

REGULAR DRAINAGE MEETING

7/20/2022 - Minutes

1. Open Meeting

Hardin County Drainage Chairperson BJ Hoffman opened the meeting. Also present were Trustee Lance Granzow; Trustee Renee McClellan; Machel Eichmeir, Treasurer; Lee Gallentine of Clapsaddle Garber Associates; Michael Pearce, Network Specialist; and Michelle Kuechenberg, Drainage Clerk.

2. Approve Agenda

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

3. Approve Claims For Payment

Motion by McClellan to approve the claims for payment. Second by Granzow. All ayes. Motion carried

Description	Vendor	Amount
DD 34 observation of repair of tile blow out	Clapsaddle-Garber Assoc	\$ 710.40
DD 52 Compiling repair report of sinkhole/cctv	Clapsaddle-Garber Assoc	\$ 859.10
DD 14 Revisions to report/attendance of meeting	Clapsaddle-Garber Assoc	\$ 4,118.10
Work on reclassification of main open ditch	Clapsaddle-Garber Assoc	\$ 4,920.60
DD 56 Construction observation and contract admin	Clapsaddle-Garber Assoc	\$22,615.80
DD 121 work on as-builts	Clapsaddle-Garber Assoc	\$ 616.65
DD 121 Observe sinkhole	Clapsaddle-Garber Assoc	\$ 618.10

4. DD 11 WO 331 - Discuss W Possible Action - Investigation Results

Gallentine stated he handed out a map of DD 11 main tile. Gallentine stated we were already out there because there was an intake that was backing up water. Gallentine stated we saw quite a few big trees that were along the main tile. Gallentine stated CGA was authorized to go out and replace the tile, and we will worry about the trees later. Gallentine stated once they were out there, they started seeing enough issues and wanted to report back. Gallentine stated he's worked in Buckeye and DD 11 enough times that he did not want to spend too much out there. Gallentine referred to the map and stated the red stretch had several root balls in there, they removed what they saw and could. Gallentine stated there is about 4-5 inches of silt in there. Gallentine stated the tile is v'ing in locations, they did not pull any roots out of that tile because the tile goes under the building on Carolus's property and if it started to collapse, they did not want to chase it under the building. Gallentine stated there was another intake to the north that they did not dig near because there was a rural water locate where that route is. Gallentine stated the excavator did not want to dig without rural water on standby. Gallentine stated he did not have a problem with that. Gallentine stated essentially there is 400 feet of tile that is not in best shape. Gallentine stated they located a little stretch near the bottom of the map with a tile locator, they did not excavate it. Gallentine stated they found a couple of pieces of CMP in there. Gallentine stated there is evidence of previous repairs. Gallentine stated there are still roots in there, no doubt about it, and we still have the silt issue. Gallentine stated there was also some stuff where it is uneven grade. Gallentine stated a couple of the residents stopped by and asked what they were up to. Gallentine stated he knows Merv stopped his guy, so Gallentine called Merv and talked to him. Gallentine stated he just wants to make sure everyone is all on board before we chuck in and replace 400 foot through town and reroute around a building. Granzow stated we should call the landowners in for a meeting. Gallentine stated he does not think the landowners will spend the money. Granzow asked if the water is flowing? Gallentine stated, define flow. Granzow asked if it was moving? McClellan asked how big the tile was. Granzow stated this is a similar situation we were in when we had a work order in Radcliffe. Gallentine stated at least in Radcliffe the tile was in decent shape. Gallentine stated the tile is not in good shape here. Gallentine stated the tile is 1/3 full of silt. McClellan asked who the property owner was, there are trees all the way around. Gallentine stated when he talked to Merv, Merv thought they would be good to go with just pulling all the root balls out. Gallentine stated he told Merv they did not have all the root balls pulled out. Gallentine stated he could not tell Merv where they all were without more work. Merv told Gallentine it did not matter where they were to him because his field is not upstream of it. Gallentine told him that it did matter because he is an interested citizen that will pay for some of the bill.

