

REGULAR DRAINAGE MEETING
Wednesday, April 1, 2020 9:30 AM
Large Conference Room
This meeting was held electronically due to Covid-19 concerns.

4/1/2020 - Minutes

1. Open Meeting

Hardin County Drainage District Chairperson Lance Granzow opened the meeting. Also present were Trustee BJ Hoffman; Trustee Renee McClellan; Jessica Sheridan, Environmental Health; Angela De La Riva, Economic Development; Lee Gallentine of Clapsaddle-Garber Associates; and Denise Smith, Drainage Clerk.

Motion by McClellan to recess and go to DD 56 Public Hearing, with Regular Drainage Meeting to follow the Hearing. All ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Hoffman to reconvene Regular Drainage Meeting. Second by McClellan. All ayes. Motion carried.

2. Approve Agenda

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

3. DD 9 - Consider Bids With Possible Action On Bids

DD 9 - Bids received at the March 25, 2020 DD 9 Bid Letting for the Upper Main Tile Diversion project were considered. Gallentine stated the bid tab gives us some options, the base bid is for polypropylene (plastic) tile, if you go with the base bid, the low bidder would be Farm Tile Pro, \$117,010. If you go to the alternate bid which is concrete pipe, the low bidder would be Gehrke, Inc, at \$122,180. If we look at the add alternates, those would mainly apply if we went with plastic pipe, like mandrel testing, televising of the tile, trench compaction, access points, etc. Gallentine stated there is not much difference between concrete and plastic here, only about \$5,000. Engineer's estimate is \$140,000.

Hoffman asked what is the lifespan of polypropylene compared to RCP (reinforced concrete pipe). Gallentine stated polypropylene hasn't been out long enough to tell what it's lifespan is, supposedly it is inert, and should last forever, they should have comparable lifespan, the RCP installation is a little bit more bulletproof and is a bit more forgiving if the contractor is off on their methods.

Hoffman stated he is leaning towards Gehrke's bid with the reinforced concrete pipe. Granzow asked who is the plastic company. Gallentine stated we specified to use Prinsco, he had heard from a few contractors that ABS was still quoting the project even though they were not an eligible supplier, he told contractors if they use ABS products there was a discussion that need to be had, as they were not the specified supplier. Gallentine stated ABS left us with issues on a past project with contractor DeSchamp. McClellan asked which contractor selected ABS as the supplier. Gallentine stated he did not remember which one but had made it clear ABS was not an eligible supplier, and should not be quoted.

Granzow stated from his standpoint, looking at concrete for the dollar amount difference, you could have \$5,000 worth of add ons just trying to put plastic in. Hoffman asked about the bid qualification statement on file from Farm Tile Pros, we should not have any problems getting that from Gehrke. Gallentine stated that should not be a problem at all, our process if whoever is the low bidder, we just ask for that from them as we did not know how it would shake out, in this case it was Farm Tile Pro. Granzow and Hoffman agreed we have used Farm Tile Pro in the past with good results, Granzow stated he is more comfortable with concrete in this case. Gallentine stated Farm Tile Pro did not submit a bid for concrete and so they cut themselves out of that option.

Motion by Hoffman to approve Gehrke, Inc.'s bid for reinforced concrete pipe on the DD 9 Alternate Bid in the amount of \$122,180. Second by McClellan. All ayes. Motion carried.

Hoffman stated he believes this will be a really good product that will stand the test of time and he likes that we can do business with a local contractor, that is not his only consideration, but he wanted to acknowledge that. Granzow stated that although he like the local contractor option, he believes as much trouble as we have had with plastic tile, for no more money difference than it is, he is so much more comfortable with concrete. If it were a large price difference, Granzow would consider the plastic, as we are so close, he feels concrete is the way to go. Hoffman and McClellan concurred.

Gallentine stated if we add any of the alternates like mandrel testing or televising, then plastic isn't cheaper anymore. Granzow stated for all the reasons, concrete is the best choice. Gallentine will get contracts drafted up and sent out to Gehrke Inc..

4. DD 25 - WO 01- Discuss W Possible Action - Contractor Update

DD 25 - WO 1 Gallentine provided an update on WO 1, this is the district where we went out and found out there is a shallower private tile and a deeper district tile, and we planned a combined crossing to take the flow from both of those tiles. Gallentine stated the District tile east of the tracks, we had planned on televising that to find the issues, as every time we have been in that tile it is full of mud and water. McDowell's went out and found the tile up to south fenceline, Gallentine referenced the map, and said the tile was still full of water. We proceeded to locate down towards the main tile, and discovered in the 1974 project they put in a tile to replace Lateral 3. What happened in 1974, was they connected to the downstream end of the main, which is fine, but on the upstream end, instead of finding the district tile, they didn't realize there were two tile there, and they connected to the shallower private tile.

