

**DD 14 LANDOWNERS MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020 12:00 PM**  
**This meeting was held electronically and in-person due to Covid-19 concerns.**

11/18/2020 - Minutes

1. Open Meeting

Hardin County Drainage Trustee BJ Hoffman opened the meeting. Also present were Trustee Renee McClellan; Landowners Jack Runge, Ron Vierkandt, Jim Smuck; Lee Gallentine of Clapsaddle-Garber Associates (CGA); Angela Silvey, Board Secretary; 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 verified.

4. DD 14 WO 290 - Explanation Of Investigation Summary

Gallentine stated this work order was reported by Dave Sweeney on land owned by Cynthia Ioger, there are 4 sinkholes on their property they asked CGA to go out and look at, which CGA did. Gallentine noted this area has a history of sinkholes, we had quite a few the last few years, we have had four or five in the last five years, and it seems like we are going out there every year, or every other year for this type of sinkhole. There were 4 sinkholes, and we ended up televising about 880' upstream and about 1,000' downstream, what we found were 26 locations where the tile was either partially or imminently collapsed, Gallentine referenced photos of some of the locations. The photos show the top of the tile is starting to cave down, it is cracked at the top, the sides and the bottom. You can see dirt starting to show through that crack, and at the next joint down you can see a corn stalk in the crack so it is evidently starting to suck some dirt down into the tile. Vierkandt asked where this was located. Gallentine stated this image is 450' downstream to the south, Vierkandt asked if it was from the last sinkhole, Gallentine stated yes. Next image shows a previous repair with corrugated metal that is pretty rusty, so at this point you can see that the coating is gone on the inside, so it is just an amount of time before that rusts through, Gallentine can't say how long that would take to rust through, it depends on the metal thickness, but with modern pipe that wouldn't take very long as it is not very thick. If it was an old pipe, it may take longer as they are thicker. Vierkandt stated this is a new one, and asked if this is under D41. Gallentine stated no not yet. The next image shows a crack at the top, and the tile is starting to vee down some, this image is about 600' downstream. The next image shows at 840' downstream, as the top of the tile has some crazing and random spiderweb type cracks at the top, it could be just the coating is cracked or it could be something deeper, it is hard to say, it indicates the age is starting to show. The next photo from 130' upstream shows the tile is cracked at the 11:00 position and dirt is starting to show through, the next image at 240' upstream, shows a piece of tile that has fallen out of the top of the tile and flowed downstream a ways, it is beginning to damn up and to trap debris and cornstalks and restrict drainage. The next image shows one that is not far from falling in and the sides have totally squatted out and the top has squatted down and you can see some cornstalks above it. Next image at 516' shows it is not quite as bad but is veeing down. Gallentine stated those photos kind of give you a range of condition from 800' downstream to 500' upstream, some are close enough together that you could do a spot repair and combine them together, so we would recommend if you wanted to do spot repairs just on what we televised, you would end up doing six spot repairs, that consist of 570' and we are thinking the costs would consist of \$35,000 to \$45,000. If you wanted to repair the whole length of tile that we televised, you would be looking at costs over \$50,000 and you would have to have an Engineer's Report and we would have to have a hearing, and Gallentine has no idea what the condition is outside of the 1,900' we televised.

Gallentine stated it is all buttoned up and closed up as far as putting something in there temporarily, and televising is complete, we are here today so we can see what people want to do and what the desire is to spend and that is why we are having a landowners meeting. Gallentine stated this is more severe than the

