Minnesota Drainage Law
A Chronological Summary of Key Statute Titles, Numbers and Associated Headings
Al Kean, BWSR, 12-30-18

This chronological summary of Minnesota drainage law is based on key changes of applicable statute chapter numbers, titles, and headings within chapters since “An Act to Regulate and Encourage the Drainage of Lands” was passed by the 1st Legislature of the State of Minnesota in 1858. Sources for this summary include: Minnesota Statutes Archive and 2018 Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103E Drainage. Chapter 112 Watersheds, which later became Chapter 103D Watershed Districts, is referenced here, because watershed districts became eligible drainage authorities for Minnesota drainage law when the Minnesota Watershed Act was passed in 1955.

1858 – Public Statutes of the State of Minnesota, Chapter 128. Lands.
1891 – Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 40. Drainage and Drains, Title 1. Drainage of Wet or Overflowed Lands, Title 2. Ditches - Drains - Water-Courses.
1894 – Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 44. Drainage and Drains, Title 1. Drainage Districts, Title 2. County Drains, Title 3. Town Drains, Title 4. Opening Watercourses and Streams in Red River Valley for Drainage Purposes.
1905 – Revised Laws of Minnesota, Chapter 44. Drainage, County Ditches, Judicial Ditches, State Ditches.
1913 – Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 44. Drainage, State Drainage Commission, County Ditches, Town Ditches, Curative and Miscellaneous Provisions.
1941 – Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 106. Drainage Act, Chapter 107. Drainage; Liens, Bonds, and Refunding, Chapter 108. Drainage; County and Judicial, Chapter 109. Drainage; Town, Chapter 111. Drainage and Conservancy, Chapter 112. Drainage and Flood Control, Chapter 113. Drainage; Irrigation, Other Provisions.
1974 – Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 106. Drainage, Chapter 109. Town Ditches, Chapter 111. Conservancy, Chapter 112. Watersheds