Gallentine went on that the original lateral 3 is inside the railroad ROW, and is plugged with tree roots and has been since 1974, and then the upstream line has no way to discharge as it is plugged for that distance. Essentially what we will have to do is install a new outlet, and offset it so it is out in the field, and not in the RR ROW. In 1974 they didn't know there were two tile there and they dug down until they found one, and that is the one they hooked up, unfortunately it was not the right tile. Gallentine stated this would be an additional 1,300' of tile, the current contract price is \$38/ft, so that will add roughly \$50,000 to the project. McClellan stated it does not look like we have much of a choice. Gallentine stated we do not have much choice if we want the deeper District tile to function, it was a mistake in 1974. Granzow asked if we can connect onto the yellow line shown on the map, and it would have to have the right grade somewhere in it's length. Gallentine stated, it could be connected onto but somewhere but you will be close to the main, but at what point do you just go to the main, if we are within 200' of the main tile, why not just run to the main. Gallentine is using 200' as an example, he is unsure at what point we could connect into the main.

Granzow said we could knock \$50,000 down to \$25,000 just by cutting the distance in half, it may be worth investigating. McClellan asked what the size was on those tiles, Gallentine stated both tiles are 12", and we would be tying two 12" tiles together until it gets to the main. Granzow asked if the yellow tile on the map is working, Gallentine stated yes, the yellow line on the map is the shallower tile, and it is flowing. Granzow stated he was unsure how much money the landowner's were willing to spend, but he knows they were willing to upsize the crossing for the benefit of everyone. Granzow stated that would be an improvement if we put a new tile in as we are now running two tiles. Gallentine stated overall you wouldn't have any more tile out there than before 1974, because there has always been a private tile and a district tile, the difference would be is the district has paid to put in the 1974 line and they would be paying for this new line now, and utilize them both.

Granzow states we should try to find that yellow line on the map, to see if we have to run the full line or can we connect into it versus running a complete line, so if it were only 600' to connect to the yellow line we could be at a savings. Gallentine stated that would be correct, but noted we would be taking two 12" lines and putting the flow into one 12" line. Granzow stated we could give them what they had again for \$50,000, that is a lot of drainage. Granzow is still concerned about the trees in the ROW getting into the tile. Gallentine stated the trees are really a concern where the orange line on the map gets into the RR ROW. Granzow asked if we have reclassified this. Gallentine stated we have not reclassified this as the entire

district is paying for this, not just Lateral 3. McClellan asked what kind of tile is in there now. Gallentine stated the orange line on the map is butt joint concrete, and the blue line on the map is the original clay tile. McClellan asked, as we get closer to the tracks and trees, is that something we can change the tile to something more resistant to tree roots. Gallentine stated right now this project is in concrete pipe, we can switch to gasketed concrete, but tree roots will still go through concrete.

McClellan stated no matter what we do, we will be close to the trees, Gallentine stated we could parallel the orange line, so one is not weaving in and out from the other and hook up farther to the east. Granzow stated the red line will eventually not be connected underneath the tracks, it would be connected to the light blue line. Gallentine stated when we put the joint crossing in, all the water dumps into the lower tile, and goes through the larger crossing, the only way the upper tile functions is when the lower tile is surcharged enough. McClellan asked can we connect farther north, can we move the whole thing away from the track, instead of connecting right there by the tracks. Gallentine stated it would add at least 200', or an additional \$8,000. It was discussed that this may be a better option as it would keep away from the tree roots along the tracks. Gallentine stated that currently the yellow line is only about 5' away from the RR ROW. McClellan stated you would still need RR permission to work on it there, how far out do we need to be to not require RR permission to work on our tile, we should go out that far. Gallentine stated as long as you are out of their ROW you don't need RR permission, it is just really hard to work on tile with a backhoe only 5' from their ROW.

Gallentine stated they may not be happy about the costs, but hopefully the landowners can get better drainage than they have had since 1974. Granzow asked if we need to hold a public hearing on this cost, Gallentine stated it is part of an existing project for which we have already held a Public Hearing for, Smith asked if this would be a change order. Gallentine stated this would be a change order, Gallentine stated right now in the contract we have 1,000' ft of pipe to replace the light blue line east of the railroad tracks as our assumption has always been full of water, if we can get it to drain out we may not need that 1,000' ft of pipe, that would be a cost savings towards the project, we won't know that until we get the light blue line outleted.

