February 17, 2016

NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016 AT 3 PM

RE: BLUE EARTH COUNTY DITCH 86 INFORMATIONAL MEETING: INVENTORY RESULTS AND DRAFT MULTI-PURPOSE DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Dear Landowner,

Blue Earth County Drainage Authority was awarded a grant for four watersheds: CD5, CD86 CD56, and JD116 (with Martin County). This grant funds an inventory of the open ditch portion of the ditch system and identification of areas that are in need of repair.

The inventory of CD 86 is now complete and a draft Multi-Purpose Drainage Management (MDM) Plan is developed. This plan summarizes the inventory that was completed on CD 86 and indicates areas where sloughing, erosion, and other repairs are necessary. The plan also identifies areas where Multi-Purpose Drainage Best Management Practices (BMPs) can be incorporated to prevent erosion and improve water quality throughout the ditch watershed. Example BMPs may include cover crops, residue management, woodchip bioreactors, alternative tile intakes, wetland restorations, surge basins, saturated buffers, controlled drainage, water and sediment control basins, and rate control structures. The inventory and planning is funded by the grant.

An informational meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2nd from 3:00-5:00 for all landowners within the CD 86 watershed at Pioneer Bank in Mapleton (301 Main Street NE). The meeting will include a brief presentation from the Blue Earth County Drainage Authority, Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District, and ISG. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the findings of the inventory, review the draft MDM Plan, and to receive landowner input. This will be an opportunity to ask questions about the ditch system, project, and grant.

Several opportunities to incorporate BMPs are identified throughout the watershed to repair damages to the system, prevent soil erosion, and to improve water quality.

Your input will be helpful. Please contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

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