

DD 120 LANDOWNERS MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 24, 2020 11:00 AM

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

6/24/2020 - Minutes

1. Open Meeting

Hardin County Drainage Chairperson Lance Granzow opened the meeting. Also present were Trustee BJ Hoffman; Trustee Renee McClellan; Landowners Kent Picht, Jordan Picht, Kevin Vierkandt; Lee Gallentine of Clapsaddle-Garber Associates; Michael Pearce, Network Specialist and Denise Smith, Drainage Clerk.

2. Approve Agenda

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

3. DD 120 - Discuss W Possible Action - Surcharged Intake Discharge

The issue of the private tile intake being surcharged during heavy rains and discharging onto neighboring property creating ponding issues was discussed. Gallentine stated in what he understands is Picht did private tiling and installed an intake, which he has the right to do, and as Kevin Vierkandt reported in last week's meeting, when we have heavy rains, water comes out of the intake, and follows the slope of the ground and ends up in Vierkandt's ground. Picht agreed that is what happens, Kent Picht stated his 150 acres above Vierkandt flows into that area and Picht has a pond there every year, in speaking with the contractor the contractor stated an intake could be installed that would take care of that. Picht stated he put the intake in the fenceline so he did not have to farm around them, and would gladly move it back to the middle of the pond, but the fenceline is part of that ponding area. Gallentine asked if the pond in Vierkandt's ground was big enough that it goes up into Picht's ground as well. Picht stated we both share the same pond, and Vierkandt's is a little bit higher, when Picht's ponds up a little bit, it is so high it goes into Vierkandt's place because there is a huge amount of surface water that goes in there. Picht stated if he took the intake out now, the tile would probably blow out because the tile is only 2' to 2-1/2' deep, it is a 7" tile in Picht's field, and when it goes into Vierkandt's field it goes into a 10" tile. Picht stated he had a map when the intake was installed and thought the 7" tile going into a 10" tile should handle that flow ok, either it may not be a 10" in Vierkandt's field or Picht has so much pressure coming down that it discharges out the intake.

Granzow stated that last week Vierkandt expressed we may need to increase the district tile size. Gallentine did calculations using the original design, and using the original design, the coefficient in that district varies from .23" per day to .03" per day, so the system is woefully undersized compared to what would be installed now. Granzow stated since Vierkandt is tenant on Jeff Hansen's land, the request for an improvement would have to come from a landowner. McClellan asked if a backflow preventer would be applicable in this case. Gallentine stated a backflow preventer has to have a certain amount of pressure to open it for the one way flow, so you would have to have some pressure to open it but the issue is if you have too much pressure in that system you will have blowouts. Gallentine stated Vierkandt acknowledged that but Vierkandt stated that is a sign we need a bigger tile. Gallentine stated if we put all that water through the tile, some of it goes by surface and leaves the district, it is still a coefficient of only 1/4" to .03" which is pretty slow. Picht stated he has two intakes west of his places in the ditch of HWY 57 that still has water coming out of them and creating ponds, and has two intakes east of his house, that are still discharging after several days of no rain, and is still receiving water from an intake blowing out on his neighbors, creating another pond for him. Picht has learned to live with it, if he takes an intake out, water seeps up out of the ground, if we put the intake in, at least it does drain and the ponds go out quicker, he does not like the ponding or the intakes, but if he does not put an intake in the ponds will sit there longer, there is no good solution other than huge drainage mains everywhere. Gallentine stated sometime they will put an intake in and shoot it off to the side of the main before coming up and that helps somewhat rather than being right up on top of the main but it will still discharge sometimes.

Gallentine stated if you do an upsized project, unless it is an open ditch, you will probably get 1/2" per day

max of coefficient, and with the heavy rains we have been having if you get 2" of rain, it will take 4 days to drain out. Vierkandt was called into the meeting and the original design coefficients were reviewed. Granzow stated if you would like to request an improvement or an upsize in tile, the request needs to come from a landowner. Vierkandt stated it definitely needs to be upsized. Granzow asked if Picht was willing to make that request. Picht stated he and Vierkandt had already discussed what Picht was willing to do, Picht stated he would upsize part of it to take the pressure of the upper end, possibly run a supplemental main beside of the old main that jumps up to a bigger tile, it is supposed to jump up to an 18" tile later. Gallentine stated you would jump up to a .2" coefficient with an 18" tile. Picht wouldn't mind sharing the cost on that just to take off the pressure on the top. Gallentine asked if Picht would go all the way down to the outlet. Picht stated it depends on what size the outlet is, and noted it is a long ways away. Gallentine stated yes it is a long way, and the the last little bit of tile before the outlet is a 20" which is running a .25" coefficient. Picht would be willing to help run supplemental private tile to the larger part of the main if that would help. Granzow stated that can be done without the Trustees. Picht agreed and stated that was what he had told Vierkandt, as the main is on Vierkandt's land. Granzow stated what would come from the Trustees is if a landowner would come forward with a request to do an improvement. Vierkandt stated if the outlet down on the bottom was only good for 1/4" a day and is way less on the upper end, he was unsure what the cost for an improvement would be, but he would like to know the cost for an improvement or to lay another main beside it to increase the capacity. Vierkandt asked if we can bring that excess water all the way down there, and the outlet is only good for 1/4" a day, Vierkandt does not think that will help us that much.