Granzow stated he would like to call the landowners in to discuss this option, to explain to them the changes in this and why we are presenting this option. Discussion was had about possibly taking action in a zoom meeting, as we have delayed actions in some recent hearings and meetings. Granzow pointed out that this is a project we are currently in the midst of. Hoffman stated calling in the landowners would be a good idea, and explain our findings. Smith stated if she got postcards out right away, we could add this to the top of the April 15, 20 agenda for landowner feedback. Gallentine stated contractor McDowell is currently working on other private spring tiling and had plans to be in the area in May, so this would give us time to meet with landowners.

Smith will send postcards out asking landowners to call in for a meeting on April 15th, via zoom. Gallentine will provide Smith a synopsis of the change and a map with the proposed new line to be added to the District Project Page for DD 25.

Motion by McClellan to direct Smith to send postcards to DD 25 landowners and invite them to attend the meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 9:30 AM. Second by Hoffman. All ayes. Motion carried.

5. DD 14 WO 290 - Discuss W Possible Action

DD 14 WO 290 - Landowner Dave Sweeney reported 2 blowouts in the ROW, one is 4' in diameter and 4' deep, with broken VCP tile in the bottom, south of their lane is an additional 3' blowout with broken VCP tile in the bottom. Sweeney emailed to update Smith that he found an additional blowout 75' south of the two already reported. Sweeney also submitted photos for the Trustees to review.

Motion by Hoffman to instruct CGA to investigate and report their findings back to the Drainage Board. Second by McClellan. All ayes. Motion carried.

6. DD 34 - WO 289 Discuss W Possible Action

DD 34- WO 289 - Corey Hake reports plugged tile intake in ditch, ponding in the field on the north side of the road, water is moving across his field. It is located on 300th St, about a 1/2 mile east of Zublin Ave. It is DD 34 and the area looks like it is right on DD 34 tile. Granzow suggested sending Secondary Roads out to investigate, Hoffman said this will save some expense if it is our tile.

Motion by Hoffman instructing Engineer Roll to send someone out to investigate, and report back to the Drainage Board and /or repair the issue. Second by McClellan. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. DD Big 4 - WO 2020-5 - Discuss W Possible Action - Midland Power Drainage Utility Permit Application

DD Big 4 - WO 2020-5 - Midland Power Coop submitted a Drainage Utility Permit Application for an overhead line rebuild of 4 miles in Alden Twp, in Sections 04, 05, 06, and 08. Smith referenced the application and stated Midland will cross over District tile in two points of the rebuild. Gallentine stated Midland has been one of the few utilities that contact us and are easy to work with.

Motion by McClellan to approve the Midland Power Coop Drainage Utility Permit #2020-5. Second by Hoffman. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. Other Business

DD 143 project was discussed. Granzow stated he had received some phone calls after the hearing, and we had sent Taylor Roll and Calvin Hiland out to look at it last week. Taylor replied to Granzow, since the Trustees duty is still to fix the drainage tiles or system, then it is in everybody's interest, especially the city, to repair what we have instead of creating additional infrastructure. Granzow stated Roll really conveyed, why go the expense of connecting to another district or adding additional infrastructure, we should just fix what we have. Granzow stated he spoke with Hiland, who was concerned about the cost of a possible pumping station needed for rerouting the tile around town, and felt we should not spend the additional money, just make the needed repairs. Granzow's feelings are that if we were to route the district tile around the town, the City of Radcliffe would become a lateral, meaning when they do have to fix it, all the costs would be on the city parcels, where as right now, it should make sense to have all the landowners are paying for it as well. Granzow stated he would like to have a conversation with the City of Radcliffe, is do they have an ordinance that trees should be cut out of their right of way, as we have no easement, and should we ask them to have an ordinance to cut these trees out and perhaps co-share the costs, or they can do it all on their own. If anything, cutting the trees out of the right of way may lengthen the amount of time we have to improve the drainage that we already have, maybe it would be improved by just cutting the trees. Granzow stated he felt that is a conversation we should have with the city of Radcliffe.

Gallentine stated the Trustees do have right of way, and it is the same as the City's. Granzow stated if we have right of way, we can still take the trees out at District expense, but still thinks the City should be responsible for some of these trees. Gallentine stated the option that is still out there, was Handsaker's idea of creating this bypass on the south side of Hwy 175. Granzow stated what he got from Roll, was to just fix what we already have, and Hiland's opinion was the same. It wouldn't be beneficial to the town, the District, and would double the bill for the Golf Course, Granzow stated he still feels the best option is to sleeve the full length of the tile, and get rid of trees in the ROW, and encourage people to take some down outside of the right of way. Granzow stated if we start with the bare minimum of taking the trees, and if the City would co-share that cost, that would be a great move. McClellan stated that may not take care of the drainage problem, Granzow stated the roots should start shrinking if we kill the trees, as it has water flow, and if we bypass anything they will still have trouble with flooding on the west side of town.

