

DRAINAGE MINUTES  
DISTRICT WARREN #11  
JUNE 23, 2025

The Story County Drainage District Trustees met in the Public Meeting Room of the Story County Administration Building in Nevada, IA to consider a proposal to repair the open ditch, define an access easement along that ditch, and perform a reclassification of Drainage District Warren #11. Members present were Lisa Heddens, chair, Linda Murken, and Latifah Faisal. Also present were County Engineer Darren Moon (virtually), Communications Assistant Bryce Garman, Drainage Clerk Scott Wall, and Bolton & Menk Drainage Engineer Tyler Conley along with eleven people attending in person (see attached sign-in sheet) and ten attending virtually via Zoom and identified as 553168, 1563320520, Joyce, Kharvey, Bill, S Anderson, jonrisdal, Dennis Beckman, Jason Cofer, and Douglas Tjelmeland.

Heddens called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Murken moved, seconded by Faisal, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously (MCU).

Conley gave a brief overview of the project. The main open ditch in Warren #11 is impaired by siltation, trees and debris inside the ditch banks, sloughing of the ditch banks, and meandering of the ditch channel. The Engineer's Report (on file in the Story County Auditor's Office) recommends restoring the open ditch to the design specifications used in a ditch cleanout and extension done in the 1950's. Those specifications are an approximately 10' bottom with 1.5 to 1 side slopes. The report recommends that a uniform easement be established along the open ditch. Drainage districts were assumed to have acquired a right-of-way when they were established and constructed but it is not unusual for those rights-of-way to never have been defined. Finally, the report recommended that additional lands be annexed into the district.

Murken asked about the width of the proposed access easement.

Conley replied that it was 100', 50' on either side of the centerline of the ditch. Considering the width of the ditch this easement would include about 20' outside of the spoil banks on both sides of the ditch for use by construction equipment. Landowners retain full use of the land within the easement, but it must be kept clear of permanent structures. The easement can be CRP land, or it can be cropped. The district is not liable for reimbursement of damages to anything inside the easement. For a project of this magnitude Conley recommends that landowners be compensated for damages incurred within the easement.

Heddens asked for comments from those in attendance. She noted that the trustees have received five written objections (attached) which will be part of the record of this meeting. Four of those objections were submitted by people in attendance this evening.

Randy Hill said Conley had alluded to the bottom of the ditch being ten feet wide. Is that at the very top of the district? On his land it is 30'.

Conley said that was a generalization of the width along the entire length of the ditch.

Randy said that shows how ridiculous this whole thing is, and they didn't have a clue back then. Those specs are completely inadequate today with the amount of private tile directing water into the ditch.

Gannon Hendrick objects to the project and supports the dissolution of the district. He believes the current assessment schedule is not equitable but, as there is no guarantee that reclassification will make it significantly better, he does not support the expense of a reclassification. Districts that drain into the Warren #11 open ditch should be annexed. If the properties in those districts are not annexed the current landowners in Warren #11 are paying for the benefits to landowners in those other districts. He might support the project if those districts were annexed first but is concerned that it would invite lawsuits which would simply add to the expenses incurred by Warren #11 with no guarantee of success in court. He requested that the trustees delay any decisions for 90 days to give the landowners time to review information regarding reclassification and to have a chance to dissolve the district before incurring additional costs.

*Note: Hendrick twice stated that he had obtained information that was only made available to him on Friday, June 20. That is because he requested the information from Tyler Conley and myself on Friday. Notice of this meeting was mailed to all landowners on May 1, 2025. The first request for any information I received was on June 17 when Jerry Hill stopped at the Auditor's Office. The Engineer's and Annexation Reports have been available on the Story County website since February 2024 and October 2024, respectively. – Scott Wall*

Loren Tjernagel wanted to know why the ditch was being moved fifteen feet from its current location where it is in a road ditch. It has been there for over one hundred years. Why should it be moved? It needs to be dug out and straightened but that can be done without moving it.

Conley said the report does not advocate moving the ditch as Tjernagel described. The channel does need to be armored against further erosion before it damages the road, but it is extremely difficult to create a new channel and prevent the ditch from returning to the old channel the first time it rains. The ditch will be straightened as much as possible but there is no plan to move the channel in one direction or the other.

Jon Risdal said he wants people to pay their fair share. Currently the discrepancies between what adjacent properties pay are too large to be equitable.