Gallentine stated they are looking at 400feet and \$50 per foot. Gallentine stated they are below the dollar amount that you guys can authorize without and Engineer's Report, but he thinks we should get everyone in for a landowner meeting. McClellan stated that we did not have a clue what is under this yellow line on the map, we could be talking more money. Gallentine stated you could. Granzow stated we could call them in, if they do not want us to make the decision, they could potentially take it themselves. Granzow stated he doesn't want to be mean, but the last time we did anything in Buckeye they hated everything. Granzow stated we should see what they want, to him, it is their tile. Gallentine stated he agrees. Granzow stated he would like to hear what they have to say. Hoffman told Kuechenberg to bring petitions with her that day. Granzow asked how many people were in district 11. Kuechenberg stated she did not know off hand. Kuechenberg stated she did not think it was a big district. Granzow stated that's why he is saying, why would they want to mess with us. Gallentine stated to some extent why would any of them want to because it is out of sight out of mind, one less thing they have to deal with. Granzow asked if we have a landowners list available. Kuechenberg stated she did not bring one with her. Kuechenberg asked if the Trustees want her to run up and grab a list quick. Granzow stated if he could get that, that would be great. Kuechenberg stated she will go grab one. Hoffman asked what day they wanted to have the meeting. Gallentine stated right now everything is buttoned up, it is not like we have gaping holes sitting there. Granzow stated this is almost a dealbreaker for the community, it includes the whole town. Gallentine stated it is almost a dealbreaker for Buckeye every time we bring up a work order. Gallentine stated the whole thing is, they could not afford a storm sewer system so they're relying on tile. Gallentine stated so you guys' kind of see why I held off on replacing this tile then, we just wanted to make sure people were informed. Granzow stated you guys are taking a lot of trees too. Gallentine stated the motion was to replace the tile and worry about the trees after the fact. Granzow stated maybe we want to find out if rural water punched holes through it. Gallentine stated we do not know. Gallentine stated if it was just like Radcliffe where the tile was in good shape and it was just trees, he thinks we could have done the same policy that we did in Radcliffe where we ask the city to remove the trees. Gallentine stated the tile is in terrible shape. McClellan stated that is a lot of trees in a square block area. Gallentine stated the reason they were able to survive is because the tile is right there. Gallentine stated he doubts they were even planted.

Hoffman asked Granzow what day he was thinking for a landowner meeting. Granzow stated early August is good for him. Granzow stated he would prefer the first week in August before everyone hits the fields. Kuechenberg stated August 3rd is available. Kuechenberg asked the Trustees if there was a specific time, they would like the meeting. Hoffman stated 10:00 a.m. worked for him. Kuechenberg stated she will get postcards sent out to the landowners and book the large conference room for 10:00 a.m. on August 3rd, 2022.

5. DD Big 4 Main - Discuss W Possible Action - Open Ditch Brush Spraying

Kuechenberg stated we discussed this at our last drainage meeting, we have a mulberry tree problem DD Big 4. Kuechenberg stated she received a call from a landowner in Big 4 Lat 3 and he called her back about Big 4 section 17. Kuechenberg stated that is not on our list to be sprayed so it is on this week's agenda to add all of Big 4 Main to the spraying contract for Honey Creek Land Improvement. Granzow stated he thinks somewhere in the mix of things it never got added back on. Kuechenberg stated it was a part of B&W's earlier spraying contracts and not their later ones. Gallentine stated he thinks it was probably dropped off when Weidemann did that big removal project, and it was not added back on. McClellan stated that could very well be. Gallentine stated that was a huge project between all of the counties. McClellan stated we are only adding Big 4 in Hardin County, right? Kuechenberg stated that is correct, everyone else handles their own tree removal. Granzow stated he would add it, and along with that he would send a letter to Franklin, Wright, and Hamilton that they're supposed to be using their own tree removal in Big 4. Hoffman stated it wouldn't hurt to add our contractor's information on there if they do not have one of their own. Granzow stated Wright County uses Joe Harrah. Kuechenberg stated she thinks Franklin County uses Joe Harrah. Granzow stated he thinks we should send a letter as a reminder to keep it sprayed in Big 4 because we are the controlling county on that. McClellan asked when it is supposed to be sprayed again. Kuechenberg stated the contract we have with Honey Creek states that the open ditches are supposed to be sprayed every three years. Kuechenberg stated we are starting a new round right now. McClellan stated that is good because we are catching it in time then.

Motion by McClellan to add the remainder of DD Big 4 Main open ditch to the spraying contract.
Second by Granzow.

