

REGULAR DRAINAGE MEETING
Wednesday, October 7, 2020 10:50 AM

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

10/7/2020 - Minutes

1. Open Meeting

Hardin County Trustee BJ Hoffman opened the meeting. Also in attendance were Trustee Renee McClellan; Michael Pearce, Network Specialist, Lee Gallentine of Clapsaddle-Garber Associates (CGA); and Denise Smith, Drainage Clerk. Meeting was originally scheduled at 9:30 AM and was delayed to 10:50 AM due to the 9:00 AM Board of Supervisors meeting running longer than anticipated.

2. Approve Agenda

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

3. Approve Claims For Payment

Motion by McClellan to approve the claims for payment with pay date of Friday, October 9, 2020. Second by Hoffman. All ayes. Motion carried.

DD 9 WO 229 Eng Svcs 4/24/20 - 9/25/20	Clapsaddle-Garber Assoc	\$	618.30
DD 11 WO 294 - Engs Svcs - 7/31/20 - 9/25/20	Clapsaddle-Garber Assoc	\$	2,038.60
DD 22 WO 176 & 192 Eng Svcs - 5/16/20 - 9/26/20	Clapsaddle-Garber Assoc	\$	2,409.05
DD 25 WO 209 Eng Svcs - 8/28/20 - 9/25/20	Clapsaddle-Garber Assoc	\$	487.80
DD 55-3 WO 201 Eng Svcs - 8/28/20 - 9/25/20	Clapsaddle-Garber Assoc	\$	632.30
DD 56 WO 3 - Eng Svcs to 9/25/20	Clapsaddle-Garber Assoc	\$	565.80

4. Discuss W Possible Action - Drainage Utility Permit Process

Smith stated we had Casey Huff of Midland Power Cooperative scheduled to join us today, but was unavailable due to a schedule change in meeting time. Smith has invited Huff to join us next week on October 14, 2020 for the Regular Drainage Meeting to discuss the Drainage Utility Permit Process. Smith stated that there had been recent conversations with contractors regarding the Drainage Utility Permit requirements that Smith thought would be good information for this discussion. Gallentine stated he had been contacted by contractors for utility permit holders, most of the contractors ask that CGA come out and flag the tiles so we know where it is at and we will dig it up. Gallentine explained to the contractors that it doesn't work that way, we have 100 year old hand drawn maps and we don't 100% know where they are, but we know that they are there, this issue resulted in both cases today of a contractor responding with "how would I find the tile then?", Gallentine stated he provided them the information on how we would specifically find the tile, and received a contractor reply of "Well that is not in my contract, I don't know if I will be able to do that." Gallentine explained that for the utility company that took out this permit, this is part of the permit, they have to do this, we need to talk to them and figure out if they are going to do it or is it going to be part of their contract, that ends up being a response from the contractor of "oh, we will have to get back to you". Gallentine stated the Trustees need to be aware we are having some communications but the big pain still gets to be that they still think we should know exactly where these tiles are at, and they don't want to take the time, don't have the equipment to locate them themselves. Hoffman asked if this was something that today we could provide our local experts to these people and say we know you have a contract with your ABC contractors but we have some local experts that do this on a regular basis and provide the utilities with the contractor information from our lottery, especially our proven contractors like Paul Williams, Handsaker and Seward and say these are recommended if you don't want to have to train people. Hoffman stated we would really like to keep this moving so we would really prefer to keep it moving, can we say try to use these contractors, would that be something that would be permissible. Gallentine stated it would be helpful, and did mention that, but in both of these cases Gallentine was talking to the utility's contractor, not the permit holder or utility company, so the contractor does not want to sub the work out, as it costs them money, Gallentine told them there are local contractors that find our tile everyday, this is not that tough.

McClellan stated the cost may even out for the contractor as they may spend more time going out to look for the tile than if they just utilized a local contractor. Hoffman asked if McClellan would like to make a motion to have the Drainage Clerk provide that list to the utility companies.

Motion by McClellan to direct the Drainage Clerk to provide the utility companies as permit holders with a list of local contractors along with a letter noting that these contractors are familiar with our Drainage Districts. Second by Hoffman.

In additional discussion on the motion, Hoffman stated this may expedite things for the utilities if they work with someone familiar with Hardin County Drainage tile. Gallentine stated that may be a great interim measure until the Trustees decide if they will implement an application fee, and may be a bridge to help them find the tiles until we get to that point.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Smith referenced an email from Aureon in which Mathew Weiser of Aureon details that they had worked with CGA on some crossings, and Smith was looking for some clarification on this, as Weiser stated in his email he can't recall if CGA was contacted for all crossings or if CGA was on sight for all crossings, Weiser went on that their as-builts don't provide enough details to paint a clear picture on whether or not all crossings were observed, and at what depth they were bored, and did they go over or under district facilities, Weiser asks what steps are required of Aureon next. Smith requested clarification from the Trustees, as we have communicated what the permit requirements are, going back looking at the permit after the fact, what follow up would the Trustees like from Aureon. Gallentine interjected that the first step could be requesting a copy of the as-builts so we have an idea of which districts they crossed, because we don't even know for sure where or if they even crossed district facilities. Smith stated it can be confusing at times as utilities like to say our work is done so we are finished, and that may not be how this works. Smith can request that from Aureon, Gallentine stated once we can review that as-builts, we can review them and see if any locations need to be reviewed and then we can instruct Aureon that this location may need to be exposed. Smith stated she can reach out to Aureon for the as-builts if it is ok with the Trustees, McClellan and Hoffman concurred that would be acceptable.

