

REGULAR DRAINAGE MEETING

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 9:30 AM

This meeting was held electronically and in-person due to Covid-19 concerns.

3/24/2021 - Minutes

1. Open Meeting

Hardin County Drainage Chairperson BJ Hoffman opened the meeting. Also present were Trustee Renee McClellan; Trustee Lance Granzow; Lee Gallentine, Clapsaddle-Garber Associates (CGA); Landowner Greg Larson; Jolene Teske; Michael Pearce, Network Specialist; and Denise Smith, Drainage Clerk.

2. Approve Agenda

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

3. Approve Minutes

Motion by Granzow to approve the minutes of Drainage Meetings dated 02-08-21, 03-03-2021, and 03-17-2021. Second by McClellan. All ayes. Motion carried.

4. DD 56 Upper Main Tile Diversion - Consider Bids W Possible Action On Bids

Gallentine stated after the bid letting, we went back and checked the math, there were no math errors, Gehrke still is the lowest bid, the lowest option is the base bid, which is concrete pipe, obviously we are still over our estimate by a decent amount. Granzow asked how much the estimate was, Hoffman stated \$700,000. Gallentine stated yes, estimate was \$700,000, Gehrke's low bid on concrete was \$881,175.00, there was also some add alternates down at the bottom you may want to consider, some things we have done in the past, possibly. Gallentine stated he thinks we can maybe trim Gehrke's number down some after if you decide to go forward with it, maybe through some change orders, maybe we can run into some decent soil we can spoon in the concrete pipe instead of using the rock bedding, kind of like what we did on DD 9 last year, but we won't know that until after construction gets going unfortunately. Gallentine stated we are not going to be able to cut enough to get down to the estimate, talking to Gehrke and contractors in general, pipe prices have gone up recently, and it sounds like materials alone on this project were over \$500,000. Gallentine stated he did not know if the Trustees would like to have a landowner's meeting. Granzow stated that would be advisable, Hoffman concurred, and requested Smith check the calendar for available dates, sooner rather than later.

Smith asked if this would just be a landowner meeting as we have already had the hearing, Gallentine stated that would be correct. McClellan stated she would like to see it the sooner the better, Granzow recommended next week. Smith stated she could get notices out today for a meeting next week, Granzow asked the size of the district, Smith stated she thought there may be 60 landowners, and it was a large enough district to split into East and West halves. Granzow stated April 15th is planting day, so people may be in the field the week before, we will be in the field everyday then, Granzow stated he would push it fast, they were aware of this large bid letting. Smith stated she could get notices out today. Granzow stated he would like to do it on March 31, 2021. Smith asked which location the Trustees would like to hold the meeting at, we held the last landowner meeting for DD 56 at the EOC. Granzow stated that was fine and checked the availability of the building. Granzow asked if the Trustees would like to send a postcard out as this is more than \$181,000 over the original estimate. Hoffman stated he would rather just have the landowners come in and speak their piece in person. Gallentine stated they always have the option of emailing the Clerk their thoughts. Hoffman stated you can always put something in the notice that says please email or call the Clerk with their comments or concerns, Hoffman stated he did not know if we could provide the numbers to the landowners, Smith stated of course. Gallentine stated the other input you may want is on the add alternates down at the bottom. Hoffman stated he recommends making a copy of the bid tab and including that in the mailing and asked if Gallentine could present some data on pipe and material costs over the last 12 months, so we have some justification, Hoffman does not think this is all contractors trying to make a killing, Hoffman thinks this is contractors getting into material and capitol expenses that have just inflated. Granzow stated the price of grain is also up to help offset that. Gallentine stated he thinks that material prices are going a little bit higher right now and his estimate may have been a tad bit

low so that is what is contributing to it.

Granzow also asked if an easement has not been established yet. Gallentine stated that was correct. Larson asked if anything has happened there for the property owners north of this new district. Gallentine stated we have started the work behind the scenes, two of those landowners are out of state, we have not gotten easements from them yet and does not think we have even contracted the two that are out of state yet, he would have to check with their right of way guy. Granzow stated he thinks we need that in this letter as well, because without an easement this will not go forward. Larson stated he hoped we would refrain from spending a whole lot more money before we get those easements. Hoffman agreed. Gallentine stated since the bid letting, he has not made this a huge priority with their bid letting guy, because Gallentine didn't know with the prices moving forward if you wanted to spend the money to get the easements. Granzow stated we will know more next week. Gallentine stated yes, it is a bit of a chicken and the egg type thing.

