

DRAINAGE DISTRICT 143 LANDOWNER MEETING

4/24/2019 - Minutes

1. Open Meeting

Hardin County Drainage District Board of Trustee, Lance Granzow, opened the meeting. Also present was Trustee, Lance Granzow; Landowners Taylor Roll, Jacob Handsaker, Kris Bell, Paul Handsaker, Phyllis Drake, Jim and Helen Granzow, Doris Eike, Bryan Drake, Calvin Hyland, Carole Topp, Kathy Houck, Curt Groen, Kim and Hope Boddard; Lee Gallentine and Zeb Stanbrough with Clapsaddle-Garber Associates; Drainage Clerks Becca Junker and Tine Schlemme.

2. Approve Agenda

Hoffman moved, Granzow seconded to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. Explanation Of Project

Gallentine explained at the hearing for the upper end of the main tile that was back in 2017 it was requested that instead of just worrying about trees in the golf course, the entire route to the main tile be looked at for possible trees causing root issues. CGA went out and took an inventory of all the trees within 50 feet of the main tile. Referring to the Investigation Summary, Gallentine explained the trees that were a main concern due to species were highlighted. Gallentine then directed the meeting back to the Trustee's to talk about the Landowner Meeting that took place in Radcliffe that he was not in attendance of.

Granzow explained that at the Radcliffe meeting the idea was to break up the project into different targeted sections so that it did not exceed the \$50,000 threshold. Following the Radcliffe meeting, it was brought to the Trustee's attention that the Code of Iowa specifically states that separating any project to keep under the \$50,000 threshold cannot be done. The Trustee's then decided to hold another landowners meeting to decide what the next step in clearing the tile would be.

4. Comments/Discussion

Hoffman explained that his duty as a drainage district trustee is to make sure the facility is flowing water. He expressed that he does not want to stand in front of the landowners and say they have to do one thing or another, but it is his duty to in fact do something so that the facility is flowing water properly. He addressed the written and verbal responses that were received by the landowners who could not make the meeting. There were more responses of no than there were of yes to move forward. He said that his initial opinion is to go with the voice of no but there has to be an understanding by not doing anything, if things get bad and there become damages, the Trustees will have to take action right away.

Granzow then explained that there are tree roots in the tile, they can be left or they can be taken out. There are trees growing, they can be left or they can be cut down. He does not want to demolish the town, but it is his feeling the trees need to come out. If that means ordering an easement then they need to order one. The Trustees need to protect the facilities. The tree roots are going to keep growing and keep blocking the infrastructure and could cause more damage resulting in tearing up the entire tile versus jet cleaning now.

The Trustees then opened the floor for discussion.

Landowners brought up cutting problematic trees down and then jet cleaning the tile. While discussing this option, Gallentine informed the landowners that jetting the tile is an option but depending what kind of jet is used, it could possibly damage the tile. There would also have to be an access point every 500-1000 feet which adds to costs. If the tile is damaged during the jetting process then there will be added costs for replacing the tile completely.

There was discussion on how much of the tile has roots blocking the flow of water. After reviewing the footage that was taken, Schlemme came up with an estimated 1000 feet of blocked tile. Roll then added that 1/3 of it has roots in the tile. It was discussed that if trees were cut, it was still very important to do something with the roots that are already in the tile.

Lining the tile through the urban area was discussed. Once the tile was lined, there would be no need to do anything with the trees because the lining would block the roots from causing problems in the tile. Granzow then stated that they are saving the trees in the district at the expense of the people who do not want the trees. The larger expense of this project is falling on the farm ground rather than the people in town. It was brought up classifying on assessed value rather than drainage benefit and it was discussed that there would have to be a petition and a possible election that majority of the landowners agree on. Schlemme informed the landowners that if this was something they wanted to do, it would be important to get legal advice.

It was then brought up by a landowner that if CGA is going to be making a report, he would like them to also look into how much it would cost to install a new tile to the side of Ionia Street. He wanted to compare the price of lining the tile to the price of installing new tile that is not under the roadway as repairing tile under the roadway is expensive.

5. Possible Action

Hoffman moved, Granzow seconded to instruct CGA to prepare a report and plans for a few different options.

- 1) CGA is to prepare a report and costs to partially and fully line the facility.
- 2) CGA is to prepare a report and costs to cut trees and clean the tile.
- 3) CGA is to prepare a report and costs to install a new tile to the side of Ionia.
- 4) CGA is to determine the current easement.

Hoffman informed the landowners that once CGA has completed the reports, another landowners meeting will be scheduled to go over the results. He also thought it would be beneficial for there to be a vendor who supplies the slip lining present to discuss and explain their products and educate both the landowners and Trustees.

6. Other Business

Hoffman thanked everyone who was present for partaking in quality, constructive dialogue.

7. Adjourn Meeting

Hoffman moved, Granzow seconded to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion Carried.