of foreign substances from a drainage system, shall be paid from the maintenance fund upon the order of the board of managers.

Subd. 2. For the purpose of creating a maintenance fund for normal and routine maintenance of a project, the board of managers is authorized to apportion and assess the amount of the fund against all the parcels of land and municipal corporations previously assessed for benefits in proceedings for the construction of the project. The assessment shall be made pro rata according to benefits determined. No assessment for the benefit of the maintenance fund shall be made when the fund exceeds 20 percent of the original cost of construction of the project. Upon receiving the assessment order from the board of managers, the auditors of the counties affected shall file for record in the office of the county recorder for the county a tabular lien statement covering the assessment. The assessment shall be collected as provided in the order in the same manner as provided in section 106A.731. Before ordering the levy of an assessment for the benefit of the maintenance fund, the board of managers, in its discretion, may give notice of a hearing on the matter.

Subd. 3. If the engineer certifies to the board of managers, in the annual report or otherwise, that an improvement of the district is in such a state of disrepair that it cannot be restored by normal and routine maintenance to the same condition as when originally constructed or subsequently improved, or that a ditch or channel must be widened or deepened, or that any improvement of the district must be altered or improved, in order to attain the level of operating efficiency contemplated at the time of the original construction, the board of managers, before ordering any repairs other than normal and routine maintenance, shall order the engineer to prepare and submit to the board of managers technical and cost specifications on the work necessary to restore, or improve the improvement to the desired level of operating efficiency. Upon receiving the engineer's report, the board of managers shall set a date for hearing on the report and give notice of the hearing in the same manner as in the original proceeding on the construction of the improvement. If upon hearing the board of managers finds that the repair or improvement is in compliance with the provisions, is necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter, and that the cost of the repair or improvement will not exceed its benefits, they may order the repair or improvement and assess the cost against the benefited properties. The cost shall be apportioned and assessed pro rata upon all lands and property that were assessed for the construction of the improvement. No single levy for repair shall exceed the amount of benefits originally determined. The board of managers shall file a copy of the order for levy with the auditor of each county which contains affected properties. The auditor shall extend the levy against affected properties as in proceedings for the levy, assessment and collection of taxes levied in drainage proceedings conducted under sections 106A.005 to 106A.811.

Subd. 4. If the managers find that the estimated cost of repair, including all fees and costs incurred for proceedings relating to it, is less than \$20,000, it may have the work done by contract without advertising for bids.

History: 1955 c 799 s 31; 1965 c 775 s 1; 1967 c 634 s 13,14; 1973 c 712 s 13; 1976 c 181 s 2; 1982 c 540 s 21; 1985 c 172 s 122,123; 1986 c 444

112.65 DRAINAGE SYSTEMS WITHIN DISTRICT.

Subdivision 1. The managers of a district shall take over when directed by the district court or county board any judicial or county drainage system within the district, together with the right to repair and maintain the same. Such transfer may be initiated by the district court or county board, or such transfer may be initiated by a petition from any person having an interest in the drainage system or by the managers. No such transfer shall be made until the district court or county board has held a hearing thereon. Due notice of the proposed transfer together with the time and place of hearing shall be given by two weeks published notice in a legal newspaper of general circulation in the area involved. All interested persons may appear and be heard. Following the hearing, the district court or county board shall make its order directing that the managers of a district take over the affected judicial or county drainage system, unless it appears that the take over would not be in the public welfare or public interest and would not serve the purpose of this chapter. When the transfer is directed all proceedings for repair and maintenance shall thereafter conform to the provisions of sections 106A.005 to 106A.811.

Subd. 2. Construction of all new drainage systems or improvements of existing drainage systems within the district shall be initiated by filing a petition with the managers of the district. In all proceedings for the improvement of existing drainage systems within the district, the managers shall conform to the provisions of section 112.49.