Phillip Ellingson said this project is too big. Hamilton and Hardin Counties should be involved. A lot of water comes down from those two counties. The state legislature should be involved in finding a solution to this problem.

Jerry Hill said his drainage assessments are ridiculous. Any work done in the district should be billed on a per acre basis. The landowners have tried to change this, but no one is willing to change the way drainage assessments are calculated. Everyone just collects their paycheck and goes home. It is time to stop talking about this and start doing something about it.

Risdal said the district needs to be well defined. He thinks going into adjacent counties should be a different project. We need to solve our own problems before trying to involve the state legislature as he has very little confidence anything will ever get done there.

Douglas Tjelmeland said there are people draining into the open ditch that are not part of the district. How can we know who these people are if the trustees do not have access to maps of private tile?

Faisal said at the last meeting it was stated that the repairs and reclassification of the existing district should be done prior to considering any annexation. During the repair project more information might be gathered that gives the district a stronger argument for the annexation of additional lands.

Tjelmeland asked how do you prove that properties are getting a monetary gain from Warren #11? That appears to be the litmus test for annexation under the Code of Iowa. What is the trustees' response to that?

Faisal said the trustees must work within the system that we have.

Murken said the district has no access to private tile maps and no statutory authority to gain that access. We must rely on the engineer to determine where the water is coming from.

Hendrick said this whole thing is a chicken or the egg dilemma. Do we annex first or repair first? He opposes doing a million-dollar project and then trying to annex more land and incurring court costs for the district with no guarantee of success.

Tjernagel said we've talked a lot about reclassification, but nothing has ever been done. How do we go about getting a reclassification? He has neighbors who are paying \$100,000, \$157,000, he's got a neighbor who is paying \$400. It needs to be reclassified but who has the right to do that?

Conley said a preliminary reclassification was done as part of the Annexation Report (on file in the Auditor's Office). While that report covers the entire district watershed it would be relatively simple to scale it back to just the existing district. Because the survey work and calculations have already been done, reclassifying the existing district only requires some computer time. While this would restrict the project costs to just the parcels in the existing district, the share of that cost between parcels would be in the same proportion to each other as it is in the preliminary classification of the entire watershed. Conley does not have those figures available because no reapportioning has been done but the process would be relatively simple.

Tjernagel asked if Conley was saying the neighbor who is paying \$100,000 will not be paying \$100,000?

Conley said he couldn't say that, but he would say that there will not be differences of hundreds or thousands of dollars between adjacent parcels. Certainly, there would be no single parcel that would pay \$100,000.

Tjernagel said he thought there were a handful of parcels paying upwards of \$50,000.

Conley said, under a reclassification, it would be very difficult for a single parcel to incur that large an assessment.

Wall said it was important to note that Conley is talking about costs per parcel. That is different from costs per owner. If you own a single forty-acre parcel, then your costs are limited to that parcel. If you own several forty-acre parcels your total cost will be significantly larger than for a single parcel.

Tjernagel asked about tree removal on Jerry's land. Are all the trees to be removed? He doesn't understand why trees along ditches would have to be removed.

Conley said there are exceptions to removing all the trees. If there is sufficient access for the district facility to be maintained, any trees that do not impede that access can be kept. The district has a job to do and slowing down the water is not a part of that job.

Tjernagel said why not leave the trees that are not impeding the flow in the ditch.

Conley said he is not opposed to keeping what can be kept. Trees within the ditch banks are an obstruction and must be removed. The reason for removing trees outside the ditch banks is to allow access to the ditch by construction equipment. If there are trees that can remain while still allowing repairs to the ditch, he will do what he can to keep those trees. Just because something is inside the easement doesn't mean it has to go. He has worked around borderline trees in other drainage projects.

Heddens said that Conley has met with landowners in other district projects on their properties to look at their trees.

Hendrick said Conley had stated he had all the calculations necessary for reclassifying the district. He thinks it would be beneficial to see those numbers before any repair is considered. People who have paid a lot in the past may be more favorable if they see their share of the project reduced while those who have been paying very little may be more opposed if their share goes up.

Risdal said he is the \$100,000 guy. He has land on both sides of the open ditch. The land on one side of the ditch is assessed double what the land on the other side is assessed and no one can explain why. That is why he favors a reclassification. Not everyone will be happy, but it needs to be more fair.