Picht stated he knew the land that would have to go through, and it gets really deep, and would also have to go under an active railroad track, and it would be a major project. Gallentine stated the original tile was planned at the railroad tracks for a depth of 7', Picht said there are places that are deeper than that. Gallentine stated with a tract excavator, 7' is not that bad. Gallentine did note it was a Canadian National line, and it is a 20" tile right before it goes under the railroad. Gallentine stated right at the railroad tracks is where it starts steeping up a bit to get to that 1/4" coefficient, upstream of the railroad tracks it flattens out and that is about .2" coefficient. Picht asked what it would cost for study on an improvement. Gallentine stated studies have been running \$5,000 to \$7,000. Picht asked if it would just be billed to these two landowners. Gallentine stated it would be billed to and split amongst all the landowners in the district. Picht asked if that was ok with Vierkandt. Vierkandt stated his landowner would be ok with that. Picht was ok with that as well.

Granzow stated we have to have a request from a landowner, and with this kind of drainage coefficient, thats not bad to just have a single landowner request. Gallentine stated he was surprised there has not been a request before when he saw the .03" coefficient, and it was no wonder they have ponding. Picht stated he would like to get rid of the ponding as they plant it and always get something out of it but would like the ponding gone and something done for the top end too, which would send more water down there. McClellan asked if Picht would submit a request in writing to the Drainage Clerk, Picht stated he would provide a written request to Smith today. McClellan stated we could act on the written request next week. Picht asked how long a study would take. Gallentine stated they usually take about a month, and once adopted the Engineer's Report is valid for 10 years, and it would cover multiple options, one option would be putting in one lager tile, one could be putting a new tile beside the old tile, the problem with that is you are still paying on the new tile while trying to maintain the old tile. Gallentine stated we would also include an open ditch option. Granzow stated the parallel tile option means the tile is flowing in both old and new tiles, but as soon as the 100 year old tile breaks, will we be putting in a new one, or build it once the first time the improvement is done. Gallentine stated it is tough to figure out how much life is left in a 100 year old system. Granzow stated it would be nice to say we abandoned the old system and built a new one, Gallentine stated we typically do remove the old tile. Granzow stated we need to understand that if abandoned it will no longer be district tile if it breaks. Gallentine stated the nice thing about removing the old district tile is that we can find and restore all the private connections when we remove the tile. Gallentine stated the report will provide several options with expected costs for each so you can have an idea of what costs may be. Picht asked if it was very expensive to remove the old tile. Gallentine stated we usually see costs of \$3 to \$5 per foot, it is pulled off and trucked out, sometimes it is used as fill in a road crossing.

Granzow stated so what we have so far is a request from landowner Picht for a report to do an improvement, along with that we are going to make sure the landowners have a wetland determination done by the NRCS. Granzow went on that the landowners are the only ones that can request a wetland determination, the

Trustees can not do this. Picht asked if the landowners would all be notified and come in and vote on the improvement. Granzow stated the Trustees are the only ones that vote, the Trustees will take a paper ballot as input from the landowners and try to come to a consensus, but the Trustees have the final say. Picht stated all the other landowners may not show interest as they have higher ground and drain fine. Gallentine stated once the report is done, it will be on file with the Drainage Clerk who will send out notifications of a hearing to discuss the improvement options in the report. Granzow stated the classifications may show what Picht describes as well. Gallentine stated that if the majority of the landowners who own 70% of the ground in the district file a Remonstrance, saying no, then nothing moves forward. Granzow stated then the Trustees are done and it becomes a dead issue. Hoffman stated if Picht would step up to the Drainage Clerk's office, he could submit a request in writing, Hoffman noted that the district could also submit a petition for Private Trustee control.

Hoffman stated it is hard for the Trustees to say that we have to tell you here is the report and classification and we are spending your money, and knowing the current commodity prices and the world's uncertainty, telling someone that they will have to spend this much money is difficult. Picht stated he will try and talk Vierkandt into putting in just a short supplemental tile to a bigger tile so that may help the blowout. Picht stated the blowout does not amount to that much when you look at the amount of surface water that Picht's land takes. Picht stated the blowout quits after you get to a certain level, when Picht has watched the blowout it goes out into Vierkandt's field about 100 yard, the water disappears and is soaking in somewhere. Picht stated he will try to work something out with Vierkandt. Granzow asked if he would like to do that before we request the report. Picht stated no he would request the report today, as they will not get it fixed before next year now that crops are in.

4. Other Business

5. Adjourn Meeting

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