

**DRAINAGE DISTRICT 34  
LANDOWNERS MEETING  
FEBRUARY 12, 2020 10:00 AM**

2/12/2020 - Minutes

1. Open Meeting

Hardin County Drainage District Chairperson, Lance Granzow opened the meeting. Also present were Trustee BJ Hoffman; Trustee Renee McClellan; Lee Gallentine of Clapsaddle-Garber Associates; Landowner Brent Friest; Landowner Calvin Hyland; Landowner Robert Lee; and Drainage Clerk, Denise Smith.

2. Approve Agenda

Motion by Hoffman to approve the agenda. Second by McClellan. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. Introductions/Attendance

Introductions were made and attendance verified.

4. Explanation Of Repair Summary

Gallentine stated that the issues in DD 34 have been ongoing with wide butt joints on existing concrete main tile. This supplemental tile was installed in 2001. The original main tile and supplemental main tile was pulled out for a distance of 1,000', since then there have been reports of sinkholes and blowouts to the north. Brent Friest stated those sinkholes have been recurring and you just get used to working around them. Gallentine noted two of these repairs were on the concrete supplemental tiles, the 36" and 24" pipe, one repair was on the original clay tile, but most of the repairs have been on the supplemental tile. It was discussed in previous meetings, that the Trustees would like landowner input as to whether the landowners would like to continue with repairs on an as needed basis or address a larger scale project.

5. Comments/Discussion

Robert Lee asked how many holes were fixed in the last repair. Gallentine stated repairs were done in three locations this last time, and they have been repaired. There have been no new reports of additional issues. Gallentine stated they have addressed wide joints with tile fabric over the joints, covered with wire mesh and concrete collared over the joint. Gallentine noted that where the supplemental tile had been laid in a curve, the original install made the curves too sharply with the butt joint pipe, which resulted in wide joints or gaps. Robert Lee stated that he looked over the install of the supplemental tile when it was laid, and said a terrible job was done. Gallentine stated it was Schaney Construction out of Graettinger, IA that did the installation. He noted that they did put fabric over the joints, but the fabric was too narrow and was sucked down into the joints. Robert Lee stated there should have been better oversight at the time.

Gallentine discussed that like most projects, there was a bid letting, an apparent low bidder gets the bid, there should be someone out in the field watching it, work gets completed, there is a completion hearing held and if there are issues they can be brought forward, the process hasn't changed, however the Trustees have CGA on-site the majority of the time on repairs and new projects now. Hoffman stated that this was to ensure quality of both product and workmanship. There was a project this last year, in which a large amount of pipe was rejected due to quality issues thanks to on-site oversight. The construction observer helps provide oversight on quality of product, workmanship and helps update the records by shooting GPS points to make sure there is a more accurate record of what is going in and where it is located. Gallentine stated that they no longer allow butt joint concrete pipe installations, everything now is bell and spigot, not that it is foolproof but it would have solved all these problems. Hoffman appreciates the question of why the construction observer is valuable because over the last few projects, the construction observer makes notes as to when the contractor goes off-site, even when he himself goes to lunch, the observer notes when they are waiting for product delivery, the construction observer's details helps ensure the checks and balances of the system work. Gallentine noted that if this project followed the typical timeline used back in the day, the observer probably just stopped in once a day, CGA is there on site all day now.

Granzow states we often put televising requirements in bids as an option, for after construction completion so they are aware of any issues and those issues can be addressed by the contractor before the warranty expires. Hoffman stated there are some districts that will designate a landowner to observe construction rather than utilizing CGA, and have that landowner do an observation every 6 months to report back any issues before the warranty expires. Hoffman noted that some districts have landowners that are very involved and other districts do not, they may have landowners that live out of state, and ask to have CGA inspect 6 months before a warranty expires. Gallentine stated that CGA has even used mandrel testing to make sure plastic tile has not deformed.

Calvin Hyland asked who had done repairs on the blowouts. Gallentine stated that most repairs have gone to the lottery system, and are charged hourly for repairs, Handsaker of Hands On Excavating did this repair. Hoffman noted that even on lottery jobs for tile repair or tree removal, there is still a construction observer on site, making sure the work is being done correctly. In tree removal, you may wonder why an observer is needed, Hoffman read in observation notes, that the construction observer noted the contractor was treating the stumps after trees were cut, and although that step would be easy to skip over, this is just another check and balance to ensure work is done properly. The cost for the construction observer is smaller upfront, than the cost of additional repairs on the back end. Robert Lee asked if the construction observer was on site for this repair. Gallentine stated, yes they were, and that all of the photos and GPS points in the repair summary come from CGA's observer.

Robert Lee asks if they put cement in on top of the repairs. Gallentine stated they cemented just at the joints, and if they joined a new plastic pipe to an old cement pipe. The contractor installed the fabric over the joints, then the wire mesh and cemented over the joints so the two pipes don't start shifting. Robert Lee asked about how the elbows were connected. Gallentine stated they concreted all the wide joints.

Granzow asked if there were any other issues the landowners would like addressed on this project. Friest stated he thought they had addressed everything that needed fixed, and that had they been addressed 10 years ago we would have been money ahead. Robert Lee stated they should just keep fixing problems as they arise, and stated that he had spoken to other landowners who could not attend today and they said fix as needed, landowner Hyland agreed. Hyland asked if the only other option was to dig up the remaining tile and replace it. Gallentine stated the existing tile could be all dug up and have the concrete collars added, or a large plastic sleeve could be added to the top of the pipe, but it would still require exposing the whole length of the tile line. Friest stated we had addressed most of the curves now and predominant issues that have cropped up, so we should be good now. It was discussed that some of the original concrete tile may have been damaged when the pipes were rolled off the truck.

It was discussed that Indian Creek was 2-1/2 miles north of the highway back in 1892, and it may have been filled in when the tile was installed, the predominant thinking at that time, was the creek could be filled in, it will still drain and the farmer could farm all that land. Hyland asked if there was a map available from the 1892 era. Smith will check the files and see if one exists and make a copy available to Calvin Hyland.

6. Possible Action

It was agreed by all that any new issues or repairs would be addressed on an as needed basis, as they arise.

7. Other Business

Granzow motioned to adjourn. Second by Hoffman. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. Adjourn Meeting