issues we just saw in the DD 11 district meeting we just held, but this is a smaller district too. Gallentine asked for questions. Ron Vierkandt asked how far are we from where this hooks into the big tile down at the bottom. Gallentine asked if it was in Vierkandt's ground that we hooked into that big tile. Vierkandt replied that no, that was in Strothcamp's ground. Gallentine stated this was in Cynthia loger's land, and asked if Runge knew where that hooked in. Vierkandt stated it may be in Jeff Strothcamp's. Runge stated loger's is right north of Strothcamp's where it hooked into the big tile. Gallentine stated it would be north and east, and we went a little bit past loger's west property line by a couple hundred feet. Gallentine referenced the map, and stated we almost went all the way down here past the property line, Vierkandt stated he can't be sure but this is Merle and Jeff Strothcamp's, which are farmed together, Runge agreed and noted they have a split 80 acre parcel, Merle has the north and Jeff has the south 40 next to Ron Vierkandt's. Vierkandt stated we would be close to that big tile, Gallentine stated as he looks at the map we are within a couple hundred feet of the big tile. Gallentine stated that tile work that was done a few years ago was on DD 123. Vierkandt agreed.

Gallentine stated this would be at the lower end of the existing district. Vierkandt stated we don't want to put a patch in the middle, what good is that 20 years down the road, and it was mentioned there was not enough dirt over the top. Gallentine stated there were some places that were light in cover, and lacking cover in that waterway. Vierkandt stated if we need to make enough depth to keep cover on this we need to start down there at the bottom, if that is where you are televising anyway, it looks to Vierkandt it makes sense to hook on and get new depth, is that what Gallentine would consider repair. Gallentine stated as long as we don't increase the size of the tile, then we can go deeper, if we start increasing the size of the tile then we are looking at an improvement. Gallentine knows back when we put that other big tile in, there are some wet ones in here, and maybe Runge had some wet areas back in that time, NRCS really didn't say a whole lot because we have this restriction between that wetland and this new tile project. Runge stated his was straightened out thanks to Gallentine and were reclassified and are only at .2% of an acre, Gallentine stated it must have been reduced, as that may be too much even in his mind on that one.

Gallentine stated we are at the point of just looking at it, the tile is flowing, we have been out there multiple times in the past and there are definite marks of previous repair. Vierkandt stated there is so much fall there, that is not the problem, the question is how big is that tile. Vierkandt stated he thought it was 14" up at D41. Gallentine stated we measured it at the flow-out, it was anywhere from 14" to 15" tall and anywhere from 15" to 18" wide, because it was squatted down. Gallentine stated it was probably a 15" tile originally. Vierkandt asked if Gallentine could remember what they hooked into with down there on the other project, we hooked into both the old and the new tile, it came up how many feet. Gallentine stated he did not know without looking at the files or old map, it has been too many drainage projects ago. Vierkandt asked with the acreage we have in there, is a 15" tile adequate. Gallentine stated probably not if you want a 1/2" per day coefficient, based on the fact that they were designed for an 1/8" to 1/4" per day drainage coefficient, just to drain the potholes and that was it.

Vierkandt stated he listened to that last meeting and could see that he wasn't getting too much for repair dollars, but Vierkandt would be against putting 500' of 14" tile back in at that grade, and if we start in the middle and come up here, you can't go down, we have to start at the bottom. Gallentine stated if we replace 500', wherever we put that in at you are pretty much locked in that for the next 50 to 100 years, so it is good to have these meetings to figure out if that is what the district wants to do and how are we going approach it. Vierkandt stated we know what our depth is at the bottom, we have to start there and bring the grade up, it depends on how many dollars we want to spend. Gallentine stated it is just you three here, so that is the input we have, Vierkandt was surprised loger's did not have a representative here, Vierkandt asked what Runge thought. Runge stated that goes in on Jeff Strothcamp's, and asked if the sinkholes were on Sweeney's or on Strothcamp's. Gallentine stated the sinkholes were on Sweeney's we just televised under the fence onto Strothcamp's. Runge stated that tile on Sweeney's is super deep, Runge used to farm that and he remembered looking into a couple of those holes, Runge was just questioning where the cover issue is, is it clear down on the fence-line with Sweeney's or is it on Strothcamp's. Runge stated he and Vierkandt were down there an intervned in the hook up process for the new and old tile, there was plenty of cover down there as it was a manhole cover where the connection was made. Gallentine stated if there is cover issues, it is spotty here and there in the waterway, it is not a widespread issue. Vierkandt stated he does not want to put in \$35,000 of tile up here when he should be down, and the only way he can get down is to go back down and start at the outlet. Gallentine stated he understands, if you don't have an outlet, you don't have anything.