Randy said Jerry is the only person on the open ditch who has done any conservation work along the ditch, and he has done it since the 1970's. He alluded to the Bear Creek Project north of Roland. Bear Creek is a pilot project to show the way things should be done to protect water quality in streams, but we are ignoring that in Warren #11. Jerry has probably done more on his land than has been done along Bear Creek. Jerry's cedar trees have shallow root systems and do

not seek out water in drain tiles plus there are no tiles in that area. Most of the trees are on the south bank so work could be done from the north bank and most of the trees could be left alone. There is a lot of stuff on the north side too. No one has come to look at Jerry's property – not the trustees, not the County Engineer, and not Conley.

*Note: While we have a drainage district that uses Bear Creek as its outlet Bear Creek itself is not part of any drainage district. – Scott Wall*

The biggest impediment to drainage in Warren #11 is the county road bridges. When this project was first suggested in 2011 the engineer from Fox Engineering said the bridges had nothing to do with the issues in the district. Randy said the bridge downstream from Jerry is the biggest problem and he can prove it. The bridge south of Jerry's property on 650<sup>th</sup> Avenue is 31' wide and the ditch there is 30' wide. The bridge a mile upstream on 640<sup>th</sup> Avenue is 39' wide so eight more feet of water comes through that bridge than the downstream one can handle and it backs up and floods Jerry's land. In addition, Drainage District #54 empties into Warren #11 in Jerry's section so he gets all of their water too.

Heddens said there was an upcoming meeting on the Story County five-year road plan and that was the proper venue to discuss bridges.

Randy said the bridge on 650<sup>th</sup> has to be replaced before any work is done on the open ditch. Once the water gets to six or seven feet deep it starts backing up onto Jerry's land. When the water is ten feet deep the water covers 35 acres of Jerry's field. This is all because of the extra eight feet of water from the 640<sup>th</sup> Avenue bridge. This not just the big floods either. Jerry's land also gets flooded after smaller rain events. Modern (pattern) tiling has given upstream owners instant drainage and all of it goes through Jerry's land. Conley says the flow in the ditch is supposed to be 650 cubic feet per second (cfs). Randy had figures he prepared that showed ten feet of water would flow through the 650<sup>th</sup> Avenue bridge at 1,816 cfs, three times the capacity of the open ditch, while the 650<sup>th</sup> Avenue bridge would pass 2,285 cfs so there is 400cfs of water backing up onto Jerry's land when there is ten feet of water in the ditch.

The Warren #11 ditch should look like the Bear Creek project and Jerry's trees should be protected. It isn't tree roots that cause tile problems, it is the prairie grasses. Keep the trees and prairie grass away from the tiles and you won't have plugged tiles.

Conley said he has not visited the Hill property because there have been a lot of questions as to whether this project will be done. Once a project has been approved he is happy to meet with landowners on their land but until then he has no authorization to bill the district for site visits.

Randy said once the project is approved they lose all their rights to even ask Conley to meet with them.

Conley said that is not true at all. If the project is approved he has to prepare final plans and specifications. Visiting with landowners can be a part of that process. Even when the project is underway there are opportunities for change orders.

Randy said Gannon and many others are in favor of dissolving the district and they would like more time, 90 days or so, to explain it to the people that aren't at the meeting. You are giving us no details on what will be done in our section where the ditch is bigger than it is at the top and we get all the flooding. Just like the annexation. We get all the water from outside the district and those people pay nothing.

Heddens said the project needs to move forward before we can have a clear vision of what it will look like.

Randy said once the trustees move forward the project will happen. That's the way it works. The landowners will have to hire lawyers to fight the district in court. One more thing – Tjelmeland had asked why the legislature doesn't do something. The Iowa Drainage District Association (IDDA) totally blocks any changes to the Drainage Code. They are lobbyists and lawyers working for big farmers and farm managers. In 2011 some of the landowners in Warren #11 tried, with Dave Deyoe's help, to change the way drainage districts are assessed. They were rebuffed by the lobbyist for the IDDA who also refused to give Randy any contact information for the IDDA Board of Directors. Nothing will ever get done at the state house. We need time to dissolve the district and be done with it.

Tjernagel said there are four bridges upstream from Jerry's place and two have been replaced. The other two should be replaced as well.

Heddens said the county engineer has told the board that bridges will be part of the discussion at the meeting about the five-year Road Plan.

