



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

U.S. GENERAL LAND OFFICE Duluth Land District

A Description of Its Ditch Notices

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

Agency:	United States. Duluth Land District (Minn.).
Series Title:	Ditch notices,
Dates:	1912-1921 (bulk 1912-1917).
Abstract:	Notices of public hearings on proposed drainage ditches, other watercourse improvements, and related roads and structures in north central Minnesota.
Quantity:	45 items in 2 oversize folders.
Location:	112.C.1.8 (do)

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

Minnesota state law provided for a process of petition to the county board or district court by persons or agencies desiring construction of a drainage ditch or related watercourse improvement; a public hearing on the petition; a survey of the proposed ditch or watercourse by a civil engineer; assessment of all lands benefited by it; a special meeting of the county board, open to all interested parties, to take action on the survey and assessment reports; and any subsequent rehearings, protests, or appeals. (See *General Statutes of Minnesota* 1913, chapter 44.) Federal law provided that all U.S. public lands in Minnesota that were covered by unpatented entries, and all unentered lands, were subject to the same apportionment of construction costs, and required that an assessment list, as well as a copy of all notices required by the state drainage laws, be delivered to the register and receiver of the U.S. land district that had jurisdiction (35 Stat 169: chapter 181).

This series comprises notices of the requisite meetings and hearings on ditch petitions, engineers' reports, ditch assessments, and acceptance of completed ditches, submitted to the Duluth Land Office in accordance with federal law. They were issued by the county auditors or the clerk of district court of the county in which the ditch was to be constructed; most are tearsheets from newspapers. Counties represented are primarily Aitkin, Itasca, and St. Louis, with a few from Cass, Hubbard, and Wadena. Most are stamped as having been received by the U.S. Land Office in Duluth.

The notices detail the route of the ditch and its branches, with reference to section lines and corners, watercourses, and other points; and name the affected landowners and other parties. Also included is a 1911 letter to the Duluth register and receiver from the General Land Office with reporting instructions, and several letters of transmittal (1912-1914) from the Duluth register to the GLO.

INDEX TERMS

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

Ditches--Minnesota--Arrowhead Region.
Ditches--Minnesota, Central.
Drainage--Minnesota--Arrowhead Region.
Drainage--Minnesota, Central.

Organizations:

United States. General Land Office.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

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Ditch notices. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.
See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

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