History: 1955 c 799 s 32; 1959 c 240 s 1; 1967 c 634 s 15,16; 1969 c 1072 s 12; 1982 c 540 s 22; 1985 c 172 s 124

112.66 DAMAGE TO HIGHWAY OR BRIDGE BY PASSAGE OF EQUIPMENT.

In case it is necessary to pass any dredge or other equipment through a bridge or grade of any highway or railroad owned by any corporation, county, town, or municipality, the managers shall give 20 days notice to the owner of the bridge or grade so that the same may be removed temporarily to allow the passage of such equipment, or an agreement may be immediately entered into for such purposes. The owner of the bridge or grade shall keep an itemized account of the cost of removal and if necessary, of the replacing of the bridge or grade and the actual cost shall be paid by the district. In case the owner of the bridge or grade refuses to provide for the passage of the equipment, the managers may remove such bridge or grade at the expense of the district, interrupting traffic in the least degree consistent with good work and without delay or unnecessary damage. In case the managers are prevented from doing so, the owner of the bridge or grade shall be liable for the damages resulting from the delay.

History: 1955 c 799 s 33

112.67 CONTRACTS OF COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE.

The managers may enter into contracts or other arrangements with the United States government, or any department thereof, with persons, railroads, or other corporations, with public corporations, and the state government of this state or other states, or any department thereof, with drainage, flood control, soil conservation, or other improvement districts, in this state or other states, for cooperation or assistance in constructing, maintaining, and operating the works of the district, or for the control of the waters thereof, or for making surveys and investigations or reports thereon; and may purchase, lease, or acquire land or other property in adjoining states in order to secure outlets; to construct and maintain dikes or dams or other structures for the accomplishment of the purposes of this chapter.

History: 1955 c 799 s 34

112.68 OTHER STATUTES APPLICABLE.

The provisions of sections 471.59 and 471.64, are hereby made applicable to districts organized under this chapter.

History: 1955 c 799 s 35

112.69 CONSTRUCTION BY GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES; PROCEDURE; CONVEYANCES TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

Subdivision 1. Where an improvement is to be constructed within the district under a contract between the managers of said district and the state of Minnesota, or any department thereof, or by the United States of America, or any department thereof, wherein the cost of the construction is to be paid for by the governmental agency but the rights-of-way, legal, and general expenses of the improvement are to be paid by the district, the managers shall forward a copy of the improvement plan to the board and director for their reports thereon; thereupon, they shall hold a public hearing on the proposed contract authorized by section 112.67 following publication once each week for two successive weeks prior to the date of the hearing in a legal newspaper, published in the county or counties in which a part or all of the affected waters and lands are located. The last publication shall occur at least ten days before the hearing. The notice shall state the time and place of hearing, the general nature of the proposed improvement, the estimated cost thereof and the area proposed to be assessed. Not less than ten days before the hearing notice by mail shall be given to each resident owner, as shown on the county auditor's most recent records maintained for taxation purposes, within the area proposed to be assessed, and to the director and to each public body within the area to be assessed likely to be affected, but failure to give mailed notice or defects in the notice shall not invalidate the proceedings. At the time and place specified in the notice the managers shall hear all parties interested for and against the proposed project or improvement and all questions relative thereto shall be determined upon evidence presented at the hearing. If upon full hearing the managers find that the improvement will be conducive to public health and promote the general welfare, and is in compliance with the provisions and purposes of this chapter they shall make findings accordingly and authorize the project and enter into the proposed contract or other arrangement. Thereupon the managers shall appoint three disinterested freeholders of the state to act as appraisers. After the appraisers so selected subscribe to an oath to faithfully and impartially perform their duties, they shall, with or without the engineer, determine the benefits or damages to all lands and properties affected by the proposed improvement. They shall make and file with the managers a detailed statement showing the actual damages that have resulted or will result to individuals, property, or corporations from the construction of the improvement and make and file with the managers a detailed statement and list of lands and other property, including highways and corporations, receiving actual benefits by way of drainage, control of flood waters, or by other means herein authorized.

Subd. 2. Upon the filing of the appraisers' report and the plans and engineering data prepared by the governmental agency the managers shall prepare a detailed statement of all costs including damages to be incurred by the district in the construction of the improvement. They shall within 35 days thereafter by order fix a time and place within the district for a hearing upon the appraiser's report. The managers shall cause notice to be given by publication and mailing as above provided for a hearing on a petition. At the time and place specified in the notice, the managers shall hear all parties interested for and against the confirming of the report; and may order and direct the modification of the assessment of benefits and damages, and amend or change the list of properties reported as benefited or damaged. If the amended reports include property not included in the original report the managers shall adjourn and cause to be published and mailed as in the original notice the proper notice with reference to all lands and properties not included in the previous notice. If upon full hearing the managers find that the benefits resulting from the construction will be greater than the assessments including damages they shall confirm the report. All persons or public corporations affected by the order may appeal therefrom as herein provided.

