

DD 121 LANDOWNERS MEETING
Wednesday, September 2, 2020 11:00 AM
This meeting was held electronically and in-person due to Covid-19 concerns.

9/2/2020 - Minutes

1. Open Meeting

Hardin County Drainage Chairperson Lance Granzow opened the meeting. Also present were Trustee BJ Hoffman; Trustee Renee McClellan; Lee Gallentine of Clapsaddle-Garber Associates (CGA); Brent Perry; 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. Introductions/Attendance

Introductions were made and attendance was verified.

4. DD 121 WO 295 - Explanation Of Investigation Summary

Lee Gallentine provided an overview of the Investigation Summary, tenant reported a blowout/sinkhole, with the tile plugged, and water flowing overland as a result. Observation on this work order found a wet area on the north fence line, multiple wet areas in the grass swale, a blowout/sinkhole, and water running overland to the downstream of the observed blowout/sinkhole. Also found were exposed tile, multiple pieces of broken tile and in the field large rocks and remnants of trees that had been removed just downstream of the blowout/sinkhole. Due to the lack of soil cover over the broken tile, broken pieces of tile found in the field, and recently cut trees, CGA recommends locating and televising the tile in both directions from the blowout/sinkhole as the observed issue may be due to a larger scale deterioration of the Main tile's physical deterioration.

Gallentine stated before that further investigation was authorized, the Trustees wanted to have a landowner's meeting to make them aware that there may be something larger going on than just a normal blowout in this district. Gallentine stated if people have questions, he would do his best to answer, as so far this has just been a visual observation only.

5. Comments/Discussion

Granzow stated the only one to join our meeting was Brent Perry, and asked Brent for his thoughts. Brent stated he called in today as his Dad was out of town, and they own some land within this district, and he is attending to learn what the problem was. Perry asked what costs might look like for exploration on this tile. Gallentine stated to go out and do some exploration and televising, it is hard to get much of that done for under about \$5,000, it could possibly be more. Granzow asked how many acres were in this district. Perry thought it was about 1,300 acres. Gallentine stated it is 1,324 acres, and has land in 6 sections. Perry stated that doing some quick math of \$10,000 at the top end, 1,324 acres comes out to about \$7.55 an acres per land owner just from an exploratory standpoint. Granzow stated, yes and no, it is based on your land's classification schedule. Gallentine stated some people may pay more, and some people may pay less based on the classification, and this is just an estimate on costs. Gallentine stated sometimes we can go out and dig one hole and televise 1,000 feet in each direction, and other times, you may go 200' and there is another collapse, and you have to dig that up and start over again.

Perry stated that not many people are participating in this meeting but we won't know what is going on without the exploration, Perry was in favor of the exploration, but maybe it would be nice to not get too carried away with too many dollars. Hoffman asked if Perry would like a not to exceed a certain dollar amount and see what we can get for that. Perry asked if that works or does it hamstring the investigation. Gallentine stated we have done that with reports before, as it is easier to cut it off while in the office, but it gets a little bit tougher in the field with a contractor and suddenly it is 3:00 pm and we had better stop.

Granzow stated we can table this for a week if Perry would like to reach out to some of the landowners as he is the only one in attendance. McClellan stated this was in a grass swale, and asked if this was located in a grassy waterway and is it cutting in deep or is it just making the waterway wet. Gallentine stated it has cut a trench about 2' deep through the swale right now, and there has to be enough pressure in the tile for the water to go up above ground, flow overground and then go back down again. Perry asked if this was a tile main or a lateral. Gallentine stated this was on the main tile. Granzow asked how far from the outlet this is located. Gallentine referenced the map, and it looks to be located right in the middle of the main. Granzow stated as he looks at it as a Trustee, based on the information we have, he would televise, and remove the trees, but we brought this to a landowners meeting as this could turn into a huge project, if we start televising we may find it is this way all the way to the end of this waterway, Granzow understands the current farm economy as well. Perry stated it is hard to know right now what is broken, what is good tile, what needs to be fixed and what doesn't and how much money needs to be spent if we don't do further exploration, Perry stated he thought they would be in favor of additional exploration but if there needs to be money spent beyond that, you could get more landowners involved than just one. Smith stated she sent out 27 notices for this meeting, but some are estates, heirs and trusts along with Hardin County Roads, along with some corporations, and had hoped we would have better participation today, but with some of the trusts or group heirs, Smith was not sure if we would have anyone participate from those landowners. Perry said many of the names listed are familiar to him, that are people from around the area, and this exploration is not a large dollar amount but if this ends up being a large scale project that could cost near a million dollars like many recent projects have, then we would hope to get more attention and participation. McClellan stated if have a bill for televising that may spur more attendance.

