

DRAINAGE MINUTES
JOINT DISTRICT MARSHALL-STORY #1
MAY 1, 2014

The Drainage District Trustees of Marshall and Story Counties met in a telephone conference call in the Board Conference Room of the Story County Administration Building for a presentation of the Preliminary Engineering Report on Joint Drainage District Marshall-Story #1, Story County controlling. Members present were Paul Toot, chair, and Wayne Clinton of Story County and Denny Grabenbauer, Deane Adams (attending in person at Story County), and Dave Thompson of Marshall County. Also present were Marshall and Story County Engineers Paul Geilenfeldt and Darren Moon, Drainage Clerks Whitney Hunt and Scott Wall, ISG Engineer Kent Rode, and two land owners in the district, Jim and Doug Lively.

Toot called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Rode to talk about the report (on file in the Marshall and Story County Auditor's Offices) prepared by ISG (formerly I & S Group).

Rode said the report contains two options for addressing the issues facing the district. The first is a repair and the second an improvement. Both options cover only the 30" main tile and the open ditch beyond it to its intersection with Binford Avenue in Marshall County. Survey work was carried out in January and February of 2014 and LIDAR data was used to determine the district watershed in addition to the survey work on the ground. The survey determined that 225 acres outside the current district boundaries are benefiting from the open ditch and should be annexed into the district.

The report includes a history of the district which shows that there were many problems and delays with the original construction which began in 1907. Initial problems with getting district facilities in place led to the district management being handed over to private trustees in 1925 and construction was completed in 1926. There is a long history of issues with the open ditch and 30" main tile.

North and east of Binford Avenue the open ditch has several meanders but the grade is steep enough that the meanders do not impede outflow from the district. Rode does not see any benefit to straightening the ditch downstream from Binford Avenue.

The current standard for coefficient of drainage is 3/8". This means 3/8" of rainfall can be drained off the land in 24 hours. The report indicates the 30" main tile is functioning at 27% of the 3/8" standard.

If the trustees decide to improve the district's capacity wetlands determinations will have to be done for lands within the district. Because of restrictions in the Freedom of Information Act these determinations must be requested by individual land owners.

For either a repair or an improvement Rode recommends that the district acquire a 100' easement (50' on either side of the centerline) along the open ditch for access for repairs. The existing plans for the district do not show any easement but ISG assumes an existing 80' easement. Toot asked if land owners would be expected to stay out of the easement area. Rode said that was not the case. The report does not use market value as the cost of acquiring the easement because land owners would still be able to utilize the ground. They would also not pay taxes on the easement area. However, if repairs must be made the district is under no obligation to pay for crop damage within the easement.

Adams asked who decides how much a property benefits from being in the district. Rode said the benefits are determined by a professional engineer through the reclassification process. If a repair is done reclassification is not mandated by the Code of Iowa but in the case of an improvement the trustees

“shall” reclassify the district. Rode believes a reclassification of Marshall-Story #1 is necessary in either case.

Rode said it is the recommendation of ISG that Option 2, the improvement, be performed. This is because of the long history of issues with the existing 30” tile have shown it to be undersized from the time it was installed. Work on either option would begin in the fall of 2014 and be completed early in 2015.

Toot asked if all the necessary steps can be completed quickly enough for work to begin this year. Rode distributed a timeline (attached) showing how this could be achieved.

Doug Lively asked if the improvement’s 42” tile would be large enough if the laterals were repaired and their drainage coefficients were brought up to design specifications. Rode believed the 42” tile would be adequate.

Hunt pointed out a discrepancy between options 1 and 2 in the report. The estimated cost of reclassification is \$2,500 higher for option 1. Rode said that was an error and the amount should be reduced to \$35,000 to match the number in option 2.

Clinton moved, seconded by Adams, to acknowledge receipt of the Preliminary Engineering Report by the Trustees of Marshall-Story #1. Motion carried unanimously (MCU).

Restrictions in the Code of Iowa mandate that a public hearing cannot be held prior to June 10 (40 days after receipt of the report by trustees). Adams moved, seconded by Clinton, to schedule a meeting for 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 24 at the West Marshall High School Auditorium in State Center, IA pending availability of the facility. MCU. Adams stopped at the school later in the morning and was able to reserve the auditorium on that date from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Clinton was concerned about ensuring that land owners attend the meeting. Wall said that notification would be mailed to each land owner 40 days prior to June 10. The trustees decided to send a second notification to land owners 10 days prior to the meeting.

Clinton moved, seconded by Grabenbauer, to adjourn. MCU. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott T. Wall