Upon the filing by the managers with the auditor of any county of a statement listing the property and corporations benefited or damaged or otherwise affected by any improvement as found by the appraisers and approved by the managers, proceedings shall be had as provided in section 112.60.

Section 112.47 is not applicable to works of the district constructed under contract as provided in this section.

Subd. 3. When it is required that the board of managers acquire the fee simple estate or a lesser interest in real property pursuant to this section or convey to the United States government the fee simple estate or a lesser interest in real property, the managers shall, prior to the filing of the appraiser's report, record in the office of the county recorder of the county in which the lands are situated, a notice of the pendency of a proceeding initiated by the managers to acquire the lands to be conveyed to the United States government which notice shall state the purpose for which the lands are to be taken. At least 20 days before the hearing upon the appraiser's report, notice of the hearing in addition to that required by subdivision 2 hereof shall be served upon the owners of the property to be acquired, in the same manner as the summons in a civil action, which notice shall describe the land, state by whom and for what purpose it is to be taken and give the names of all persons appearing of record or known to the managers to be the owners. The notice shall also state that appraisers have been appointed in the manner provided by subdivision 1 hereof, to determine the benefits and damages, and that a hearing will be held by the managers upon the appraiser's report at the time and place specified in the notice. When the managers have confirmed the appraiser's report listing the property benefited or damaged as provided in subdivision 2, the managers shall have all rights of possession and entry conferred in other cases of condemnation by chapter 117. Thereafter, the attorney for the managers shall make a certificate describing the land taken, the purpose for which taken, and reciting the fact of payment of all awards as determined by the appraisers appointed by the managers or judgments in relation thereto, which certificate, upon approval thereof by the managers, shall establish the right of the watershed district in the lands taken and shall be filed for record with the county recorder of the county in which the lands are situated, which record shall be notice to all parties of the title of the watershed district to the lands therein described. Thereafter the managers are authorized to convey such lands and interests acquired to the United States government, if necessary.

History: 1955 c 799 s 36; 1961 c 601 s 17; 1963 c 42 s 1; 1965 c 649 s 1; 1973 c 35 s 26; 1973 c 712 s 14; 1976 c 181 s 2; 1978 c 513 s 9

112.70 [Repealed, 1963 c 798 s 16 subd 2]

112.71 USE OF WATER, CONTRACTS; NOTICE, HEARING.

The rights enjoyed by landowners, whether private or corporate, to the use of the waters of the district for any purpose shall continue as they existed at the time of the organization of the district and all such rights then existing shall be recognized and observed by the managers, but when improvements made by the district make possible a greater, better or more convenient use of or benefit from the waters of the district for any purpose, the right to such greater, better or more convenient use of or benefit from such waters shall be the property of the district, and such rights may be leased or assigned by the district in return for reasonable compensation, as provided herein.

All leases, assignments, permits or contracts for the use of water shall be entered into only after a report has been made by the managers of such district to the board setting forth the terms and conditions of the lease, permit, or contract relative to the use of any property of the district. The secretary of the board shall give due notice thereof to all parties interested, by mail, and shall cause to be published notice of the application, stating therein the purpose of the application and the time and place of hearing thereon. At the time of hearing the board shall hear all interested persons for or against such proposed contract and make its order accordingly upon such conditions and restrictions as may be necessary to protect the interest of the district and of the public.

History: 1955 c 799 s 38; 1961 c 601 s 19

112.72 OTHER DRAINAGE LAWS, EFFECT OF REFERENCE.

Whenever reference is made herein to any drainage laws of this state and sections thereof are referred to, the sections and provisions shall if not inconsistent with this chapter, be treated and construed as having the same force and effect, so far as the provisions of this chapter are concerned, as though herein set forth. Any amendments of such act or acts passed after the effective date of this chapter shall become applicable to this chapter.

History: 1955 c 799 s 39; 1963 c 834 s 23

112.73 ANNUAL AUDIT.

The managers shall make such reports as are demanded by the state auditor. The managers shall cause to be made an annual audit of the books and accounts of the district. Such audit may be made by either a public accountant or by the state auditor. If the audit is to be made by the state auditor it shall be initiated by a petition of the resident freeholders of the district or resolution of the managers of the watershed district requesting such audit pursuant to the authority granted municipalities under the provisions of sections 6.54 and 6.55. If the audit is made by the state auditor the district receiving such examination shall pay to the state the total cost and expenses of such examination, including the salaries paid to the examiners while actually engaged in making such examination. The revolving fund of the state auditor shall be credited with all collections made for any such examinations.