Runge asked what Vierkandt was proposing, to do the whole bottom end. Vierkandt stated if we want to spend \$35,000, we want to start at the end and hook up to the new, and go till our \$35,000 is gone, at least we got that right, and then if we stop and have some blow outs, we may be back here in 3 to 5 years, and then we can put another \$35,000 in and go up farther, without going through a huge process, we really don't want to do that if we don't have to. Vierkandt stated with as much fall as we can get with a 15" tile, that takes a lot of water. Gallentine stated if we want to gain depth, we will have to cut back on some of that fall also. Vierkandt stated but we don't have to cut back on that fall if we start at the bottom. Gallentine stated you guys are right and have been through a lot of these meetings, the steeper the pipe the more capacity you have got. Vierkandt stated he read there wasn't much cover, Gallentine will have to look back through it, Vierkandt stated if we look at the first 80 acres he has there it is kind of shallow, but if we start at the bottom, and we get ourselves a new grade here, we have got something to work with, but if we patch in this 500' right in the middle, Vierkandt is against that. Gallentine stated if you do that 500' you are locked into that for the next 50 to 100 years, Vierkandt stated he does not want to be locked into that, but his kids would be locked in.

Gallentine asked if there were any other questions for him, if not he would turn it over to Hoffman for discussion. McClellan asked if you are talking about starting from the bottom up to replace, is that correct. Vierkandt stated yes, just to replace as that is all we are allowed to do. McClellan asked if we need to go in to fix the sinkholes though. Gallentine stated they have already been fixed. Hoffman stated we just spot fixed because we didn't want to hit that threshold for a hearing. Vierkandt stated let's do 500'. Hoffman asked where does Vierkandt want that 500' to start. Vierkandt stated right at the new tile outlet, Hoffman wanted to make sure he was clear. Vierkandt stated let's start there and if 5 years down the road we have more sinkhole troubles, let's put in another 500', whatever makes people happy at that price. Gallentine stated it is kind of a compromise between fix as you go and a full replacement. Hoffman stated we have to juggle the legal concept of supplanting the \$50,000 hearing threshold, if we cross that. Vierkandt does not want to cross that threshold. Hoffman stated we need to be good stewards of the district's time and money getting up to that, so let's say hypothetically, we get 385' and your \$50,000 is gone, do we stop. Vierkandt stated in the letter we received it stated it was estimated we could replace 500' for \$30,000 to \$40,000. Hoffman stated if we get in the field and run into sand pockets or problems, Hoffman wants to have an honest discussion so if we don't get to that 500', you are not mad at the Trustees, Engineer or the contractor. Vierkandt stated he will understand that as he is more in favor to start at the bottom to get the new depth. McClellan states we almost have to, you can't start in the middle and expect to gain depth. Vierkandt stated he would completely understand, Vierkandt asked if Runge was ok with that. Runge stated yes, we could start at the bottom and spend \$35,000 and then address any other issues as a fix as fail. Gallentine stated you could probably do 500' for \$50,000, even if you ran into a couple of unforeseen things, Gallentine stated that may not cover every possibility. Vierkandt asked if we just went from \$35,000 to \$50,000, Hoffman stated no his example was just let's just say we get so many feet up and we are out of money. Gallentine stated he thought we could do 570' for \$35,000 to \$45,000. Smuck stated if we can get the volume of water that we have been getting or better, we should be able to, because we will have the depth, we are hooking right into the new tile and we are hooked into both of the parallel tile, not just one, Smuck stated he was there when we did it, the outlet is there, so our outlet is better than we ever had before, Gallentine stated because you are hooked to both, you are not restricted to one or the other, that is better then some of the connections out west that were just hooked to one or the other.