In additional discussion on the motion, Granzow stated it's in Hardin County and he will cut trees. Granzow stated Seward has a recommendation on trees and was supposed to be here with us at today's meeting. Hoffman stated he called him this morning. Kuechenberg stated she has not heard from him since our last drainage meeting, but we approved for him to cut every tree above 4 feet. Hoffman stated he was going to give Adam a call quick. Granzow agreed. Granzow stated he just wanted that in the discussion that we said he was approved to cut and spray anything above 4 feet. Hoffman asked Seward what his suggestions were on this district. Seward stated he suggests we adopt a chemical plan even though we are going to go in with a machine. Seward stated cost effectively the best thing to do is cut or pitch them off, you can't dig them out. Seward stated the other problem with digging them out is that soil is disturbed, it will wash out. Seward stated the other thing he would like to use is a stinger with a touch of round up which should root graft, meaning it will take it down to the root. Seward stated a lot of these trees are large and have been there for a long time, this is just his suggestion. Seward stated he does not really have a money saver in mind, but he can get started and give us a better idea. Seward stated it is a mess. Hoffman stated he wants the mess taken care of. Granzow stated he does not want a bigger mess. Hoffman asked how much time Seward thinks this would take. Seward stated he thinks this would take a good solid week, if he does it right. Granzow asked if this would take over \$133,000, if it does, we would have to take it out to bids. Seward stated it will be so far south of that we should not have to worry. Hoffman asked Granzow if we want to make a motion with a not to exceed. Granzow stated he does not think we can, we already made the motion to have him go out there and cut and treat everything above 4 feet. Granzow stated he just wanted to make sure we were not going over the bidding threshold. Hoffman stated the spraying contract is over three years, but he prefers that Seward go in and get rid of the problem in Big 4. Seward stated as far as the timeframe goes, he would not mind taking care of some of it, but he would like to do a majority of it in the fall when the trees are in a dormant stage and the success rate will be a lot better. Seward stated if you have no problem with it in sections, he thinks his success rate will be a lot better. The Trustees just requested that he keeps them posted. Seward stated that would not be a problem. The Trustees thanked Seward for his time.

All ayes. Motion carried.

6. Discuss W Possible Action - New Work Order Requests

7. Other Business

Eichmeir stated she would like to request if we could change when we bill out the drainage statements. Eichmeir explained that we bill them out in May, and they pay in September, crossing fiscal years. Eichmeir stated when she purchases certificates, she purchases them in this fiscal year, but she cannot put them on her drainage certificate report until the new year tax is billed and she can establish bill numbers for the certificates. Eichmeir stated nothing matches up. Hoffman stated so reconciling is becoming an issue when you cross fiscal years. Eichmeir stated it will be cleaner for year end reporting. Eichmeir stated she understands the customers would get less time to pay from May until September, but most of the time they pay ahead. Hoffman stated he likes that Eichmeir is forthright and honest when she comes to the Trustees and always has a solution. Hoffman asked

Eichmeir what her timeline would be. Eichmeir stated her timeline would be July 1st. Eichmeir stated that is the very first day of the fiscal year. Kuechenberg stated that works for her. Eichmeir stated the customers would still have 30 days to decide whether they would like to waiver the payment if their bill is over \$500. Eichmeir stated she would still have time purchase them and Kuechenberg would still spread them like normal. Granzow stated if it works for Kuechenberg and Eichmeir and there is a plan in place he does not see why there would be an issue. Hoffman and McClellan agreed. Eichmeir stated she does not know why we ever sent them out in May, it has always been that way since she has been here. Eichmeir stated she just knows that it does not work very well for her office. McClellan stated she should have come forward sooner. McClellan stated she doesn't see why they would've said no to this. Eichmeir stated she feels like she has asked about it every year, but she does not know if she presented it in this way. Granzow stated he believes one of those years Eichmeir showed him there was no statute stating when the assessments have to be done. Eichmeir stated they just have to coincide with property taxes, so they have to be due by the end of September. Eichmeir stated she cannot find anything in the code that says when you have to send them. Kuechenberg stated she did not find anything either. Eichmeir stated she does not think it would cost the customer any difference if they came out in May vs. coming out in July. Kuechenberg stated it would not be any different. Kuechenberg stated it would just give them less time. Eichmeir stated she did do a survey with other Treasurer's that have drainage and a lot of them send their bills out with their property tax statements. Hoffman stated he likes that idea better. McClellan asked when they would be due then. Eichmeir stated they would be due by the end of September. Eichmeir stated she would not like drainage being sent out then because it would put her in a situation where that first year of the certificate would probably not be due until the next year and then they would have more interest. Granzow stated most of them do not want to pay interest, they want to pay it off. Eichmeir stated she thinks July 1st is a nice compromise because Kuechenberg can do everything she needs to do and have all of her stuff ready to send out July 1st. Granzow stated if someone calls you can tell them you're going to send it in July, you can give an idea if someone is curious of what their bill is going to be they can ask. Granzow stated he does not have any issues. Hoffman stated he does not think it is an actionable item, these ladies can put together a plan to make it work.

8. Adjourn Meeting

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