History: 1955 c 799 s 40; 1957 c 95 s 1; 1965 c 513 s 1; 1973 c 492 s 14

112.74 EXISTING DISTRICTS MAY COME UNDER CHAPTER.

Any district heretofore organized under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1953, sections 111.01 to 111.42, or 112.01 to 112.33, may acquire the right to operate under and exercise all the rights and authority of this chapter, instead of the act under which it was organized, upon the filing by the governing board of such district, in the office of the court administrator of district court of the county in which its principal place of business is situate, a petition to the court asking that the district be granted such authority. The court administrator of district court, as directed by the judge, shall thereupon fix a time and place for hearing upon the petition. Notice of the hearing shall be given by publication for two successive weeks in a newspaper published in each county having territory within such district. The court administrator of district court shall give written notice of the hearing to the secretary of the water resources board. If at the hearing the court finds that it is for the best interests of the district to be granted such authority, it may by order grant such petition. Thereafter the district may exercise the authority provided for in this chapter. Thereafter, upon petition by the managers, the name of the district, the number and distribution of the board of managers of the same shall be as the water resources board shall prescribe after notice and hearing. The distribution shall take effect upon the expiration of term of office of the director of the conservancy district as the term of office of each director expires. The appointments shall be made by the county commissioners as provided in Minnesota Statutes 1961, section 112.42, subdivision 3.

History: 1955 c 799 s 41; 1965 c 650 s 1; 1Sp1986 c 3 art 1 s 82

112.75 [Repealed, 1973 c 712 s 16]**112.76 CORPORATE EXISTENCE OF CERTAIN DISTRICTS, TERMINATION.**

The corporate existence of any district organized under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1953, sections 112.01 to 112.33, wherein no work has been performed during the five-year period immediately prior to April 23, 1955, shall be terminated unless within one year thereafter such district makes application for authority to continue its corporate existence under the provisions of this chapter. The procedure to provide a record of the termination of a district shall be initiated by a petition from

the Minnesota water resources board to the district court of the county in which its principal place of business is situated. Said petition shall contain a statement to the effect that no work was performed during the five-year period immediately prior to April 23, 1955 and that no application was made to continue the district's operation under this chapter. The court administrator of the district court, as directed by the judge, shall fix a time and place for hearing upon the petition. Notice of the hearing shall be given by publication for two successive weeks in a newspaper published in each county having territory within such district. If the court finds that the facts in the petition exist it shall issue an order finding the fact of the termination of the district. A copy of such order shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state.

After April 23, 1955, no new district shall be organized under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1953, chapter 112.

The above procedure for termination shall apply with like force and effect to any district organized under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1961, sections 111.01 to 111.42, wherein no work has been performed during the 20-year period immediately prior to May 21, 1965. After May 21, 1965, no new district shall be organized under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 1961, sections 111.01 to 111.42.

History: 1955 c 799 s 43; 1963 c 834 s 24; 1965 c 516 s 1; 1Sp1986 c 3 art 1 s 82

112.761 PROCEEDINGS FOR ENLARGEMENT OF DISTRICT.

Subdivision 1. Proceedings for the enlargement of an existing district shall be initiated by a petition filed with the secretary of the board. The required signatures on a petition to enlarge shall be the same as prescribed for a nominating petition, provided, however, the percentages shall be calculated only with reference to the territory which is proposed to be added to the district. Such petition shall state:

- (1) That the area to be added is contiguous to the existing district;
- (2) That it can be feasibly administered by the managers of the existing district;
- (3) The reasons why it would be conducive to the public health and welfare to add the area to the existing district;
- (4) A map of the affected area;
- (5) The name of the enlarged district, if other than that of the existing district; and
- (6) A request for the addition of the proposed territory.

The petition shall be served and the board shall proceed in a manner as prescribed for a nominating petition. The requirement of notice, and public hearings shall be as prescribed for the nominating petition. Service of the petition shall be made upon any affected watershed district.