Gallentine stated the only upside to the District by putting in the bypass, is you can make the town a separate district then turn it over to the City of Radcliffe. Granzow stated that would be expensive for both the town and farmers as well. Gallentine agreed, and just wanted to make them aware of the option. Granzow does not think it is a feasible option for anyone in that area, as it would impact the town heavily, instead of \$500 assessment town parcels may face a \$50,000 assessment. Gallentine stated as a town there may be CDBG funding options available to the town that the District would not qualify for. Hoffman stated they could apply for a CDBG block grant, but a drainage district can't. Granzow stated he felt it would still be a drainage district, albeit controlled by the City, it still goes through farm ground to outlet.

Gallentine stated maybe that is a conversation to have with the City. Hoffman thinks that is a good option, that may take some of the fear out of it. Granzow stated, we are still charging the landowners to re-route, the City as a landowner would have to pay for that re-route also, which is twice the cost of a liner at minimum. McClellan asked if the costs for a re-route could exceed a million dollars. Granzow stated it is possible and that is if we re-route it just to the other side of the Golf Course, that is not even taking it all the way to the creek. Granzow thinks these are all good options, if we were recreating the district, I would look at not going through town, but we are already there. Gallentine stated at the time the district was put in it made sense.

McClellan stated she leaned towards fixing it with a liner for now, and leave any larger repairs or changes for later, in the hopes that Radcliffe would grow as a bedroom community for Ames, and hope that their valuation would grow before making larger changes, she felt now is not the right time for a re-route as the majority of people are not on board for a project of this size at this time. Hoffman stated he felt there is a push to go to a private Trustee District as well. McClellan stated we may make the decision to do the repairs, and then they may take over the District and kill the project, which would make a City against framer issue. Hoffman would hate to drive that wedge. Granzow stated if he had to make a decision today, it would be to cut out the trees, tordon them and see if that improves drainage flow, that would be his lightest recommendation. Granzow stated it could be lined a couple of years down the road if drainage does not improve after removing the trees. Granzow stated if we introduce new options, we would have to hold another hearing, however we should meet with the City of Radcliffe and see if they will help us with the tree situation and would like an opinion from attorney Mike Richards on who is the authority that pays for the street crossings on this project.

The options presented for repair were discussed, the tile cleaning and tree removal estimate was written to include an estimated right of way of 100', not the 66' right of way later determined, so that cost may be less as fewer trees would be removed at a 66" ROW. Partial tile lining did not seem to be a popular choice at the hearing, and the tile cleaning presented concerns of destroying the existing tile if the cleaning method was used on old clay tile. There was the same concern for tile lining as it would require cleaning before being lined, and there were a lot of utilities on that side of the road. Gallentine stated Chuck Raska, from the City of Radcliffe, had concerns about this as well, and noted all utilities would need to be located. Granzow stated he is not for the offset tile lining as it the same money as a full tile lining, why mess with it as it would not include hooking up half of the private tiles too it, and you have all the existing utility infrastructure to deal with. Granzow stated the partial tile lining is a band aid on an aging system. Granzow would like it to be added to the agenda next week to discuss the options presented by Handsaker at the hearing.

Gallentine stated that on drainage projects contractor Seward has been doing that are tree removal only, CGA has not been on-site the entire time the contractor is out there, to conserve budget. Gallentine asked if the Trustees wanted CGA on-site the whole time Seward is removing beaver dams or would the Trustees prefer just before and after photos of the site. Granzow stated that Seward could provide before and after pictures to CGA, Gallentine agreed that this is a good option. Gallentine stated the only they would not be able provide documentation on hours, but had no reasons to doubt the contractors report. Granzow asked if we are making an exception for one person in the lottery system. Gallentine stated at the moment Seward is the only contractor that has been working on work orders in the lottery, Granzow stated we do not need to document he was there, if Seward or any other contractor, reports work done, and we can document that the work is complete, and the reported hours look accurate, it probably is accurate. Gallentine stated he does not think it is a great use of CGA's time or District funds to have CGA watch a contractor pull a beaver dam, the Trustees agreed.

Hoffman stated he had an update from contractor Paul Williams, Williams stated he should have his new camera system in four to five weeks. It was agreed that it was good to have Williams available again for televising work.

9. Adjourn Meeting

Motion by McClellan to adjourn. Second by Hoffman. All ayes. Motion carried.