Randy said there are four bridges upstream from Jerry. Two are new and two should be replaced. They are 31' and they don't need to be that big or bigger but Jerry's bridge does. Another issue with those bridges is that they are just one lane with angle iron railings and he knows two people who were almost killed when they hit the bridges in separate accidents and the guardrails penetrated their cars.

Heddens encouraged Randy to attend the County Engineer's Five-Year Road Plan meeting. That is where road projects, including bridges, are discussed and prioritized.

Risdal has farms on Bear Creek. Farmers used to get paid to straighten the creeks. Now they are being paid plant trees. The bridges are a problem but the district can't wait for new bridges before addressing its own issues. He would hate to see everything that's been done tabled again. We need to get started on the district's problems.

Murken asked when the last work was done in Warren #11.

Wall said the last major project was in 1951 when the open ditch was repaired and extended. Since then there have been spot repairs as needed but no projects that treated the district in its entirety. Since 2011 there have been a few spot repairs but very little has been done to the open ditch since the 2011 report as State Code prohibits breaking a project into small pieces when we know the entire ditch is compromised.

Murken asked what was done in 2011.

Wall said just the Engineer's Report. No action was taken on the report because, as has been alluded to tonight, the landowners wanted time to approach Dave Deo about changing the way districts are levied and/or to collect signatures on a petition to dissolve the district.

Murken reiterated that there was talk in 2011 about dissolving the district and here we are in 2025.

Wall said Deyoe did attend a district meeting in 2011 and introduced something in the state legislature but that all took place in March, near the end of the legislative session, and too late for the legislature to take up the proposal for discussion. As to the proposal to dissolve the district it was his understanding that the landowners were not able to collect the signatures needed for a valid petition.

Randy talked about the requirements to dissolve a district. They need over 50% of the landowners controlling at least 60% of the land. They were well over the number of landowners but some of the larger landowners wouldn't sign and they were short about 300 acres. He believes that some of the farmers who wouldn't sign a petition in 2011 will sign one now but they need some time to collect those signatures.

Tjernagel asked why the supervisors were the trustees.

Wall said that under the Code of Iowa management of drainage districts defaults to the County Supervisors, acting as trustees. If the landowners wish to become their own trustees there is a process by which they can do that. Story County used to have two districts with landowner trustees. One was in Cambridge and was ultimately dissolved. The other was a joint district with Marshall County and, when maintenance issues became too large for the trustees to handle, they returned oversight to the county.

Randy said there have been concerns about what happens to the district if it is dissolved. The landowners will take care of the open ditch themselves. They can get a lot done for a lot less than they are being billed now. Even if the project is done and more land is subsequently annexed into the district the people on the ditch are still going to pay a disproportionate amount of every assessment.

Faisal said this is not the trustee's land or money. How much time do the landowners think they need to initiate a dissolution of Warren #11? She is concerned that if the trustees delay the project again we'll be back here just as we are after the 2011 Engineer's Report with nothing accomplished and spending more money.

Murken said she is no fan of drainage law but the trustees must work within the constraints of that law. They cannot keep kicking this can down the road. That kind of delay in 2011 is why we are looking at Warren #11 again now. The conditions in the open ditch have only gotten worse since 2011 and the trees have gotten bigger. If we delay the ditch will continue to degrade, the

trees will keep growing, and any solution will get more expensive. The trustees have a legal obligation to administer the district.

Murken moved, seconded by Faisal, to proceed with the Engineering Report's recommendation to repair the Drainage District Warren #11 open ditch and to direct Bolton and Menk to prepare plans and specifications and bid documents for said repair. MCU.

Faisal moved, seconded by Murken, to direct Bolton and Menk to prepare documents defining an easement of 50' on either side of the centerline of the open ditch in Drainage District Warren #11. MCU.

Murken moved, seconded by Faisal, to direct Bolton and Menk to proceed with a reclassification of Drainage District Warren #11. MCU.

Murken said there will be more meetings on this subject though she doesn't know what all of them are.

Conley said the next step is to prepare the plans and specifications and proceed towards a bid letting. There will be a meeting when the plans are presented and a date for a bid letting will be set at that time.

Jerry asked about his trees.

Conley said he will visit Jerry's property and make every attempt to save what trees can be saved. That goes for anyone else in the district that requests a site visit. He can't make any guarantees but he will do what he can to minimize tree loss and still complete the project.

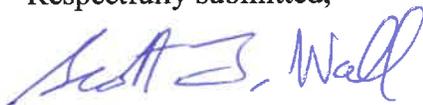
Heddens said the additional meetings are all open to the public.

