

REGULAR DRAINAGE MEETING

5/25/2022 - Minutes

1. Open Meeting

Hardin County Drainage Chairperson BJ Hoffman opened the meeting. Also present were Trustee Lance Granzow; Lee Gallentine of Clapsaddle Garber Associates; Taylor Roll, Mayor of Radcliffe; Michael Pearce, Network Specialist; and Michelle Kuechenberg, Drainage Clerk.

2. Approve Agenda

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

3. Approve Minutes

Motion by Granzow to approve the minutes of the regular drainage meeting dated 3/30/2022. Second by Hoffman. All ayes. Motion carried.

4. DD 143 WO 241 - Discuss W Possible Action - Tree Removal

Kuechenberg stated we have Taylor Roll, our County Engineer, here as the Mayor of Radcliffe to give us an update on the tree removal in Radcliffe. Roll stated when this first started a few years ago there were 89 trees that CGA located. Roll stated the first year we took down 11, 6 last year, and 7 this year. Roll stated he brought a list with him that he has provided and is keeping track of the trees that are being removed. Granzow stated not all of these trees are in the right of way, is that correct? Roll stated that was correct, they mostly took out Ash trees last year. Roll stated some of them are on private grounds, we have to talk to each landowner to see if they will allow it. Hoffman stated he's talked to Chuck about this a few times to see how we were doing, and he thinks Chuck handles this in a really admirable way. Hoffman stated Chuck is well respected in the community so his approach may be better than if it happened in other communities. Gallentine stated he would like to add that he appreciates the City of Radcliffe doing this, to date, as far as he is aware there has been no costs incurred by the drainage district. Granzow stated he is wondering if it might be beneficial to the district to pay for some of these tree removals so we can get it done in a timelier manner. Roll stated we will see when we get to that point, Roll feels that as long as we are taking them out at this pace every year, we are doing good. Hoffman stated he knows that most tree services if they are already in town removing trees and you ask them to remove 5 more, it would be next to no additional cost when they are already there. Hoffman stated he would be happy to consider matching. Granzow asked if Roll hired people to remove the trees. Roll stated he hired Rob's tree service. Roll stated he thinks we might have an issue with the trees that are not in city right of way. Granzow stated we could match. Hoffman stated we could. Granzow stated Radcliffe is definitely doing their due diligence. Hoffman asked what the process, rather the current price to remove a tree. Roll stated it is different for every tree. Roll stated he just had one done in his yard and paid \$1,700. Roll stated you could assume \$2,000 for a decent sized tree. Granzow asked Hoffman if he would be interested in matching. Hoffman stated he is interested in matching 50%. Hoffman stated Radcliffe has shown good intent here and he appreciates Roll's counsel. Hoffman stated he would be willing to look at if they were to take out a 36inch honey locust they would take out half of the next one. Roll asked if the Trustees would like a list of the trees to be removed per year. Granzow stated we can manage it as long as they are on our list of trees. Hoffman asked Kuechenberg to add this to her calendar and invite Chuck and Roll a chance to update the list and bring it annually. Kuechenberg stated she could do that. Granzow stated this is above and beyond what you would normally do, you're looking at doing 7 trees this year? Granzow stated with our match we could get you up to 14, we do not want you to go down to 3 ½ just because we are matching. Granzow stated the trees outside of your easement will be a larger challenge. Roll stated his plan is to do as much as he can before they get to that point. Hoffman stated that works for him. Granzow stated he will make that motion. Hoffman asked if he wanted to put a percentage, dollar amount, or # of trees? Granzow stated he would match half on the list provided. Roll stated he would be fine with a dollar amount so they would know what to expect going into the project. Hoffman stated here's one complication, he does not want the city to remove the firebush on the list and the county take out the 24inch soft maple. Hoffman asked Roll to figure out how much is spent, and they will add some money for inflation. Hoffman asked if Roll could bring back a dollar amount, he would like to move forward with it. Granzow stated if Roll is willing to put \$10,000 of the city budget in, the drainage district will match \$10,000. Granzow stated if you put \$5,000 in they probably do not want to match at all because it's like they are not making much headway. Hoffman stated he knows the intent so if Roll would bring back a dollar amount, he thinks they could make something happen. Hoffman asked Roll to let Kuechenberg know when he wants to add this back to the agenda. Kuechenberg stated she is ok with that. Granzow stated he just wants this to be sped up. Hoffman stated he knows we have some communities in the county that would just wait until we did it all. Granzow stated that is why he would like to match; they have already shown enough diligence.

