

DRAINAGE MEETING  
JOINT DISTRICT BOONE #93B-STORY #4  
AUGUST 16, 2017

The Drainage District Trustees of Boone and Story Counties met in the Boardroom of the Boone County Courthouse to discuss the extent of an investigation into the condition of Lateral Tile A in Joint Drainage District Boone #93B-Story #4, Boone County controlling. Members present were Stephen Duffy, chair, Bill Zinnel, and Chad Behn of Boone County and Rick Sanders, Martin Chitty, and Lauris Olson of Story County. Also present were Boone and Story County Engineers Scott Kruse and Darren Moon, Drainage Clerks Kaitlynn Olesen and Scott Wall, and ISG Consulting Engineer Kent Rode.

Duffy called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Sanders said it was his understanding the meeting had been called due to some doubt about the direction the trustees should be taking with regards to Lateral A in #93B-4. On July 5 the trustees moved to direct Rode to prepare a preliminary engineering report on the Lateral A watershed in #93B-4. Now there are concerns that the estimated cost of the study is too high to be borne by the lands served by Lateral A.

Duffy said he is concerned that this issue was brought forward by a single landowner who purchased a property with a history of flooding and now the district landowners will have to pay a significant assessment without seeing a benefit to most of them.

Sanders said that regardless of who or how many persons benefit the trustees have an obligation, under the Code of Iowa, to maintain the district to its original capacity. If the trustees have reason to believe there is a problem they cannot just set it aside because of cost. They are obligated to investigate.

Behn said if the report shows Lateral A is functioning as designed but the current land use requires a larger tile do the trustees have to make an improvement.

Sanders said all we need to know is whether Lateral A is functioning properly. If it is not the trustees have an obligation to fix it. They are not obligated to improve the tile.

Rode said the Code states that if the trustees determine that an improvement is necessary or desirable they shall appoint an engineer to make surveys as they deem appropriate to determine the nature and extent of the needed improvements, and to file a report showing the estimated costs (468.126.4.a).

Behn said he was concerned about the \$15,000 estimated cost of the report being shared among the small number of properties served by Lateral A.

Sanders said maybe we need to start with taking an initial look at Lateral A to see if it is working without initiating a study of the watershed. Once we know what condition the lateral is in we can decide on the next steps.

Rode said part of the issue is the development on the south side of Lincoln Way. The self-storage business there has ditches to direct surface water but Rode said they are silting in and no longer doing what they are supposed to do. There has also been a development proposed along the main tile. Rode does not think changes can be made to Lateral A without considering the effect on the main tile downstream from the lateral.

Sanders said he doesn't know where Boone County is on their drainage districts as a whole but Story County has only been doing the minimum repairs from around the 1960's to approximately 2010. We are

now paying the price with more large projects being done to bring our districts up to where they need to be. These issues won't just go away with all of our districts approaching 100 years in age. