

DRAINAGE MEETING
DISTRICT RICHLAND #20
JUNE 23, 2015

The Drainage District Trustees of Story County met in the Public Meeting Room of the Story County Administration Building in Nevada, IA to consider a Preliminary Engineering Report (On file in the Story County Auditor's Office) on repair options for Drainage District Richland #20. Members present were Rick Sanders, chair, Paul Toot, and Wayne Clinton. Also present were ISG Engineer Kent Rode and Story County Engineer and Drainage Clerk Darren Moon and Scott Wall respectively.

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

Rode summarized the report for the trustees. The district contains 3,038 acres with a watershed of 3,236 acres. The report recommends annexation of the additional lands into the district. The reason for the report is a blockage of the main tile where it crosses the ROW of the Union Pacific Railroad. In addition to the blockage and the need to annex additional land the engineer's survey uncovered problems with the open ditch and the capacity of the district as a whole. The entire district is undersized and can drain only 1/8" of water per day, one third of today's 3/8" standard, the open ditch is meandering and encroaching on the railroad's ROW and cutting into the raised RR bed, and there are large trees along the ditch.

The report offers three options for repair. The first is to repair the west fork from the district boundary upstream to the point where the RR crosses the tile. This option would replace the blocked 22" tile under the RR with a 42" tile to allow for potential future improvements. The 22" tile downstream from the RR would be replaced with 24" as 22" is no longer commonly available and the open ditch would be moved away from the rail bed, cleaned, and reshaped.

Option 2 is an improvement of the west fork. It would extend the open ditch north to the RR crossing where the 22" tile would be replaced by a culvert. The RR is not liable for installation or repairs to drainage tile but, under the Code of Iowa, they are liable for installation and repair of culverts. The open ditch would then be extended another 100' upstream from the RR. This would increase the capacity of the west fork from 1/8" to 1/2".

Sanders asked how close the open ditch can be to the RR. Rode said it should stay outside the RR ROW but can butt up against it.

Sanders asked if the proposed culvert becomes the responsibility of the RR during the project or after it is completed. Rode said the RR would be responsible as soon as the project is approved but they will probably fight it.

Richland #20 is composed of two main tiles, a west fork and an east fork. Option 3 is for a district-wide improvement that would incorporate Option 2 and increase the tile size throughout the district to attain a system-wide capacity of 1/2"

In addition to the needed repairs the report found several areas along the edge of the district that benefit from district facilities and should be annexed into the district. This would necessitate a reclassification of the lands within the district. The report recommends reclassification in any case which would split the west and east branches of the tile into separate sub-districts. ISG recommends that the trustees proceed with option 2 as it increases the capacity of the west fork for a lower cost than option 1's simple repair.

Clinton asked what the trustee's next steps should be. Rode said they need to accept the report and set a date for a public hearing at least 40 days from the acceptance of the report.

Sanders said he would like to talk with Loundsberry's, the land owners where the open ditch would be extended under option 2. He requested that Toot and Moon accompany him.

Moon said there is a sub-district of Richland #20 in Fernald, Richland #20A, that has had numerous issues. He would like to include it in the public hearing on Richland #20 in the hopes of resolving some of those issues in a public forum.

Rode recommended having an attorney who specializes in drainage law available. Sanders said he would talk to the County Attorney and ask their opinion as to whether they could assist or the project should have outside council.

Toot moved, seconded by Clinton, to accept the Engineer's Report and to direct the drainage clerk to set a date for a hearing at least 40 days from today. Motion carried unanimously (MCU).

Clinton moved, seconded by Toot, to adjourn. MCU. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott T. Wall