Motion by Granzow to hold a DD 56 Landowner's Meeting on Wednesday March 31, 2021 at the Emergency Operations Center, at 10:30 AM with zoom and in-person options for attendance. Second by McClellan. All ayes. Motion carried.

5. Discuss W Possible Action - Contractor Update

Hoffman stated he had a phone call from Hands On Excavation, they are doing some work in DD 55-2, they are going from H Ave east to 19283 270th St, Hoffman will provide this info to Smith, and they are not crossing any district lines, but rural water is involved and Handsaker needs something from the Trustees to allow Rural Water to engage in running a line and something from the Clerk, allowing Rural Water to do work at that property. Smith stated that would be a Drainage Utility Permit Application even though they are not crossing a district tile line, they still need to file that application with us just to prove that that application can be noted in the minutes that this installation is not crossing a district tile. Hoffman stated that is correct, and they wanted to get going on that sooner than later so can we tentatively approve that if Smith wants to send that info to Jacob Handsaker. Smith stated she can email the application to Handsaker. Hoffman will let Handsaker know he needs to fill that application out and get it back to us and that it will be approved contingently until next week's meeting.

Motion by McClellan to tentatively approve the Rural Water installation in DD 55, contingent upon receiving a completed Drainage Utility Permit Application for formal approval at next week's meeting. Second by Granzow.

In additional discussion on the motion, Granzow asked if we want to issue as part of our Ordinance to allow Smith to approve these permit applications prior to the meeting subject to Trustee approval, if it does not cross the tile, the Clerk can authorize the permit. McClellan does not have a problem with that, Hoffman asked if we can do that in another motion, Granzow stated we could put that on next week's agenda. Hoffman stated okay, hearing no other discussion on this motion, Hoffman called for the vote.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Hoffman stated he would communicate to Handsaker that there is something coming from the Clerk. Granzow stated and noting that it could be verified by the Clerk and our Drainage Engineer, Hoffman stated and making sure everything is on the up and up. Granzow asked if we are trying to dump too much onto the Clerk, Granzow did not think so. Hoffman stated it might speed up some of these projects where someone is out there with an emergency like a ruptured water line, Granzow stated that could apply to any utility. Smith stated if she has reliable information and can verify that the location does not cross a tile Smith does not have any problems looking at the maps and figuring that out, that should not be any issue for Smith. Granzow stated he does not just want this for Rural Iowa he wants this for all utilities, Smith stated that would be correct, and will agenda it next week for Trustee review. Granzow stated then you could present it to the Trustees after you have approved it and bring it back to the Trustees for review and so they are aware of it.

6. Other Business

DD 26 Lat 4 - Smith stated Heather Thomas of CGA will join us next week with DD 26 Lat 4 Engineer's Letter, Thomas has that letter ready for the Trustees, but Smith did not get that in time to get it on today's agenda, so we will have it on next week's agenda.

DD 128 – Granzow stated he got a phone call from Dean Bright regarding the outstanding work order at his place, requesting Granzow stop by and take a look at it, it will not dry up. Granzow asked if Gallentine has been out there to look at it. Gallentine stated he has not been out there this spring and had been hoping to get it wrapped up this winter, but it got close enough to spring so we might as well wait and see what it does. Granzow stated Bright's expression was that you couldn't walk across it today without needing pulled out, but that was before it rained so obviously you aren't going to see anything today, but Granzow thinks we do need to address this, there is something causing it to keep taking water, so it is not hooked up. McClellan asked if we need to televise that, would that help us know what still needs hooked up or which is more efficient. Granzow stated by running a camera up a tile you won't see that either. Gallentine stated it has been videoed, this is the one where they plowed it in with the flexible dual wall, so it has been videoed and it is it didn't get hooked up, Gallentine asked if Bright had any tile maps. Granzow stated he didn't ask to be honest. Hoffman asked if someone wanted to contact Bright again or if when Granzow goes out if someone from CGA could be there and put your heads together. Granzow knows at one point they found a tile about a foot and half short of being put in place and they buried it. Granzow stated they went, and they fixed that one but who know how many more are out there, this went from an open ditch where they all should have been exposed tiles, it went from an open ditch to a closed pipe. Gallentine stated it was a little bit of a jungle out there too, there was a lot of trees and a lot of stuff out there, but there has got to be something causing this that didn't get hooked up in Gallentine's opinion. Granzow stated that's right, and he just wants to make sure it gets hooked up. Gallentine stated he does not blame Bright at all, and asked Granzow to let him know when he is going out there, Gallentine will certainly come out, we do need to get this wrapped up and figure out what is going on.

7. Adjourn Meeting

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