Subd. 2. Upon the hearing, if it appears to the board that the enlargement of the district as prayed for in the petition would be for the public welfare and public interest and the purpose of this chapter, would be served, it shall, by its findings and order, enlarge the district and file a certified copy of said findings and order with the secretary of state. The name of the district may be changed by order of the board if requested in the petition to enlarge the district.

Subd. 3. If the district, as enlarged, affects more than one county, distribution of the managers among the counties affected shall be as directed by the board in the order enlarging the district.

History: 1961 c 601 s 23; 1978 c 513 s 10

112.77 [Repealed, 1959 c 272 s 2]

112.78 FAULTY NOTICES, EFFECT.

In any case where a notice is provided for in this chapter for any hearing or proceeding before the board, managers, or district court, if the board or managers or court finds that due notice was not given, it does not thereby lose jurisdiction, and the proceedings are not thereby invalid, but the board, managers, or court, in such case,

shall order notice to be given and continue the hearing until such time as such notice shall be properly given, and thereupon shall proceed as though notice had been properly given in the first instance. In case the original notice was faulty only with reference to publication as to certain tracts, only the persons interested in those particular tracts need be notified by a subsequent notice. If the publication of any notice in any county was defective or not made in time, notice need be given only within the county in which notice was defective.

History: 1955 c 799 s 45

112.79 HEARINGS, CONTINUANCES.

Whenever an order has been made and notice given for a hearing in any proceeding under this chapter, and the board or managers or court fail to appear at the time and place specified, the secretary of the board or managers or the court administrator of the district court shall continue the hearing to such other date as is deemed necessary and notify the board or managers or the court of the continuance and the date of hearing. The matter shall be continued to the date fixed by the secretary of the board or any manager, or the court administrator, without affecting the jurisdiction of the board or managers, or the court.

History: 1955 c 799 s 46; 1Sp1986 c 3 art 1 s 82

112.791 [Repealed, 1965 c 873 s 3]

112.792 [Repealed, 1965 c 873 s 3]

112.80 [Repealed, 1965 c 873 s 3]

112.801 APPELLATE PROCEDURES AND REVIEW.

Subdivision 1. An appeal may be had to the district court or to the Minnesota water resources board by any party, or jointly by more than one, aggrieved by an order of the managers made in any proceeding and entered upon its record determining any of the following matters:

- (1) The amount of benefits determined;
- (2) The amount of damages allowed;
- (3) Relative to the allowance of fees or expenses in any proceedings,
- (4) Which affects a substantial right, or
- (5) An order of the board of managers authorizing or refusing to establish a project and improvement in whole or in part.

Subd. 2. In all cases of appeal, the amount awarded by the jury or the board as finally determined shall stand for and in the place of the amount from which the appeal was taken.

Subd. 3. If an appeal is taken from an order authorizing an improvement, the trial of any appeals from benefits or damages in such proceedings shall be stayed pending the determination of such appeal. If the order authorizing be affirmed, any such appeal from benefits or damages shall then stand for trial as provided by this section. If such appeal be from an order refusing to authorize an improvement, and if the court or the board thereafter orders the improvement the secretary of the district shall give notice by publication of the filing of the order. Such notice shall be sufficient if it refers to the proposed improvement by general description and recites the substance of the order and the date of filing in the court.

Subd. 4. Any person or public corporation appealing on the first or second grounds named in subdivision 1, may include and have considered and determined benefits or damages affecting property other than that person's own. Notice of such appeal shall be served upon the owner or occupant of such other property or upon the attorney who represented such owner in the proceedings. Such notice of appeal shall be served upon the auditor of the county wherein the property is situated and upon the court administrator of the district court of the county wherein the principal place of business of the district is located, or upon the secretary of the board.

Subd. 5. To render the appeal effectual, the appellant shall file with such court administrator of the district court or the secretary of the board within 30 days of the date of such final order a notice of appeal which shall state the grounds upon which the appeal is taken. The notice of appeal shall be accompanied by an appeal bond to the district where the property is situate of not less than \$250 to be approved by the court administrator of the district court or the secretary of the board, as the case may be, conditioned that the appellant will duly prosecute the appeal and pay all costs and disbursements which may be adjudged against the appellant and abide the order of the court or of the board, as the case may be.

