

REGULAR DRAINAGE MEETING

1/9/2023 - Minutes

1. Open Meeting

Open Meeting Hardin County Chairperson Lance Granzow. Also present were Trustee Renee McClellan, Trustee BJ Hoffman; Lee Gallentine of Clapsaddle Garber Associates; Robert Nazario; Machel Eichmeier, Treasurer; Michael Pearce, Network Specialist; and Michelle Witt, Drainage Clerk.

2. Approve Agenda

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

3. Approve Minutes

Motion by Hoffman to approve the minutes of the regular drainage meeting's dated 12/14/2022. Second by McClellan. All ayes. Motion carried.

4. Approve Claims For Payment

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

DD 6 Investigate tile blowout to main	Clapsaddle-Garber Assoc	\$ 579.95
DD 42 Investigation of blowouts to main	Clapsaddle-Garber Assoc	\$ 659.15
DD56 Attendance of meeting for improvement project	Clapsaddle-Garber Assoc	\$ 595.00

5. DD 55 Div. 3 - Discuss W Possible Action - Construction Of Pond

Granzow asked Harley Yoder to tell him a little bit about his pond project. Yoder stated he guesses he is in a drainage district, he is not really sure if he is allowed to move forward with his plans to build a pond. Granzow asked Gallentine if he could weigh in. Granzow stated when we had this discussion before we had some concerns, the largest concern being siltation and that it be engineered. Gallentine stated that is what was required last time. Gallentine stated he thinks part of the problem last time is they essentially took part of the open ditch and just bowled it out to make the pond in the open ditch. Gallentine stated if he is constructing the pond separate from the open ditch that is a whole different deal. Granzow stated he would be on the same line that if it is engineered as to what he wants to do, he knows it is an added cost, but if it was engineered and met our specifications, he does not see why it should be a problem. Granzow asked the board how they felt about Yoder hiring an Engineer to design the pond. McClellan asked how far it is away from the drainage facilities. Yoder stated he is not 100% sure there is tile in the ditch, the ditch makes some serious curves. Yoder stated according to the map he's got it says it is a straight line. Gallentine stated he does not think the straight line on the map is accurate. Gallentine stated he believes this is a portion on the map where it is an open ditch. Gallentine stated he knows this map has been around a long time, but he does not think there is a tile line there. Gallentine stated the waterway is the district facility. Yoder showed the Trustees on the map where he would like to construct the pond. Granzow stated so you would like to build the pond off of the open ditch. Granzow asked if Yoder would like to have the open ditch funnel the water into it and back out. Yoder stated that was correct. Yoder stated without damming it up. Yoder stated like we were talking about like a bowl, he is not looking to go acute. Yoder stated like a hundred-foot diameter or something like that. Granzow asked what the depth would be. Granzow asked if Yoder plans on getting in the infrastructure of the open ditch. Yoder stated the open ditch is right next to it. Yoder stated so essentially it would be part of it. Yoder stated it is washed out to the south quite a ways. McClellan stated so the ditch would be the south edge of your pond. Yoder stated that was correct. Yoder stated to the north there is a pretty good hill that goes up, it would take very little effort to bowl that out just a little bit. Yoder is thinking 6-8 feet or something. Granzow stated he would probably go with the same recommendation. Granzow asked Gallentine if he had any concerns. Gallentine stated he did not. Gallentine stated if he remembers correctly just upstream of this the board allowed a crepe wetland to be put in and that was the same type of thing. Gallentine stated it was right on the open ditch or district facility, there was engineer plans and he thinks that project worked out pretty well. Gallentine stated as long as everyone knows ahead of time what the engineering plan is and it is approved, he thinks we are good.