Granzow stated what he is hearing is to go ahead with the exploratory and have a report made after that, because repairs could exceed the \$50,000 threshold and then we are required to hold public hearings. Gallentine stated we can do the exploratory and write up a simple investigation summary like we have here today with some sample costs, and the Trustees can decide how to proceed from there, the tile shards in the field could turn out to be nothing but we just don't know at this point. Hoffman asked the if this is something we can get a contractor like Seward or Paul Williams to get out there and look at it sooner than later. McClellan and Granzow agreed based on what they have heard today. Perry said that sounded good to him.

6. Possible Action

Granzow stated what he is hearing is to go ahead with the exploratory and have a report made after that, because repairs could exceed the \$50,000 threshold and then we are required to hold public hearings. Gallentine stated we can do the exploratory and write up a simple investigation summary like we have here today with some sample costs, and the Trustees can decide how to proceed from there, the tile shards in the field could turn out to be nothing but we just don't know at this point. Hoffman asked the if this is something we can get a contractor like Seward or Paul Williams to get out there and look at it sooner than later. McClellan and Granzow agreed based on what they have heard today. Perry said that sounded good to him.

Motion by Hoffman to have a contractor in the lottery system, go out to pothole and televise this tile, provide the video to CGA so they can draw up some type of conclusion and give us some direction on where we need to go. Second by McClellan.

In additional discussion, Granzow stated for those that are unfamiliar with our lottery system, they are in county contractors. Gallentine stated the lottery system is set up so that in county contractors, as they are available, get assigned work orders, they go out and do the work on an hourly rate, those rates have been submitted to the Drainage Clerk ahead of time, that is how the lottery system works.

All ayes. Motion carried.

7. Other Business

Hoffman asked Perry for an update on their CREP wetland project. Perry stated the project is nearly complete, the contractor is done with their work for now and have left, the water is slowly starting to fill the wetland, we had a couple inch rain during the derecho, and the pond filled up, but is starting to shrink again. This area will not have any problems keeping water in it when we get into a normal year, as it was already starting to fill up during this dry period, there is water still running into it and is looking good there. Perry stated there is one small area that went south into Arlene Brandt's, that Luke Manetter farms, he does not think it was engineered quite right, it is hard to say how many acres, on the low end maybe 3 to 4 or maybe on the high end as many as 10 acres, that we will have to redo some tile in that area so that they have enough grade so that Luke can hook on to the main tile, it was in an area that they did a diversion around the old main, and the way they did the diversion, they didn't get it quite right to get enough fall, they will have to add some tile to it, and they will wait and do that this fall when the crop got off so that they evaluate it and do that a bit better and make some in-field decisions. Perry did a walk through with the State and the contractor, Luke Manetter was their representing his landowner that he works with and Joyce Schnormeier was there, it went well other than this one spot, and it seemed like the State was going to be working with the contractor to get this fixed. Perry stated that overall everything is in pretty good shape, Perry asked if anyone had heard any other feedback on the project. Gallentine stated when CGA was out to observe the soil conditions on the main, he stated that the soil all looked good and they did not use any rock on the main downstream of the wetland, and as far as CGA is concerned the main tile install went fine, that was Perry's opinion when he was on-site as well. Hoffman asked of Perry's opinion on the contractor, Rogness Brothers. Perry stated Rogness was fantastic to work with, they were really good people, very knowledgeable, and good to work with. Hoffman appreciated Perry's update and although he did not want to deviate from today's meeting topic, he did not want to miss the opportunity for an update on the CREP project. Perry stated at some point it would be nice to have an open field day where the Trustees can come out and tour the project, Perry stated if the Trustees would like to come see it before it is all full of water, it is easy to drive around out there, and have access to all the tile dumping into the wetland and it will be cool to see it a couple of years from now, please let the Perry's now if you have any interest and we will entertain anyone that would like to come out and look. McClellan stated she would like to do that, Granzow stated a drone imaging tour would be neat while the wetland fills up know and something that could be used for future reference. Hoffman stated he could bring his drone out and shoot some video, Perry stated he has a drone also and this is a great idea.

Perry stated while we are on the subject of the CREP wetland, Perry asked what the status of the reclassification report on that district. Gallentine stated CGA is working on the reclassification now, and Gallentine thinks they will have it wrapped up and could hold hearings over the winter and we could have it in place before next year's assessment.

The Trustees thanked Perry for his update and participation today.

8. Adjourn Meeting

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