Conley said that is correct, but those meetings do not require that notice be mailed to the landowners. Meetings are all posted on Story County's website.

Heddens said you can sign up on the website to get notifications of coming meetings.

Faisal moved, seconded by Murken, to adjourn. MCU. Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott T. Wall

**DRAINAGE ATTENDANCE SHEET**  
**Drainage District Warren #11**  
**June 23, 2025**

Name	Address	Owner/Tenant
Gannon Hendrick	15633 650 <sup>th</sup> Ave, McCallsburg, IA	Owner
Jerry Hill	126 Ryan Circle Roland IA	Owner
Colleen Smith	3062 Cottonwood Dr Waukegan IA	Owner
Christine Clark	107 N Center Zearing IA	Owner
Thom Z Hill	65436 150 <sup>th</sup> St McCallsburg	Owner
Connor Clark	545 Main St McCallsburg	Owner
Marcia Hill	61748-130 <sup>th</sup> St	Owner
Blaine Johnson	601 E Pearl St Zearing	owner
Jon Rosengren	614 hodge Ave Anness	BMI
Phillip Ellinger	63173 110 <sup>th</sup> Ave Roland	Owner
Loren Gearvold	1205 Park St Roland	

Story County Auditors Office  
Drainage Clerk Scott T. Wall  
900 Sixth Street  
Nevada, IA 50201-2087

FILED

25 JUN 16 PM 12: 18

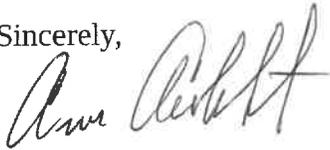
STORY COUNTY AUDITOR

June 11, 2025

Trustees of Drainage District #11, Story County Iowa,

I am writing today to express our strong opposition to any attempts to repairing the open drainage ditch in district # 11, as well as establishing easements on property owners land. The proposed project is unnecessary. The lack of action for so many years is the fault of the Trustees, not the landowners. Perhaps the trustees should be paying for this with Story County funds due to their negligence. As owners of Century Farm land in District #11 we are strongly opposed. You will bankrupt our family farm.

Sincerely,



Anne Armknecht, POA  
Thomas Armknecht  
dba ABT Farms  
(319) 330 8373  
grayknecht@aol.com

06/18/25

Jerry Hill was in the Auditor's Office this afternoon and wanted to be on record as believing that work done in drainage district Warren #11 should be billed back to district landowners on a "per acre" basis. That is, everyone would be billed the same amount per acre.

*Jerry S Hill*

**FILED**

2025 JUN 18 PM 3:31

STORY COUNTY AUDITOR

Randy Hill  
65436 150th St  
McCallsburg

515 434 2666

FILED-STORY CO AUDITOR  
JUN 20 '25 AM 9:03

I reserve the right to object to this project,  
Repairs on drainage district Warren No 11.

I ABSOLUTELY object if we do not do the  
annexation and reclassification!

The extremely high drainage assessments  
for landowners with the open ditch is CRAZY!  
and in my opinion CRIMINAL!

This has been protected by lobbyist,  
the drainage district association, farm managers,  
and large landowners who don't want to  
pay their fair share for drainage !!

I reserve all of my rights to object

Randy Hill  
Randy L Hill

Also The over 100 year old bridge on 650<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
is 31 feet wide!

The new bridge that Story County put in 8 or 9 years ago  
on 640<sup>th</sup> Ave is 39 feet wide! It is 1 mile upstream of the old  
bridge on 650<sup>th</sup> Ave. This FACT causes FASTER and more  
Severe flooding on Jerry Hill's South 40 acre field.  
over →

About 35 of the 40 acres floods from 1 to 5 feet deep because the bridge opening is too SMALL the water hits the bridge and backs up  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile causing this field to flood. It has happened many times. Most recently in June of 2023.

THESE ARE ALL FACTS THAT CAN BE PROVEN IN COURT!!

If you approve this clean out project without significantly reducing Jerry Hills drainage assessment or totally eliminating it, and do not replace the Old Bridge <sup>with one</sup> at least 42 to 45 feet wide, ~~no one~~.

STORY COUNTY WILL BE SUED!!

because they replaced the bridges in the wrong order! This bridge needs to be replaced BEFORE this project is started!!