Runge stated they were down there when they did this one, Gallentine asked if Gehrke did this one. Runge stated that Bob Gehrke did this one. Runge stated they were going to do a tee entrance into the manhole, and when we talked to Bob Gehrke, Gehrke stated that won't work either, the turbulence will just decrease the flow on both tiles, Runge stated we did get that in at a 45 degree angle, Gallentine stated that will help, whenever you get that ninety degree angle, water doesn't turn that way. Runge stated there is a manhole down there, we just need to dig the top off it and look at it. Vierkandt stated the manhole ended up being just downstream. Runge stated the manhole is on the new tile and they did a jumper over to the old tile. Smith interjected that the only other communication she had received was from Merle Strothcamp who had called Smith twice, in his first phone call, Strothcamp stated he was just interested in repairing as needed, Smith talked to Strothcamp a second time and he stated he would go with whatever the majority of the landowners want to do. Smith stated she thought Strothcamp will probably side with whatever the prevailing opinion is. Runge stated that Jeff Strothcamp is doing a lot of the work on Merle Strothcamp's ground, Runge will take with Jeff and see what he thinks also. Vierkandt stated they do not have any dollars involved in this, we should get equal vote in this. Hoffman stated you don't get any vote in this. Gallentine stated the

district Trustees make the deciding votes on this, and at any point the Drainage Clerk can provide you the documentation to become an owner Trustee managed district. Hoffman stated he offers this to every district, the point of this is that if we had a room full of 40 people today, we would hand out a ballot and the landowners can cast a ballot, and Hoffman does not recall a time where we have not gone with the popular vote of the landowners. Hoffman stated yes, you do have a voice although you don't have a vote formally, but if we had a bunch of people here, we would allow you to cast a ballot and go with the popular vote, it is your district and you money.

McClellan stated to recap, the potholes are fixed, you need a motion. Gallentine stated that his understanding is we are going to start at the newly installed tile from DD 123 and go upstream until the money is gone. Runge stated we will go until the \$35,000 is gone to stay under the \$50,000 with some contingencies. Vierkandt stated he and Runge are the major landowners in the district with the costs being nearly 50-50 split between them. Gallentine asked, if the \$35,000, is that construction and engineering, does that include just construction or construction and engineering minus what we are already up tot today. Vierkandt questioned why we have to have an engineer, why do we have to pay the engineer, with the GPS and lasers we have now, he presumes we will throw the old tile up on the bank. Gallentine stated typically what we do is the old tile goes off-site somewhere. Vierkandt stated why do we need the engineer with the grade we have and lasers now. Gallentine stated you were involved in the projects west of Buckeye and that one went sideways even with an engineer, when things go wrong, they just go wrong, Gallentine serves at the Trustees discretion they tell him where he is involved and where he isn't. Vierkandt asked Runge what he thought about paying an Engineer. Runge stated he does not understand why we would have to have an engineer on this, we have a tremendous amount of fall, and we will have depth coming out of the bottom, you are going right up the same tile line, we are not worried about flow coefficients and inches per day, we just want a better outlet down there, Runge understands what is going on west of town, Runge was not involved in it but has heard a lot about it, the other one getting into Buckeye, he understands why we need engineering there but does not understand why we need an engineer to replace 500' feet of tile or \$35,000 worth of tile, Runge would hate to see \$15,000 to \$17,000 of the \$35,000 be spent on engineering. Hoffman interjected that while it might not take a great deal of engineering that part of those engineering or ancillary costs are to have a construction observer from CGA on-site during construction to shoot the GPS points while the contractor is out there to accurately mark those locations going forward. Vierkandt asked if that was CGA's man, Hoffman stated it was, and asked if you would be ok with having those locations marked by the observer and to make sure that the contractor is doing everything by specs and creating an accurate record. Vierkandt stated yes, Runge stated he guessed he would go with that. Hoffman stated he learned early on in his tenure how important this was, Gallentine stated he is just asking the question so we are on the same page before we start. Runge stated CGA has one good man, Dean, who gets right in there and grab a spade.

