

REGULAR DRAINAGE MEETING

6/26/2019 - Minutes

1. Open Meeting

Hardin County Board of Supervisors Chairperson, Renee McClellan, opened the meeting. Also present were Supervisors, Lance Granzow and BJ Hoffman; Landowners Steve Perry and Brent Perry; Michael Bourland and Casey Judge with Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship; Drainage Clerk, Becca Junker.

2. Approve Agenda

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

3. DD 102 - Discuss, With Possible Action, Wetlands Project

Michael Bourland explained that the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship help administer the conservation reserve enhancement program and the whole purpose of the program is to reduce nutrients, primarily nitrate in heavy tilled farm ground. A wetland will act as a filter to reduce the nitrate and then the wetland will release this filtered water back into the environment. Steve had approached Bourland about two years ago to see if he would consider building a wetland instead of fixing the tiling system. The Department of Agriculture then hired an engineering firm (WHKS) to come up with a design. Iowa State then came forward with the idea of tile zoned wetlands. This is used when there is already an existing depression, they reroute the tile into the depression to save money. He went on to say that he is now at the point where he needs to start getting approvals to move forward with this project. He is planning on getting this project bid in January or February and then getting it constructed next summer. Creating the wetlands will be an easement, which means the land will not be able to be cropped again. The easement will stay with the property. This is a 15-year contract, following the 15 years there will be no more payments, but it is a permanent easement. The way the easement is written, the Perry are agreeing to maintain for 30 years. After 30 years the easement is silent because there is no telling what the future will bring. He explained that as an agency, they will put everything together, but the easement is between the landowner and soil and water conservation commission of Hardin County and will be filed at the courthouse.

Bourland went on to say that there has been a price agreed upon per acre that will come out of the CRP payment and a onetime payment from the state. He explained that essentially, they are buying the rights to his property that Perry will still own. Granzow clarified that Perry would still be paying taxes on the property. Bourland asked Granzow if there was a slough bill in Hardin county and he did not know. Bourland explained that a slough bill lets landowners whose ground is wetlands pay taxes at a reduced rate. Hoffman said the slough bill would be something that should be investigated.

Bourland then covered the specs that were created by WHKS.

The Trustees recommended all landowners get their wetlands determined, Bourland said he would reach out to Nichole Williams to see what her thoughts were. He also said he would ask her whether this would be considered an improvement or a repair. It was also requested that Bourland sent all the televised footage to Lee Gallentine with CGA. When asked what type of tile that would be installed it was suggested that Bourland discusses with Gallentine on what he would recommend although Granzow said he would prefer concrete. Bourland said he would have assumed that concrete would be the preferred tile.

Hoffman moved, Granzow seconded to acknowledge CREP Wetland Project HAR862018C for Hardin County, and instruct Lee Gallentine with CGA to review the plans as presented by WHKS. All ayes. Motion carried.

Junker was instructed to stay in contact with Gallentine on when he will be able to discuss this project with the Trustees. Once he has looked the project over and gotten his questions answered by Bourland the Trustees would like him to be put on the agenda. Following that meeting Junker will coordinate a landowner meeting with Bourland and Gallentine and the Trustees.

4. Other Business

None.

5. Adjourn Meeting

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