

REGULAR DRAINAGE MEETING

Monday, June 22, 2020 10:30 AM

This meeting was held electronically due to Covid-19 concerns.

6/22/2020 - Minutes

1. Open Meeting

This was a joint meeting with both the Hardin County and Franklin County Drainage Boards for Joint Drainage District H-F 2 regarding Hardin County Work Order 286. Franklin County Drainage Chairperson Corey Eberling opened the meeting. Also present were Franklin County Trustee Mike Nolte; Franklin County Trustee Gary McVicker; Franklin County Drainage Clerk Colette Bruns; Hardin County Drainage Chairperson Lance Granzow; Hardin County Trustee BJ Hoffman; Hardin County Trustee Renee McClellan; Lee Gallentine of Clapsaddle-Garber Associates; and Denise Smith, Hardin County Drainage Clerk.

2. Approve Agenda

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

3. DD H-F 2 WO 286 - Discuss W Possible Action - Request For Tile Upsize

Eberling stated that we had received a request for a drainage work order from Landon Aldinger (Hardin County work order 286), Eberling asked Gallentine to review CGA's findings. Gallentine stated that Aldinger is new to the district and has only farmed this ground for a couple seasons, Aldinger reports some wet spots that the previous tenant stated shouldn't be there, this is on the Hardin County side of the district east of Co Hwy C73, Aldinger contacted McDowell's and got the contractor out there, CGA had previously looked at it and stated we need to locate the tile and see if it is where the wet spots are reported, make sure district tile is in the vicinity, there were not any intakes on either side of the blacktop. Gallentine stated CGA also found some tile shards in the field that they thought may have been from a collapse. Gallentine stated we dug at the highway, and the flow at the highway is the same as the flow at the outlet so there is not a restriction between the highway and the outlet, and we also dug where we found the tile shards, there is not district tile there, it is just a depression with some tile shards spread around there. Gallentine stated at this point, CGA informed Aldinger that it just may be undersized compared to what we would drain today for modern ag. Gallentine stated CGA informed Aldinger of this, at which time Aldinger stated he would like an increase in tile size, and Aldinger contacted Bruns, Franklin Co. Drainage Clerk, and stated he would like to make this tile bigger. Gallentine stated at this time we would have to have a meeting as Aldinger is not a landowner within the district, he is a tenant, and this would mean an improvement, which could be done, but is not a subject to take lightly, so we ended up with this joint meeting to discuss this.

Nolte asked if there was any idea what an improvement would cost. Gallentine stated he has not looked into the cost of an improvement yet but it would likely be over \$50,000 and would require an engineer's report and a hearing. Eberling asked if the landowner has been involved yet or if it is just the tenant. Gallentine stated he was unsure if Bruns had spoken with the landowner yet, Gallentine has only spoken with the tenant, Aldinger. Bruns stated she has only spoken with Aldinger as well. Gallentine stated the landowner is Arlene Hamilton. Eberling stated in most cases for us the request for improvement must come from a landowner not a tenant unless the tenant has something in writing from the landowner to make those decision, so that is where we would have to start first as the landowner would responsible for the costs of an improvement. Eberling stated we have run into problems with landowners later on if we let tenants make these kind of requests, Nolte stated that is where we have NRCS step in with wetland determinations that may be unknown to the tenant. Eberling noted wetland determinations would have to be made before we can make any improvements.

Granzow stated he agreed with Nolte, it is one thing for a tenant to turn in a repair, but when we look at starting any major construction, the landowners are involved in offering consent, not the tenants. Eberling stated we can not proceed unless we get the landowner involved. Gallentine stated you could self initiate an improvement without getting the landowner involved but Gallentine would not recommend it. Gallentine

stated before moving forward and spending any money on this, he recommends getting a landowner involved in the request for an improvement. Granzow stated a letter back to Aldinger, stating that would need a landowners request not a tenant's request to move forward would be appropriate. Eberling stated probably requests from more than one landowner would be good also. Granzow concurred, he would rather have more than one landowner request, and at least then we would have record of a landowner initiating the request, if the water is flowing we are doing our jobs. Gallentine stated it is flowing it just does not go down enough not to drown out the crop with the heavy rains we have been having. Nolte stated there are districts all over that would love to have that, but we can't legally move forward without a landowner request. Nolte asked if district tile went under the blacktop of Co Hwy C33, to drain up into the property to the north. Gallentine stated it does go under the road to the north, with the majority of the district being in Franklin County, the outlet just happens to be Hardin.

Gallentine stated he was unsure how many landowners are in the whole district, it looks to have about 1,900 acres according to the original map. Eberling stated for an improvement that may be really expensive per acre. Gallentine stated it may be, the piece that Aldinger has is only a mile from the outlet, it depends on how far up the tile you would improve it. Eberling stated if we do an improvement it will affect everyone in the district. Gallentine stated that was correct, as the whole district would pay for it and it could affect their jurisdictional wetlands. Eberling stated we do not have the proper request so no action needs to be taken yet.

Granzow motioned to notify Aldinger that without the proper request from a landowner, no action can be taken. Second by Eberling. All ayes. Motion carried. Eberling stated the Franklin County Drainage Clerk Bruns will send Aldinger a letter explaining this.

4. Other Business

5. Adjourn Meeting

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