Yoder asked if there were any recommendations on who to get for engineering. Granzow stated it cannot be CGA. Gallentine stated that would be a conflict of interest. Hoffman asked Gallentine who he recommends. Gallentine stated if you are trying to stay close there is Schlotfeldt Engineering out of Webster City, WHKS out of Marshalltown whom Gallentine believes did the Crep Wetland. Hoffman stated that is who Mike Borland uses a lot, right? Gallentine stated that was correct. Gallentine stated they do quite a bit. Gallentine stated he does not know how small of projects they take or what their fees are or anything. Gallentine stated those would be the first he would reach out for. Gallentine stated if Yoder needs more ideas to let Gallentine know. Granzow stated just to help Harley out if he hires an Engineer is it ok if they contact you with any questions. Gallentine stated that would be ok with him. Gallentine stated he would rather work together on something on the front end than say oh I did not like that on the back end. Yoder asked who did the Crep Wetland so he can get some advice from him. Granzow stated Brent Perry. Yoder stated he will get it engineered and it shouldn't be an issue. Yoder asked if there was a tile laying underneath the open ditch. Gallentine stated he does not think there is a tile laying underneath there. Gallentine stated the reason he says that is because right west of there DD 143 outlets into the open ditch. Gallentine stated it does not go into another tile. Gallentine stated he thinks it is all open ditch through there. Yoder stated there is one that comes through there from Urhammer's that comes into the crick into the ditch. Yoder stated he had one more question, as far as straightening the open ditch to take out some of the big jogs in it, would they have an issue with that. Gallentine stated he will let him talk to his Engineer first. Hoffman stated he would use his Engineer and get a plan then run it by CGA. Gallentine stated he is just real hesitant on straightening anything in a public meeting because it will be taken out of context somewhere else. Yoder stated he just wanted to cover his bases before he started digging. Granzow stated don't dig without the approval. Hoffman stated Yoder will have to use a licensed bonded contractor as well. Hoffman stated Witt has that information for you. Hoffman stated if he has the equipment and stuff the Trustees would prefer that he goes through the process and gets Witt the paperwork. Hoffman stated it is really simple and Witt is really easy to work with. Hoffman stated we have an in-county lottery system that we use for tile repairs and stuff like this. Hoffman stated if this is something Yoder is interest in doing, we could get him the paperwork and it would get some work for him too. Witt stated she will get that paperwork for him and send it to his email. Yoder stated he would get a hold of someone to get this engineered. Yoder asked if he would submit it back to Witt. Granzow and McClellan stated that was fine. Hoffman stated you can submit it to Witt, and she can get it to Gallentine.

6. Discuss W Possible Action - Drainage Interest Rates

Witt stated this is a continuation of a conversation we had at our last meeting but this time we have Treasurer Eichmeier here with us to discuss our drainage interest rates. Witt stated she reached out to several counties about their interest rates there were several with 6% interest rates for both stamped warrants and waivers they include: Boone, Cerro Gordo, Hamilton, Osceola, Winnebago, Worth, and Franklin. Witt stated Franklin does 6% for their stamped warrants and 8% for their waivers. Witt added she likes how Franklin has them separate like that. Witt stated there were also several counties that do 5% like us which include: Hancock, Sac, Kassuth, Monona, and Pocahontas. Granzow stated he does not want to lose on interest and asked Eichmeier what she thought the best method would be to increase them. Granzow stated he does not want to make a decision without her. Eichmeier stated she can see why we have had it at 5% for that long, but with things rising now there is a need to raise it. Granzow stated he agrees, we are locking interest in from 5-20 years on some of these. Eichmeier stated that we have some that are locked in at 20 years so she can see the value of the increase. Eichmeier stated she has never thought about it being different for the certificates and the warrants but it may make decisions to not spread them out at the 8% vs 6%. McClellan stated people might prefer going somewhere else at that point. McClellan stated we do not want to be the banker. Hoffman and Eichmeier agreed. Eichmeier stated that we have almost \$2 million in stamped warrants and \$500,000 in certificates. Eichmeier stated they do take quite a bit of time to manage. Granzow asked for Eichmeier's advice on how much the increase should be because her office is the one that deals with them. Eichmeier stated she did not know she was going to make the determining factor. Granzow stated she is not. Granzow stated he needs her advice. Eichmeier stated she would like to do some more research first because she has not reached out to banks to see what rates are for the private owner to get a loan. Eichmeier stated that is basically what we are doing, we are loaning them that money. McClellan asked if that is something Eichmeier can have for them next week. Eichmeier stated she could. Granzow stated if we are going to lock something in for let's say 20 years, could we put a sunset on this so in 5 years we could see if it needs to be looked at again? McClellan stated she did not think it could be changed once someone has signed a waiver. Hoffman stated if we put something in the language stating the interest is adjustable we might be able to. Eichmeier stated if you put something in the statement that they are signing then you might be able to. Hoffman stated he didn't know if the Board of Supervisors wanted to give the Drainage Clerk and Treasurer's Office the extra work of saying we are going to look at them every year either. Granzow stated that is why he said 5. McClellan stated if it is every 5 years you would still need to look at some of them. Eichmeier asked if that was something the program would be able to handle. Eichmeier stated we would need to look into the code to see how that reads. McClellan stated we would just change the ones moving forward and not the ones that are already signed. Witt stated it would need to be going forward. McClellan stated she thinks so too. Eichmeier stated if we were going to make it fixed or adjustable, we would also need to work out language for that document, but she would rather look at the code to see if that is even a possibility. Granzow stated is it one of those things where we just aim for a really high interest rate so people don't want to use us? Eichmeier stated she thought that would be unfair to the public. Granzow stated that is the kicker, but he can see interest rates climb 15%. Nazario stated it's a possibility that they get higher than that. Granzow agreed. McClellan stated there is nothing in code stating that we can't change them again when we get to that point. Granzow stated we can for the new ones, but not for the ones that are already established. Granzow stated he does not want to lock up all of Eichmeier's money on low interest. Hoffman stated he thinks we should be the last resort for borrowing. Granzow stated right now we are not, but we were when we went to 5% because it was at 2 or 3%. Eichmeier stated we are the bargain now. McClellan stated we should just get a dart board and throw a dart because who knows where it will be. Granzow stated he sees it jumping fast and unpredictable. Granzow asked Eichmeier if she would get her recommendation back to them in a couple of weeks. Eichmeier stated she would.

