

REGULAR DRAINAGE MEETING
Wednesday February 09, 2022, 9:30 A.M.
This meeting was held electronically and in-person.

2/9/2022 - Minutes

1. Open Meeting

Hardin County Drainage Chairperson BJ Hoffman opened the meeting. Also present were Trustee Renee McClellan; Trustee Lance Granzow; 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 Minutes

Motion by McClellan to approve the minutes of Regular Drainage Meeting dated 1/12/22. Second by Granzow. All ayes. Motion carried.

4. DD 102 - Discuss W Possible Action - Engineer's Letter

Gallentine stated as they were wrapping up the reclassification for DD 102 there were four laterals that they noticed that are small sized diameter tile with short runs and only one or few landowners. Gallentine stated CGA suggests that those laterals be abandoned or vacated. Gallentine stated if you look at the map, I tried to highlight which laterals they were. Gallentine stated laterals 3 & 4 are up by the road way. Gallentine stated lateral 3 is only 200ft long and 6 inches in diameter, that one involves 2 landowners. Gallentine stated lateral 4 is only 150ft long and 6 inches in diameter, that only involves 1 landowner. Gallentine stated at the time it was probably a pretty decent undertaking to put them in but with modern machinery, he thinks it is more economical for the landowners to maintain those rather than the district. Gallentine stated lateral 9 in the middle is 650ft and 7 inches in diameter, that one only involves one landowner. Gallentine stated that upstream and downstream from lateral 9 is private tile, it is like a district lateral in the middle of run of private tile. Gallentine stated lateral 11 is down at the south end there. Gallentine stated lateral 11 consists of 400ft and 6 inches in diameter, there are 2 landowners that share that lateral. Granzow stated the 2 that have 1 landowner, that is a no brainer but he thinks the other 2 we should ask. Hoffman asked if Gallentine looked at who the landowners are. Gallentine stated he has not looked at that yet. Granzow stated it could be just the same person. Gallentine stated we could keep them as district laterals if the district wanted to maintain the 150 foot of 6 inch tile. Gallentine stated he just believes the landowners can do it far more economically. Granzow stated they could if the landowners like each other, if they do not, they will not let each other through the field. Gallentine stated the one up towards the north end of the district on the east side of the road, lateral 2, it ends up by the hog confinement. Gallentine stated Bill Schnormeir Trust, Jeff Cook owns the confinement. Granzow stated he is assuming it was one landowner and then cook bought the hog sight. Gallentine stated that is what it looks like. Gallentine stated he does not even know if the tile was still there when they built the hog sight or if they had to destroy it. Granzow stated he thinks we should call Jeff Cook to verify if he has an issue, Granzow does not have an issue, Jeff is the one that is connected though. Gallentine stated he does not know if he is connected but it does go through his ground, it starts on Schnormeir's and ends on Cook's ground. Gallentine stated the other thing is, if that tile goes up into the hog confinement, it does not do anything for AG. Granzow stated it does not do much for a house either, it is a piece of ground. Gallentine stated, right, but a house is more than likely hooked up to a septic where a hog confinement they would not want any connection to. Granzow stated unless they want to irrigate the field. Gallentine stated lateral 11 is on the south end of the district. Gallentine stated Pr Cook is on the west side and Luke Mannetter is on the east side. Gallentine stated if you click out you can see DD 78 and DD 102 almost touch. Granzow asked if the Trustees wanted to call both of the landowners right now. Gallentine stated, however they would like to handle it. Granzow stated he knows he has Luke's number. McClellan stated she would like to invite them to a meeting. Hoffman agreed. Hoffman asked if Kuechenberg could contact the landowners and see if they would be willing to come to a meeting.

Kuechenberg stated she could do that. Granzow asked Kuechenberg to explain what they're talking about. Granzow stated they might even say they do not care. Gallentine stated the other item is he is not sure what legal process they need to follow to vacate a lateral. Gallentine stated he has seen it done in Franklin County a couple of times and in both of those cases it was initiated by a petition from the landowners. Gallentine stated he does not know what code section that came from. Gallentine stated we're in an area where he is unfamiliar with the process. Granzow stated we should contact all four landowners and see if they would like to vacate it. Granzow stated the outside ones for sure. McClellan stated maybe we should have her contact our Drainage Attorney to find out what we need to go through to abandon those. Granzow stated he thinks if they sign a petition it should be ok, we're just initiating the petition for them. Granzow asked Kuechenberg to contact all four landowners. Kuechenberg stated she would get a hold of them and see what their availability was. Granzow stated if you ask him and he is the only landowner he would rather just get rid of the tile. Gallentine stated he knows the ones in Franklin County the landowners did not even know they were district tile, they were just maintaining it on their own. Gallentine stated they have for years. McClellan stated that might be happening now. Granzow stated when you have it connected to another landowner that is what he worry's about. Gallentine stated they are working on wrapping the reclassification up without the laterals. Gallentine asked the Trustees if they wanted them to stop on that process until they hear back from the landowners about the laterals or would the Trustees like CGA to move forward assuming we will abandon them. Hoffman stated he will give landowner Steve Perry a call to give him an update because he has been asking for updates with this reclassification. Hoffman asked what the consensus was on the wetlands. Gallentine stated he did not have an update, he is hoping to have one next week. Hoffman asked who was all working on this one. Gallentine stated Denny and Chuck.

5. Discuss W Possible Action - New Work Order Requests

6. Other Business

DD 56- Gallentine stated they are not going to start until next week. Gallentine stated pipe production, they have about 1,000 feet of pipe made but he does not want to start until he has a little bit more. Hoffman stated they are kind of busy on another project right now too. Gallentine asked, "are they?" Gallentine stated Gehrke did not tell him that, he was in Minnesota when he called. Granzow stated they came back from Minnesota to work on a fuel leak. Granzow stated the DNR has it halted at the moment, they're waiting on a drilling permit. Hoffman stated that he saw them down there firing up the equipment this morning.

Granzow asked what we found out on the permitting process. Kuechenberg stated Mike Richards is working on a draft he will let me know when he is finished with it. Hoffman stated he thinks there might be 40 or 50 crossings. Granzow stated it would be a good thing to distinguish ahead of time which fund that goes into. Hoffman stated it would be ideal if it went into each districts fund balance. Hoffman stated he does not believe it would be an ongoing revenue source but he believes there is some validity there to offset some of the costs of the drainage clerk and some of the other things. Hoffman stated the gentleman he and McClellan spoke with said \$5,000 was a low crossing fee.

7. Adjourn Meeting

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