

(which depends on who is currently administering the system and the location of the system). Provides for the drainage authority in consultation with the county auditor, secretary of the watershed district, or court administrator to set a time and location for a hearing on the petition for transfer. Requires the auditor, secretary, or court administrator to give notice of the hearing by mail and publication. Requires the notice to describe the property owner's right to object under subdivision 5. Gives the drainage authority or district court where the petition is properly filed jurisdiction over the petition.

Subd. 5. Transfer hearing. Directs the drainage authority or court to determine if the petition is sufficient and hear all interested parties.

Provides that if a property owner appears and makes written objections to the transfer, the drainage authority or court must appoint a technical panel to examine the system, the property, and the proposed transfer, and report to the drainage authority or court. Provides for the hearing to be adjourned to a specified date pending the technical panel's investigation. Specifies who should be on the technical panel. Directs the technical panel to determine if the transfer would result in a taking. Provides compensation for nongovernment employees of the technical panel (per diem set by the drainage authority and expenses).

Directs the board of water and soil resources to provide assistance if asked.

Directs the drainage authority or court to authorize the transfer if it determines that the drainage system will be better managed by a water management authority.

Subd. 6. Costs related to transfer and transfer proceedings. Requires costs, including engineering and attorney's fees, to be paid by the transferee water management authority. Requires the drainage authority to reimburse the water management authority for the reasonable value of engineering work done if the transfer is not approved.

Subd. 7. Guarantee of outlet; no compromise of existing rights. Requires any transferred drainage system to have an outlet that is of at least equal hydraulic efficiency as before the transfer. States the transfer is not a compromise of any property right of an owner of property assessed for benefits of the transferred system. Prohibits the water management authority from compensating an owner assessed for benefits for the loss or impairment of any property right due to the transfer.

Subd. 8. Effect of transfer. Provides that once a drainage system is transferred to a water management authority under this section it is no longer subject to the chapter of law governing drainage. The drainage system would be managed according to the law governing the water management authority.

Provides that transfer does not reduce availability of exemptions for wetland replacement or exceptions to requirements for public waters work permits for activities in the transferred drainage system.

Subd. 9. Effect on other law. Provides that this section does not change or repeal any other law that transfers a drainage system under chapter 103E, 103D, or other law.