

REGULAR DRAINAGE MEETING
DD 55 & DD 55-3 CREP Wetlands Meeting
January 22, 2020 1:00 PM

1/22/2020 - Minutes

1. Open Meeting

Hardin County Drainage District Board of Trustees Chairperson, Lance Granzow, opened the meeting. Also present were Trustee Renee McClellan; Trustee BJ Hoffman; Mike Bourland, P.E. of Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship; Lee Gallentine of Clapsaddle-Garber Associates and Drainage Clerk, Denise Smith.

2. Approve Agenda

Motion by Granzow to approve the agenda, second by McClellan. All ayes. Motion carried.

3. DD 55 & DD 55-3 - Discuss W Possible Action - CREP Wetland Project

Bourland introduced the project: the land is currently owned by the Stolee family, and is located just outside of Radcliffe. the wetland project does have a number of tiles that will flow into the wetland, all of those tiles are private tile and not district tile. The DNR records show this as DD 5 but upon investigation, those district tile were never installed. The tile to the south was put in by the Stolee family, and there is no district tile affected by the wetland area.

Bourland references the map and shows the line representing the water level in the wetland, and then references the 100 year storm balance. The dike will have a steel sheetpile to allow the water to flow over, there will be internal berms that allow the flow of the water to slow down and improve nitrate removal. The wetland will have an open area called a sediment forebay to allow for clean-out. Some of the 100 year storm balance may flow onto the neighbor to the north, which are relatives to the Stolees and an agreement has been reached with them for this, those areas will be filled with excess topsoil removed from the basin.

There is an 18" tile that daylight and goes under the road, and in speaking with engineer, Dean Anderson, from the designing firm WHKS, Anderson states there is a 1' difference in elevation so that the culvert that goes under the road is 1' higher than the 100 year storm balance. Gallentine asked if there was just a culvert in this location or a culvert and a tile, Gallentine noted that the tile in this area was the outlet for DD 143 in Radcliffe.

Bourland stated that they would intercept tile and lay it a a flatter grade, so it would be daylighted into the wetland, but it would all be private tile. Bourland stated that it would be the responsibility of the landowner to maintain the wetland, both the Stolees and the neighbors to the north have signed easements with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Attorney General has gone through the abstract. The landowners have entered a contract with FSA and CRP.

Bourland stated that since the wetland lies in within the drainage district, he wanted to make sure that they accommodate any concerns the Trustees may have.

Gallentine stated that there are no Drainage District facilities being modified and the only impact is the one tile outlet, and the foot freeboard at the 100 year flood, that would address that concern. Granzow stated that would address Tom Stolee's concern about the golf course draining onto his land, and this wetland will address that water flow. Gallentine noted that this is a full flow structure, the only difference in the water that comes in from the water that goes out, will be a reduction in the nitrates. Gallentine noted that this is a benefit for the district, in that it is downstream from DD 143 district facility and it is upstream from the open ditch district facility.

Bourland state that the hazelnut trees nearby will remain in place, there will be some native grasses and brome surrounding the wetland, there are some acres of existing vegetation that will not be touched. It will

be a very attractive area. There will be some clearing of the trees in the very southeast corner. Bourland noted that there is an annual CRP payment for 15 years, then there is a one time easement payment from their department to make up for what the land is worth and giving up the right to farm it in perpetuity.

Hoffman stated it is amazing that there are 2 wetland projects within 15 miles of each other. Gallentine stated he has no concerns at all about the project. Bourland stated that there are 9 projects all together that they will be bidding, three of which are in Hardin County. The pre-bid meeting for this project will be February 3rd, then the bid opening for these projects will be February 26th, each project will be bid individually, although the meetings will be held at the same time.

There is some discussion that there will be a new main as reinforced concrete pipe and there was some discussion about encasing the main in rock, so the rock will be bid as an alternate. Bourland noted that as they bid projects this time of year, they receive very competitive bids, summer bids do not receive near the attention that the early year bids receive. If costs for the total project are less than \$50,000, a hearing will not be required.

Once the bids are received back, Smith can notify landowners for a Landowner Meeting to discuss the project costs. Smith will coordinate with Bourland that he can attend or call in to the landowner Meeting.

4. Other Business

The Trustees, acting as County Supervisors, had some discussion with Bourland about the damaged bridge upstream of Pine Lake, that was recently damaged when the farm equipment went off the road at the bridge site. The Supervisors stated that it would be an ideal area for a dam and wetland construction. The previous County Engineer had drawn up some plans for the project, which the DNR reviewed, however no one entity wanted to assume the lead role on the project. It was discussed that Upper Pine Lake is undersized for the watershed.

Bourland noted that a recent project in Buena Vista County, is right about 5,000 acres and that is about the largest size Bourland's group will usually address, anything over 4,000 acres can be difficult and complex. Pine lake has water quality issues that may be addressed by adding additional wetlands. McClellan stated that the Supervisors catch a lot of grief over the water quality of Pine Lake, and the poor water quality was due to chemical runoff. Hoffman noted some issues arise from legacy phosphorous that is in the sandstone/limestone of Pine Lake, which doesn't help water quality, but a collaborative effort to help the watershed itself would be of great benefit.

Granzow noted that the DNR was interested in the project and thinks they would still be interested. Hoffman noted that many influential people, including Senators Sweeney and Grassley, were interested, but due to lack of funding it was a back burner project. Granzow stated now that the bridge has been damaged, it may be a perfect time to look at the project again and replace the bridge with a dam, but the project needs a lead person, and it is out of the County Engineer's expertise and would need a civil engineer. Hoffman noted a hydrology report may be needed, and the area has already been surveyed. It was discussed that most of the landowners were in favor, one may not have been in favor, but the landowner stated he could live with the results. Bourland said he would be happy to look into it.

5. Adjourn Meeting

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