Subd. 6. The issues raised by the appeal shall stand for trial by the board at a time and place fixed by it or by a jury, and if by a jury, shall be tried and determined at the next term of the district court held within the county in which the notice of appeal was filed, or in such other counties in which the appeal shall be heard, beginning after the filing of the appeal; and shall take precedence over all other court matters of a civil nature. If there is more than one appeal to the board involving the same project for improvement, or if there is more than one appeal triable in one county, the court or the board may, on its own motion or upon the motion of a party in interest, consolidate two or more appeals and try them together, but the rights of the appellants shall be separately determined. In case of appeal as to damages or benefits to property situate in the county other than the county where the principal place of business of the district is located, and if the appellant so requests, the trial shall be held at the next term of the district court of the county wherein the lands are situated. In such case, the court administrator of the district court where the appeal is filed, shall make, certify and file in the office of the court administrator of district court of the county where the trial is to be had, a transcript of the papers and documents on file in the court administrator's office in the proceeding so far as they pertain to the matter on account of which the appeal is taken. After the final determination of such appeal, the court administrator of the district court where the action is tried shall certify and return the verdict to the district court of the county where the proceedings were instituted. If the appeal is to the board, the board shall file its decision with the secretary thereof. If the appeal is taken to the board from the order of the managers, the decision of such board may be reviewed by certiorari proceedings in the district court of a county in which the proposed project lies in whole or in part. If the appeal from the order of the managers is to the district court, and it appears to the court that there are involved facts, circumstances, or matters peculiarly or especially within the knowledge, functions, or duties of the Minnesota water resources board, the court may refer to such board as referee questions of fact within the scope of such knowledge, functions, and duties. Thereupon such board shall make its findings of fact upon the questions of fact so submitted to it and report the same back to the court.

Subd. 7. The board shall make a record of all matters tried by it on appeal or referred to it by the district court for findings of fact under the provisions of this section. Such record shall meet the requirements of a record of the trial of a matter in district court.

Subd. 8. All proceedings before the board shall be in conformity with sections 14.02, 14.04 to 14.36, 14.38, 14.44 to 14.45, and 14.57 to 14.62.

History: 1965 c 873 s 1; 1982 c 424 s 130; 1986 c 444; 1Sp1986 c 3 art 1 s 82

112.81 [Repealed, 1959 c.273 s 2]

112.82 AGGRIEVED PARTIES, RIGHTS.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment; appeal.** Any party aggrieved by a final order or judgment rendered on appeal to the district court or by the original order of the court made in any proceedings heard and tried before the court may appeal as in other civil cases.

Subd. 2. **Repair; appeal.** In any proceeding before the managers for the repair, improvement, maintenance, consolidation, or abandonment of any of the works of the district, the same right of appeal shall be had as in other civil cases.

History: 1955 c 799 s 49; 1983 c 247 s 48

112.83 [Repealed, 1959 c 405 s 2]**112.84 DUE PROCESS OF LAW.**

No person shall, under this chapter, be deprived or divested of any previously established beneficial uses or rights without due process of law.

History: 1955 c 799 s 51

112.85 WITHDRAWAL OF TERRITORY.

Subdivision 1. Proceedings to withdraw any territory from an existing district shall be initiated by a petition filed with the secretary of the board. The required signatures on a petition for withdrawal shall be the same as prescribed for a nominating petition, provided, however, the percentages shall be calculated only with reference to the territory which is proposed to be withdrawn from the district. Such petition shall state that the territory so described has not received or will not receive any benefits from the operation of the district, that the district can perform the functions for which it was established without the inclusion of said territory and that said territory is not, in fact, a part of the watershed. The petition shall request the release of the described territory from the district.

The petition shall be served and the board shall proceed in a manner as prescribed for a nominating petition. The requirements for notices and public hearings shall be as prescribed for the nominating petition. Service of the petition shall be made upon any affected watershed district.

Subd. 2. Upon the hearing if it appears to the board that the territory as described in the petition has not and will not receive any benefit from the operation of the district and that the district can perform the functions for which it was established without the inclusion of said territory, and that said territory is not, in fact, a part of the watershed, the board may issue an order releasing the territory, or any part of said territory, as described in the petition. No lands shall be released which have been determined subject to any benefits or damages for any improvement previously constructed. The territory so released shall remain liable for its proportionate share of any indebtedness existing at the time of the order. Levies on the lands shall continue in force until fully paid. If the board shall determine that the order prescribing the distribution of managers should be amended following the withdrawal of any territory it may so direct in the order authorizing the withdrawal.