Smith stated under this topic, that the Trustees had directed Smith to verify availability with Gallentine and attorney Mike Richards for a closed session meeting and she had received some dates of availability from Richards. Gallentine is open on Wednesdays and Richards has availability on October 21, 28 or Nov. 11, the Courthouse is closed on November 11th for Veteran's day. Smith asked if the Trustees had any interest in those dates. Hoffman asked how far out are we willing to look at. Smith stated we have time to extend a date further out as this would be to discuss Drainage Utility Permit process as it pertains to CWECs. Hoffman stated maybe pushing it out farther we could revisit setting a meeting date in the near future, and ask Richards for some dates further out, maybe we will have additional information at that time for Richards to have. Smith will reach out to Richards for possible availability later in November/December.

5. DD H-F 1 - WO 2019-5 - Discuss W Possible Action - Construction Update

This Drainage Utility Permit was filed back in 2019, and Smith and Gallentine have had communication with the utility, Iowa Power & Light/Alliant, Smith had forwarded the Trustees some information, that this was never built in Hardin County, Smith wanted to review this again as we never did an official closure on the permit. Smith stated the utility's contractor provided us information, and Gallentine reviewed and concurred that there was no permit or observation needed as they did not extend their work into Hardin County. Gallentine stated they did not cross any district facilities in Hardin County, the utility applied for the permit not knowing what they would get into, and based on what the utility described, they did not cross anything that needed observation.

Motion by McClellan to close Drainage Utility Permit & Work Order 2019-5. Second by Hoffman. All ayes. Motion carried.

6. DD 14 WO 299 - Discuss W Possible Action - Investigation Summary

Gallentine noted this was DD 41, not DD 14 as it was listed on the agenda. Gallentine provided an update on this work order submitted by Chris Blome on John Littschwager's ground, there was a spot repair in the same vicinity a couple of years ago, it appears that another sinkhole appeared outside of those spot repair limits we previously did, it can easily be repaired through the lottery system. Gallentine noted the sinkhole is located in a waterway and is readily accessible, and is the same issue we have been having is fighting spot repair after spot repair, Gallentine did not know if a larger repair was of interest as was suggested a few years ago, at that time landowners requested continuing with spot repairs. CGA recommends this work order be sent to lottery for repair.

Motion by McClellan to send DD 41 Work Order 299 to the lottery system for repair. Second by Hoffman. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. DD 102 WO 265 - Discuss W Possible Action - Observation Summary

Gallentine updated that this was in DD 102 where they put the wetland into the Perry property. Gallentine stated that the observation report states we didn't use any rock, didn't observe any soil where we felt they needed to use rock, they spooned the tile in nicely and as far as rock bedding goes, everything appeared to be ok. Gallentine stated he has shared this with the Trustees verbally before, this is the official record of that observation.

Motion by McClellan to acknowledge the Observation Summary. Second by Hoffman. All ayes. Motion carried.

8. DD 158 - WO 285 - Discuss W Possible Action - Repair Summary

Gallentine stated this repair took place along K Ave., where they found the water was boiling out and flowing through the road culvert and then going back underground on the east side of the road. Gallentine stated when we got out in the field, nothing was really apparent, so they did some televising, when we televised downstream on the east side of K Ave. you can see where there was some previous repair to the tile. There was actually good size chunk of tile blocking a third to half of the pipe flow, and you could visibility see the water level drop down once it got past. Gallentine stated we dug down and pulled that out, when we televised upstream to the west, we found some previous repairs with corrugated metal that was rusty enough you could see water seeping through the sides of the corrugated metal pipe. Gallentine stated we replaced that also and that is the green on the map on the west side of K Ave., there was another private tile to the south that incurred a little bit of damage while they were out there, so they went ahead and repaired that. Overall the repair went well, Gallentine did note that we would like to have the contractor verify that they seeded the road ditches or have Secondary Roads do the seeding, also there is a decent amount of silt in the road ditch that CGA recommends that Secondary Roads be notified of so they can do an appropriate cleanout of the ditch. Gallentine noted that about 1/3rd of an acre of crop damage was incurred and CGA recommends that if a claim were to be submitted for that, CGA recommends payment of the crop damage claim. McClellan asked about the fiber optic cable noted on the map and if it went through the tile. Gallentine stated no the fiber optic cable did not go through the tile, it was located via One Call, so when they located it, we shot it and it was not impacting the tile. Hoffman directed the Drainage Clerk to make Secondary Roads aware of the issues noted in the Repair Summary.

Motion by McClellan to acknowledge the receipt of the Repair Summary. Second by Hoffman. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. Other Business

One Call - Locate Services - Hoffman asked if we as a group would like to have the conversation about becoming part of the 811 locate service. Gallentine stated that would be a discussion worth having. Hoffman stated this could be addressed after the election at some point. Smith agreed, as we get closer to looking at an all district assessment, that may be one of the things worth taking into consideration, and what does that service cost us as a county, that may be a way to partially fund that service. McClellan stated it may be worth researching with Counties that participate in the service for drainage districts and what those costs look like, but that could be done after the election.

Gallentine stated he is meeting with Jay Duncan of Heart of Iowa to go over their Drainage Utility Permits, Jay is very responsive as always and it is a pleasure working with him. Hoffman stated he visited with Jay and Bryan at Heart of Iowa last week and thanked them for not participating in the meeting last week, and congratulated them for not having to be in attendance at that meeting.

10. Adjourn Meeting

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