Randy Hill

June 20, 2025

FILED-STORY CO AUDITOR  
JUN 20 '25 PM3:48

Warren 11 Drainage District Board:

It is my intent to attend the meeting on June 23, 2025, and I plan to speak on the proposals at that time as well. However, on behalf of the Hendrick Family Irrevocable Trust, I wish to submit the following statements regarding the proposed changes to the Warren 11 Drainage District.

1. Reclassification: Upon reviewing previous assessments, I believe the drainage district is not equitably classified. Those who reap the greatest benefit are those who are not subject to the excessive water that accumulates when the open drainage ditch floods or the erosion that occurs. Those who maintain high ground have their water drain first, reducing the damage to their crops and property. I do not believe the current classification reflects these inequities. In fact, I believe the current classification unjustly assesses those with the most to gain and least to lose from the drainage district the least cost, while those who suffer the greatest damages from the drainage district are assessed a disproportionately high amount. I support a reclassification, but only if that reclassification will help alleviate these disparities. If reclassification only serves to exacerbate the existing inequity, I oppose it. However, I would also like to note that ultimately, I support dissolving the drainage district.
2. Proposed Repair:
  - a. I wholly object to all other proposed actions in Warren 11. No major maintenance has been conducted in decades, and the drainage infrastructure continues to serve its purpose, and it benefits adjacent drainage districts who do not support its infrastructure. If the argument to be made is that Warren 11 does not serve its purpose, then we can use the current condition as an illustration of “worst case scenario.” Given the current condition, doing nothing would likely have little impact in the long-term future of the drainage district. In fact, I would argue that dissolving the drainage district is actually the best outcome given the inability to properly assess costs to the adjacent beneficiary drainage districts and the onerous costs associated with the proposed project.
  - b. In conversations with Tyler Conley, the engineer assigned as the project manager, it is estimated that the vegetation along the open drainage ditch alone has reduced the water capacity by nearly 50%. This does not account for other impedances like silting, meandering, and bank erosion. All of these are natural occurrences and will continue to happen whether the proposed repairs are conducted or not. This is not a one-time cost associated with maintaining the open drainage ditch. These costs will continue to be ongoing for the life of the drainage district, and there is no guarantee as to how long they will last or what the actual benefit will be. We are being asked to pay for over \$1 million in expenses, and it comes without warranty or guarantee. The only thing we can be guaranteed is that the drainage district will continue to incur costs for as long as it remains in place.
  - c. The failed annexation attempt is further evidence of why any repairs to Warren 11 are unjust. We know that adjacent drainage districts are benefiting from the open drainage ditch in Warren 11. The landowners in the previously proposed annexation areas are receiving a benefit and they are not paying for it. Moving

forward with this project only unjustly rewards these landowners while imposing huge costs on the landowners in Warren 11. If these adjacent drainage districts truly believe they are not benefiting from Warren 11, then let us dissolve our drainage district and see how they respond. Perhaps then, we can justly and equitably assess the costs to all of the beneficiaries of the proposed project.

- d. For those of us located along the open ditch, we are adversely impacted by the drainage district. Not only is there a proposed defined easement, which strips away our rights as landowners without any compensation, we also bear the brunt of the damages resulting from heavy rain events. As land drains from further away, it causes our land to be flooded, and it stays flooded longer because of the drainage district and the additional water that flows through our land.
  - e. Since Warren 11 was not constructed to support all of the additional drainage districts that discharge into it, it would require an immense amount of improvement work to increase the capacity to the level necessary to prevent flooding, especially for those of us at the bottom of the district. This project has been billed as a repair, and simply restoring the open drainage ditch to original specifications does not account for the discharge of the adjacent drainage districts. Again, there is no guarantee that simply restoring the drainage district to original specifications will prevent flooding or even provide benefit to the majority of the lands contained in Warren 11.
  - f. While the engineer's report indicates the environmental benefits of the project, it also mentions a number of environmental problems associated with the drainage district and neglects to mention others. Improved water quality is gained through practices like buffer strips and slowing the flow of water. This project proposes to damage several established buffer strips along the open drainage ditch, which will have a negative environmental impact. Additionally, increasing the speed at which water drains from fields increases the nutrients that are carried away, both harming water quality and soil quality. Anecdotally, several species of wildlife utilize the habitat along the drainage ditch. I have personally witnessed bald eagles and their nests in the trees, waterfowl, muskrats, beaver, pheasants, turkeys, fox, deer, coyotes, turtles, and even a mink. The destruction of this habitat would very likely mean many of these species would no longer exist in this area.
3. **Cost and Timing:** A previous project proposal was rejected by the landowners in the current Warren 11 Drainage District due to the estimated cost of repairs. Today, we are faced with a project that is similar in scope with an increased cost. While I acknowledge that nothing tends to get cheaper with time, the current interest rate environment exacerbates the cost of doing this project now. Many landowners cannot afford to pay their estimated assessment in whole, and they will be forced to finance it at a rate set by the board, which will be significantly higher than it would have been just a few years ago or likely a few years in the future. Given that interest rates remain near a 20-year high and the agricultural sector of our state's economy is widely accepted to be in a recession, the timing of this project could not be worse. At a time when landowners are paying more in taxes, more in interest, and making less money, this project could result in the distressed sale of properties in Warren 11.