History: 1963 c 834 s 25; 1978 c 513 s 11; 1983 c 216 art 1 s 20

112.86 CONSOLIDATION OF DISTRICTS.

Subdivision 1. Proceedings for the consolidation of two or more districts shall be initiated by a petition filed with the board. The petition shall be signed by each district affected and shall state:

- (1) The names of the districts to be consolidated.
- (2) That the districts are adjoining.
- (3) That the consolidated districts can be feasibly administered as one district.
- (4) The proposed name of the consolidated district.
- (5) The reasons why it would be conducive to the public health, convenience and welfare to consolidate the districts.
- (6) A request for the consolidation.

The petition shall be served and the board shall proceed in a manner as prescribed for a nominating petition. The requirement of notice, and public hearings shall be as prescribed for the nominating petition.

Subd. 2. Upon the hearing, if it appears to the board that consolidation of the districts as prayed for in the petition would be for the public welfare and public interest and the purpose of this chapter, would be served, it shall, by its findings and order, consolidate the districts and file a certified copy of said findings and order with the secretary of state. The name of the district may be changed by order of the board.

Subd. 3. The term of office of all managers of the districts consolidated shall end upon the order of consolidation. Distribution of the managers of the consolidated district shall be as directed by the board in the order of consolidation. The managers of the consolidated district shall be appointed from the managers of the districts consolidated. They shall be five in number and their first term shall be for one year, thereafter they shall be appointed as provided in this chapter.

Subd. 4. All of the assets, real and personal, of the districts involved and all legally valid and enforceable claims and contract obligations of the districts pass to the new district. Levies on the property of the districts consolidated shall continue in force until fully paid and all land shall remain liable for its proportionate share of any indebtedness existing at the time of the order.

Subd. 5. The overall plans of the existing districts shall become the overall plan of the consolidated district.

History: 1973 c 712 s 15

112.87 DAMAGES; PAYMENT.

Section 117.155 shall not apply to any project to be financed by special assessment. When the damages for a project to be financed by special assessment are awarded and duly confirmed, the managers shall determine that the project's benefits exceed the total costs, including any damages awarded, and shall amend its statement filed with the county auditor pursuant to section 112.60, subdivision 1, to reflect the amount of damages awarded. Before entering upon any property for which damages were awarded in order to initiate the construction of the project, the managers shall pay the amount of damages awarded less any assessment against the property from the funds provided by the county board pursuant to section 112.60. In case of appeal of the amount of damages, no damages shall be paid until the final determination thereof.

History: 1978 c 513 s 12; 1979 c 50 s 11

112.88 FEE FOR PERMIT; BOND.

Subdivision 1. A person applying for any kind of a permit required by the managers of a watershed district in a rule made pursuant to section 112.43, subdivision 1 (17), shall accompany the application with a permit application fee in an amount set by the managers not in excess of \$10 to defray the cost of recording and processing the application.

Subd. 2. The managers of a watershed district may charge, in addition, a field inspection fee of not less than \$35, which shall cover actual costs related to a field inspection, including investigation of the area affected by the proposed activity, analysis of the proposed activity, services of a consultant and any required subsequent monitoring of the proposed activity. Costs of monitoring an activity authorized by permit may be charged and collected as necessary after issuance of the permit.

Subd. 3. The fees in subdivisions 1 and 2 shall not be charged to an agency of the United States or any governmental unit in this state.

Subd. 4. The managers of a watershed district may require an applicant for a permit to file a bond with the managers in an amount set by the managers and conditioned on performance by the applicant of authorized activities in conformance with the terms of the permit.

History: 1978 c 513 s 13; 1986 c 444

112.89 ENFORCEMENT.

Subdivision 1. A violation of a provision of this chapter or a rule, order or stipulation agreement made or a permit issued by the board of managers of a watershed district pursuant to this chapter is a misdemeanor.

Subd. 2. A provision of this chapter or a rule, order or stipulation agreement made or a permit issued by the board of managers of a watershed district pursuant to this

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chapter may be enforced by criminal prosecution, injunction pursuant to section 112.43, subdivision 2, action to compel performance, restoration, abatement and other appropriate action.

History: 1978 c 513 s 14