

Reassessment



Water Resource Districts occasionally reassess existing legal drain maintenance districts to ensure fair distribution of maintenance costs. Only after collecting exhaustive data and input through public hearings do WRDs finalize assessments for each drain or legal assessment project.

WHAT

A Water Resource District (WRD) may conduct a reassessment of existing project assessment districts to reevaluate and adjust annual maintenance levies. These annual levies are for regular maintenance to ensure continued function of the project, or to construct improvements necessary to keep a project up to modern design standards.

WHY

WRDs update assessed benefits to reflect current conditions and ensure fair cost sharing for project maintenance, with consideration to new properties and changes within the watershed. The board may only levy assessments at or below the limits defined in the ND Century Code.

HOW

WRD engineers use a detailed process for reassessments, using LiDAR data to outline drainage boundaries and patterns, aerial images for land use, USDA data for soil and productivity, and tax records for parcel details. They also consider factors like proximity to the drain, easements, and parcel valuations in accordance with North Dakota law.

PUBLIC HEARING

WRDs must host a public hearing during the reassessment process. During the in-person and streamed hearing, landowners can present comments, questions, and evidence about the reassessment process, methodology, and parcel benefits. In Cass County, notice must be published in The Forum and mailed to landowners with property in the district.

APPROVAL

After the public hearing, the WRD will review all feedback and evidence and, if necessary, adjust the proposed benefits for parcels before approving a final reassessment list for each drain or legal assessment project.