



## Hello neighbor, would you like my water?

“Hello neighbor, would you like my water?” This has been a common question asked over the past year in Minnehaha County, although the choice of words may be slightly different than I have depicted. The county requires this question to be asked (in most cases) prior to issuance of a drainage permit for work to be done. In 2011 this question has been asked more than any other previous year, and for a few reasons. The first reason, changes to the Minnehaha County Drainage Ordinance were adopted at the end of last year (2010) requiring ½ mile downstream notification for routine maintenance permits which was not included in previous drainage ordinances.



Another reason for the increase in times that “Would you like my water?” was asked was due to the fact that 250+ permits have been issued this year. This is 60 more than the second highest year, 2009. However, the number of permits issued this year (250+) does not get justice unless fully compared to previous years and ordinances. To make a complete analysis between the current and previous ordinances, a couple of other changes in the ordinance need to be examined.

The first or second, however you’re keeping track, is that drainage permits last for three years instead of one, which gives landowners more time to complete projects and not have to worry about their permit expiring prior to being able to fit into their contractor’s hectic schedule. Another reason that the “250” number does not give this year of drainage its recognition is a change was made to the ordinance that allows only one drainage permit to be required for a coordinated drainage area; under previous ordinances each property owner would need a permit.

Looking at the table we can see that this year has far exceeded any previous year. But to put these numbers in perspective compared to previous years and ordinances we need to assume that each individual property owner would have received their own permit.

YEAR	Drainage Permits
2011	261
2010	189
2009	191
2008	176
2007	87

After quickly flipping thru 250+ permits from this year, as if one could quickly flip thru that many pages, 50 of those permits had more than one owner on the project. Those numbers ranged from 2 to 23 property owners for each permit. After adding all those numbers together, a total of 125 additional property owners would have needed to obtain a permit, putting this year’s total to 375+ permits if compared to our previous ordinances.

Continued page 4

## Drainage Report continued.....

So to say that the question “Would you like my water?” has been passed around many times this year is an understatement, when compared to previous years.



In many cases these drainage permits have more than one property owner downstream, and though I could provide that number, I welcome you to come and quickly flip thru over 250 permits. I can tell you this, under the current ordinance, the question “would you like my water?” can be answered with more than a yes or no, it can be answered with, “Let me join your project”.

So neighbor, “Would you like my water?”

### TOP 10 LIST 2011

(in no particular order)

10. The year of lawsuits - 2 drainage, 2 zoning, and 1 street vacation.
9. Drainage Permits! Notification requirements have quadrupled the time staff spends on each permit.
8. Paul Clarke joined the staff as chief building inspector. He’s an alright dude.....for a southerner.
7. 3rd Thursday social hour with Sioux Falls city staff. Here’s to building solid relationships.
6. Scott Anderson, Planning Director, who knows that good employees make the boss look good, and he looks terrific.
5. The six County clean-up sites where we collected 93.6 tons of household debris, 35.25 tons of wood waste, 48.74 tons of iron, metal, and appliances and 32.22 tons of tires.
4. Promotion of Ryan Streff to Planner II. Well deserved.
3. The Red Rock Corridor Plan from start to adoption. Many thanks to a committed task force.
2. Adoption of the 2009 International Building Code.
1. The planning staff that supports each other and defines teamwork. And so good looking.

### ENVISION 2035

Envision 2035 is beginning in January 2012. Managed by Planner Ryan Streff, the Planning Department is kicking off the creation of a new Comprehensive Plan for Minnehaha County. Envision 2035 will be a guide for future development in the county based on the long-term goals and objectives of the community. The County Commission has appointed a task force with representatives from the business, agricultural, and residential communities. These members have accepted the responsibility of developing the new plan. The first meeting of the task force will be held on Thursday, January 19th, at 3:30 pm in the County Commission meeting room. This meeting is open to the public. Updates will be posted on the website at

<http://envision2035.minnehahacounty.org>.

For more information contact Ryan in the Planning Department.

*Looking Forward, Planning Ahead*