Vierkandt asked what kind of tile are we talking about. Gallentine stated if he was doing any kind of bidding with contractors he would get a price for both, he would get a price for plastic with rock bedding and he would get a price for concrete. Veirkandt asked what Runge thought, Runge stated he was sure happy to work with plastic if it is not cost prohibitive to work with, it is simpler to work with, and just not going to have the blowout and breakdown issues with plastic, maybe 100 years form now someone will say why did they go with plastic and not put concrete in. Runge asked generally what is the cost difference between plastic and concrete. Gallentine stated they are usually pretty comparable if you go plastic with rock bedding versus concrete, but from what he is hearing from contractors is that if you are getting prices on both, the material price may change as much as 50% because one supplier wants to get the job over the other. Hoffman stated we have also gone down the route of spooning in concrete, and that takes some of the cost out. Gallentine stated we have not done any spooning with plastic since the problems west of Buckeye. Vierkandt stated he watched them spoon plastic west of Buckeye and was well satisfied as he watched them do a little bit. Gallentine stated that was McDowells and that was the last time we did it. Vierkandt stated it was Gehrke that did it in Section 27 and that was a year or two later when we decided the first one didn't work, and that one didn't, they really messed it up.

Hoffman stated to get things moving today, not to hurry the process today, and asked if McClellan wanted to catch up Trustee Granzow on this first or are you ready to do something today, Hoffman stated he is ready today to do something, we are getting the input we need. Vierkandt stated he kind of disagreed with Runge west of Buckeye after his experience with plastic, he is leaning more and more to concrete. Hoffman stated we can bid it both ways, Vierkandt understands that. Hoffman stated the other part of the process is

do we want to put this in the contractor lottery system. Gallentine stated it is low enough in cost that you wouldn't have to have a formal bid letting, you could do a small bid packet, like a copy of the original profile and a copy of the map and send it to the in county contractors and say how much is this going to cost, and get prices on both concrete and plastic. Gallentine stated as of late Gehrke will bid plastic but they really don't like putting plastic in on district projects, they will put in plastic on private tile, but they really are leaning towards concrete over plastic on big drainage district projects. Vierkandt stated there is a size difference here, if we put in an 8" or even a 10" tile, 8" is even easier because it rolls and it sticks but the cost to lay it is small, but this Vierkandt leans toward concrete. Runge does not have a problem going to concrete. Gallentine stated maybe we don't want to say how much is it going to cost to replace 500', maybe we want to say to the contractor how much can you replace for this dollar amount or a price per foot. Hoffman stated maybe how per foot fully installed, let's see how much bang we can get for your buck. Hoffman stated they have every right to say how much to go out and do this they may give you a heck of a deal.

Vierkandt stated we do want to include in the bid that we do want deeper grade and if you can, get cover, we don't want to stay in the same ditch, the better grade that we can get. Gallentine stated you want it lower than your current slope, Vierkandt stated that was correct, that is why he wanted to start at the bottom. Gallentine understood that. McClellan stated you will have to have some kind of engineering to know what to send out to contractors with the bid, Gallentine stated yes, but we are not going to draw up plans or specs, we will take the original map or profile or how many feet we can get replaced for so many dollars and we are going to lower this from the current depth by so many feet. Gallentine will look at the original plans and you will have some kind of engineering costs but it will not be the full blown cost with plans, publications and all that, it will be open to in county contractors unless you want to entertain an out of county contractors, Gallentine just needs to know what that dollar amount is, and asked is it \$35,000. Runge stated let's start there, Gallentine stated and you want observation, Vierkandt stated if we are 50' from a place where you are getting blowouts, then go that 50', you can come talk to Runge or myself. Hoffman stated we will have to be the ones that make that decision, CGA will have to come back to us, as long as the landowners here today are ok with coming back in and seeing the Trustees again, Hoffman is fine with that,

Gallentine asked you do want us out there though during construction, Vierkandt stated he would like Dean from CGA present. Gallentine asked if that \$35,000 included the contractor and construction observer Dean, is that correct. Hoffman stated we would have to work some math backwards to figure the cost of the construction observer. Gallentine stated he can figure what the cost of the construction observer would be and figure what that leaves us to work with the contractor. Vierkandt stated that Dean does a good job. Hoffman stated for today he needs a motion for Gallentine to start working on the bid, and once Gallentine has the bid package ready, he will send that out to contractors, and see if we can put a quick turnaround on the bid. Gallentine stated once we put that out, we will request the contractor have the bids back in a couple of weeks. Hoffman stated he would ask for a motion.