In closing, excepting the proposed reclassification should it bring equity to the drainage district assessments, I object to the proposed project including the defining of a right-of-way in Warren 11 Drainage District, whether it is considered a repair or an improvement, and I wish to retain the rights of the Hendrick Family Irrevocable Trust to appeal the decisions of the board and pursue damages should this project move forward.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gannon Hendrick, Trustee  
Hendrick Family Irrevocable Trust

June 20, 2025

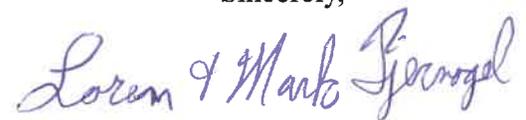
FILED-STORY CO AUDITOR  
JUN 20 '25 PM3:55

To: Lucy Martin, Scott T. Wall and Story County Board of Supervisors

Received your letters and notice Feb. 20, 2024 and May 1, 2025. My son and I, Loren and Mark Tjernagel, farm, own and rent 560 acres in section 13 of Howard Township, 10 miles north of Nevada, west of dredge ditch.

1. Our attention goes to the annexation of additional land must be considered by the board immediately!
2. Reclassification the board must consider reclassifying with appropriate adjustments of assessments immediately!
3. A very simple way to reclassify is to divide the total amount of acres in the drainage district into the amount spent each year, we could all manage that amount easily.
4. Over the years we have had crop loss from our area and also from what I call Garden City or Hardin County water.
5. It's not fair that some of our neighbors have to pay \$57,000 to over \$100,000 under this plan while others pay very little.
6. Again I say we have to say annexation of additional land and reclassification of our acres.
7. Until these items are solved, there's no reason to continue.
8. We disagree with moving the dredge ditch 15 feet, rather than cleaning the ditch and moving it a few feet.
9. We recommend leaving the trees that aren't blocking flow of water or blocking tiles.
10. We recommend leaving the trees planted by the Conservation board on the Hill farm.
11. We suggest by changing a few items the final bid could be reduced significantly.

Sincerely,



Loren and Mark Tjernagel  
(515) 231-6700

June 20, 2025

Submitted at the  
June 23, 2025  
Drainage Meeting  
STW

To: Lucy Martin, Scott T. Wall and Story County Board of Supervisors

Received your letters and notice Feb. 20, 2024 and May 1, 2025. My son and I, Loren and Mark Tjernagel, farm, own and rent 560 acres in section 13 of Howard Township, 10 miles north of Nevada, west of dredge ditch.

1. Our attention goes to the annexation of additional land must be considered by the board immediately!
2. Reclassification the board must consider reclassifying with appropriate adjustments of assessments immediately!
3. A very simple way to reclassify is to divide the total amount of acres in the drainage district into the amount spent each year, we could all manage that amount easily.
4. Over the years we have had crop loss from our area and also from what I call Garden City or Hardin County water.
5. It's not fair that some of our neighbors have to pay \$57,000 to over \$100,000 under this plan while others pay very little.
6. Again I say we have to say annexation of additional land and reclassification of our acres.
7. Until these items are solved, there's no reason to continue.
8. We disagree with moving the dredge ditch 15 feet, rather than cleaning the ditch and moving it a few feet.
9. We recommend leaving the trees that aren't blocking flow of water or blocking tiles.
10. We recommend leaving the trees planted by the Conservation board on the Hill farm.
11. We suggest by changing a few items the final bid could be reduced significantly.

Sincerely,

Loren & Mark Tjernagel

Loren and Mark Tjernagel  
(515) 231-6700

Phillip Ellinger  
515 290-2383