7. Discuss W Possible Action - Drainage Utility Permit Application

Witt stated she added this to the agenda because the language was updated to reflect the approval of the \$10,000 crossing fee for pipelines. Witt stated she updated the language using the same language from section 1 in the application for the utility crossing fee of \$2,000. Witt stated if the Trustees are happy with the language it just needs approval otherwise we could send it off to Mike Richards our Drainage Lawyer to give it a once over. Hoffman stated he is content with how it is worded it isn't necessary to send this to Mike. Hoffman stated he also doesn't want to open up a loop hole for the next couple of weeks if it isn't approved today.

Motion by Hoffman to approve the Utility Permit Application as presented. Second by McClellan.

In additional discussion on the motion, Hoffman stated he did get a phone call from Brian at Heart of Iowa, he read about it in the paper. Hoffman stated he had to tell him that this would not impact the scope of work or the structure for Heart of Iowa Telecommunications.

All ayes. Motion carried.

8. Discuss W Possible Action - Local Contractors Meeting

Hoffman stated he asked Witt to put this on the Agenda he knows we've had contractors in before and he thinks with pending work and some of the language written into the easements that if you engage in an easement you can use your own contractor he thinks we should bring the contractors in and let them know. Hoffman stated this is kind of an annual review. Granzow stated which we did last year. Hoffman stated we should bring them in and review what is going on and what isn't. Hoffman stated if they want to chase some of this work that is going to be initially assigned to Ellingson in Minnesota and they would like to talk to landowners themselves then we should give them a heads up on that. Hoffman stated his thoughts on this were just to conduct another contractor meeting. McClellan stated if we are going to do this, we should do it shortly. Granzow stated we should try and get them in here in the next couple of weeks. Granzow asked if we had anything on the calendar a few weeks from now. Witt stated we have the Drainage Election Canvass on the calendar for Monday, January 23, at 10:30 with regular drainage to follow. Granzow stated 11:00 a.m. would work for him.

Motion by Hoffman to instruct Witt to schedule a Contractors meeting for Monday, January 23, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. Second by McClellan. All ayes. Motion carried.

9. Discuss W Possible Action - New Work Order Requests

Witt stated this work order is in drainage district 14 on Cindy loerger's land. Witt stated she believes we might have done some minor repairs a couple of years ago in work order 290. Witt stated Al Urhammer reported there are 2 sinkholes in the same spot as the previous repairs. Hoffman asked if we should send Gallentine out. Granzow stated we should have CGA take a look at this one.

Motion by Hoffman to instruct CGA to inspect and report back on the two reported sinkholes in drainage district 14. Second by McClellan.

In additional discussion on the motion, Granzow asked if Gallentine had Al's number in case he needed to contact him. Witt stated the number is attached to the work order. Gallentine stated just for reference this is the drainage district that Jack Runge, Cindy loerger, and Ronnie Vierkandt had that big discussion about doing something to the main. Gallentine stated we had the bid letting that came in high and all of that. Hoffman asked Gallentine when he touches base when Urhammer to see if Cynthia knows about this. Witt stated Urhammer told her that Cindy is the one that told him to come in and report the work order to her. Witt stated she knows that Gallentine had some concerns and thought maybe this was the district that Cindy had the private tile on her land. Witt stated that was actually district 42, right next door to this one. Gallentine stated he found the same thing. Gallentine thanked Witt for looking into it.

All ayes. Motion carried.

10. Other Business

11. Adjourn Meeting

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