5. DD 52 - Discuss W Possible Action - Attorney Opinion

Hoffman stated after reading this opinion from our Attorney Mike Richards he feels a whole lot more comfortable about where we have gone so far. Hoffman stated the one thing he recommends is providing a copy to Lee, Honey Creek Land Improvement, and Al Meister. Kuechenberg stated she will get on that. Hoffman stated he is ok with letting it go and see what happens at this point. Kuechenberg asked if the Trustees would like her to invite Al to a meeting to discuss this or just send him a copy of the opinion. Hoffman stated he would send Al a certified copy of the opinion. Kuechenberg stated she will do that. Granzow stated Al is more than welcome to come in and has been offered to come to numerous meetings to discuss this. Granzow stated let's send him a copy of the opinion and what it states and if he wants to come to a meeting to set a day and time. Hoffman asked that Kuechenberg please send Al's copy certified mail. Kuechenberg stated she can do that. Hoffman stated he would include that if Al wants to come to a meeting, we would like to agenda the item so we could coordinate it with Mike Richards. Hoffman stated he does not want to try and speak on this legal opinion. Kuechenberg stated she will get that in the mail.

6. Discuss W Possible Action - New Work Order Requests

7. Other Business

DD 9 - Gallentine stated South Fork was out there. Gallentine stated it looks like the problem is in RR right of way so they did what they could and put an intake in on the edge of the RR right of way to let it drain. Gallentine stated it looks like we will have to figure out solutions for this work order being in RR right of way.

Kuechenberg stated Mike is working on a letter to IRUA as well. Kuechenberg asked if the Trustees would like a copy of the letter first to review it or if they would like him to send it to them directly. Kuechenberg stated if they remember, this is for the outstanding invoices to CGA. Hoffman stated he would say just to have him send it to IRUA.

Hoffman asked if Gallentine was available on June 21. Hoffman stated the Auditor's office will be short handed on Wednesday because of training so they would like to move their meetings from the 22nd to the 21st. Gallentine stated that was fine with him. Kuechenberg stated that is fine with her as well. Hoffman asked Kuechenberg to add this to the agenda next week to change the meeting day. Kuechenberg stated she will have that added to the agenda.

Granzow stated he talked to Craig Duncan this last week and he is getting some confusing answers. Granzow stated with that drainage complaint that he had last fall, now that he has Taylor in here, he would like to go over this. Granzow stated Craig informed him he talked with Taylor and Taylor told him they would get to it whenever they could. Roll stated he does not remember that. Roll stated he remembers having the discussion with him that the problem was not in the ditch. Gallentine stated he would agree with Roll, the problem is not in the ditch it is out in the field. Roll stated he believes that is the conversation he has had with him. Granzow stated Duncan believes it is a county problem in the ditch and it is not being solved. Granzow stated he doesn't have a problem with that one being solved right away but does have an issue with the one across the road. Granzow stated he does not think we need to sell this thing short with what the problem really is, he thinks it is in the field. Granzow stated he told Craig we tried to contact him. Duncan asked if we tried his cellphone. Granzow stated whatever phone number we had on file. Granzow stated he does not want to sell it short, but we are not going to get out there until fall again. Granzow stated he does not want it to be dropped. Hoffman asked if Granzow wanted Kuechenberg to add that to her calendar for August. Granzow stated he would. Kuechenberg stated she would add it to her calendar. Granzow stated he thinks Roll is right, it is out in the field. Roll stated he called the Engineer's Office before drainage and Roll stated it took them a while to get out there to look at it because they have tons of them. Roll stated he was mad at how much time was wasted when we told him the problem was not in the ditch. Granzow stated he is not happy with the County, he wanted instant gratification. Gallentine stated they were supposed to fix it last fall and Craig was supposed to call him as soon as crops were out, and he never called. Granzow stated he did not, he was disgusted and thought we left it for him to fix himself. Granzow stated that was Craig's opinion. Granzow stated he does not want it to drop because if it is a drainage tile it needs to be fixed. Gallentine stated he can get someone to fix it this spring if he will let them out in the field. Hoffman stated it might not hurt to offer that to him. Gallentine asked if the Trustees would be willing to pay crop damage to get it done. Granzow stated he would call him. Hoffman asked if he wanted Gallentine to call or Kuechenberg. Hoffman asked if we have a cell phone number for Duncan now? Granzow stated he does not have a cell phone number. Roll asked if this was Eddy's dad. Granzow stated yes, this is Eddy's dad. Roll stated he will ask Eddy. Hoffman stated he suggests we let Roll and Gallentine mitigate this and if he says he is ok with us to come out and fix it we get it to the lottery asap. Granzow stated he thinks that will be best. Gallentine stated, just to clarify, you're willing to pay crop damage? Hoffman stated they are. Granzow stated normally they do not. Hoffman stated you can ask if he wants it done now, we can appease him, and he can explain to the district why they are being charged for crop damages. Hoffman stated if Duncan wants to wait until fall, he would like Duncan to put that in writing. Gallentine stated he will say they have never paid crop damages on first year, but they have paid out on second year. Granzow stated right, this is the second year, but we tried to get in last fall. Gallentine stated he guesses to have Roll give him the cell phone number and he will reach out to him.

8. Adjourn Meeting

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