

DRAINAGE MEETING  
MULTIPLE DISTRICTS  
MAY 26, 2015

The Story County Drainage District Trustees met in the Public Meeting Room of the Story County Administration Building to consider levies against several drainage districts in Story County (see attached). Members present were Rick Sanders, chair, Paul Toot, and Wayne Clinton. Also present were Engineer Darren Moon, Conservation Director Mike Cox, Vegetation Management Biologist Joe Kooiker, and Drainage Clerk Scott Wall.

Sanders called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

The first item on the agenda was the rescinding of levies against three drainage districts. Wall said that Drainage District Lincoln #47 had about 350' of crushed and plugged tile replaced and tile foreman Dave Toot had felt there was the potential for an additional \$4,000 in repairs. The district was levied for the repairs in February 2015 plus an additional \$4,000 but wet weather this spring has not brought any additional problems to light and Dave Toot does not believe the additional dollars are needed. Because the February levy is not due until September 30, 2015 and most land owners have not paid their assessments Wall recommends that the levy be rescinded and a new, smaller levy be assessed. A letter will go out to land owners advising them not to pay the earlier assessment. Those that have paid will have the amount of their first assessment refunded.

Collins #51 and Union #114 were both levied in July 2013 for tree removals to be performed by Story County Integrated Vegetation Roadside Management (IVRM) personnel. When the assessment notices were mailed the land owner in Collins #51 whose land was crossed by the open ditch removed the trees himself negating the need for a levy. Following discussions with land owners in Union #114 it was decided that the tree removal was not necessary. It is a short ditch, a relatively inactive district, and the adjacent owners would like the trees to remain. Both districts had reasonable balances prior to the 2013 levies and Wall recommends the entire amount of both levies be returned to the owners.

Clinton said he thought it was proper that the trustees refund any drainage district funds deemed unnecessary. It is the right thing to do and it shows the land owners that the trustees are exercising due diligence in keeping district funds at a reasonable level.

Sanders concurred but said he would like to see fewer assessments made before the work is done so the trustees do not get into a situation where excessive levies are made. Collins #51 was unforeseeable but Lincoln #47 did not need to be levied until May and Union #114's levy could have been avoided altogether.

Kooiker said at the start of the program it was like a buffet and IVRM wasn't sure how much they could do in a year or what amount of work was appropriate for a given district but he thinks they are getting better at knowing what they can do with experience.

Sanders replied that he was not denigrating IVRM in any way. He thinks that a little more communication with land owners prior to levying a district might help to avoid unnecessary levies.

Toot moved, seconded by Clinton, to rescind the previous levies against Drainage Districts Lincoln #47, Collins #51, and Union #114 and refund all monies collected from those levies to the land owners in each district. Motion carried unanimously (MCU).

The second item on the agenda was the levying of four drainage districts. IVRM is requesting levies against Warren #11, Grant #13, and Milford #45 for maintenance of the open ditches. In Warren #11 a proposed \$794,750.00 cleanout was cancelled in 2011 due to land owner opposition. IVRM has been removing the trees in the ditch and the district has been levied in 2013 and 2014 for this continuing work. The proposed 2015 levy is a continuation of that process. Grant #13 needs funds to kill regrowth following a 2013 tree removal and Milford #45 is a district IVRM has not worked in prior to now.

Lincoln #47 was addressed in the first part of this meeting. This levy is only for the repairs that were done and replaces the February 2015 levy. Wall also pointed out that Story City #53 has been levied by the City Council of Story City for work the city authorized. This was one of the districts that was turned over to the cities because more than 25% of the district was within the city limits. While the trustees no longer manage Story City #53 the billings still go through the County Auditor's Office.

Clinton moved, seconded by Toot, to levy Drainage Districts Warren #11, Grant #13, Milford #45, and Lincoln #47 as recommended by the drainage clerk, said levies to be dated July 1, 2015 and to be due and payable on or before September 30, 2015. MCU.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Scott T. Wall