5. DD 14 WO 291 - Discuss W Possible Action - Investigation Summary

Smith asked if the Trustees would like to have any discussion on the two private tiles that had been inserted into the main tile, this was the only remaining item on the agenda for discussion. McClellan stated we should discuss this. Gallentine stated this was on Runge's field, done in the north end of the field, this was what ended up being discovered, two private tiles connections were found on the district tile that were straight across from each other, there was some debris caught in the tiles as they protruded into district tile too far creating an obstruction, we found debris and pop cans stuck in it. Gallentine stated that was what was causing the issue in the north end. Vierkandt stated so we instead of a cribbed connection, this needs to be repaired. Gallentine stated this has been repaired, they fixed it while the contractor was out there. Hoffman stated this is resolved. Vierkandt stated he feels he should almost be the one to pay for that, as he hired the contractor to do that 8 to 10 years ago. McClellan stated that has been discussed, Vierkandt had no idea this was done that way. Hoffman stated that this has been repaired. Gallentine stated yes it has been repaired, they offset the private tiles so the flows don't cross each other and put in factory tees, it looks good. Vierkandt stated they did a good job on the repair, he was satisfied with it. Hoffman thanked Smith for the reminder, Smith thanked Hoffman for covering it, that was all she had remaining on the agenda.

6. Comments/Discussion

## 7. Possible Action

On DD 14 Work Order 290, McClellan motioned to have CGA prepare a bid packet and send the bid packet out to in county contractors.

In additional discussion on the motion, Gallentine stated in county contractors would include: Hands On, McDowell, Gehrke, Honey Creek Land Improvement, and Williams Excavation. Vierkandt stated he was not familiar with Honey Creek, Gallentine stated he is from the southern part of the county, Runge pointed out that Honey Creek had recently done work near Vierkandt's corner. Gallentine stated he would send it out to all in county contractors to make sure we and they get a fair deal on that.

Second by Hoffman. All ayes. Motion carried.

## 8. Other Business

IRUA - Gallentine stated the IRUA recently crossed district tile and while we were out on the same project, we probed their water main where it crosses the district tile, per the permit they applied for the IRUA was supposed to clear that tile by a foot. They only cleared it by half a foot, Gallentine does not know what action the Trustees want to take, as there have been other issues with the IRUA in other districts, if it is a concern or not, it may not be a concern until we keep deepening the replacement of tile discussed today, until we get up to the point of their crossing, and all of a sudden there is a water main where that tile is supposed to be. Vierkandt thought the tile was deeper than the rural water line. Gallentine stated IRUA was under district tile, but they only cleared it by half a foot. Gallentine stated he wanted the Trustees to be aware of it and will proceed however they would like. Runge asked if that was what was being flagged down on the corner. Gallentine stated he did not know what they were flagging on the corner for, but it was not for CGA. Hoffman stated to give the Drainage Clerk a call and let her know, if they are flagging something we have not had any permits come in for up there, hopefully it is not an ask for forgiveness rather than permission situation again. Runge stated USIG was down there this morning doing locate. Vierkandt asked if that was on D41 and S27. Runge said yes, there was a Hardin County flags and white flags along the road going both ways. Gallentine stated there was a little sinkhole over the culvert there, maybe the County has come in to fix that, we would have reported it if they were there when we were. Vierkandt stated that was 2 miles east down there on D41. Gallentine stated no Dean found this one, there was one there that Honey Creek repaired. Gallentine just wanted to let the Trustees know about IRUA's crossing, as far as we know that did not hit the district tile.

## 9. Adjourn Meeting

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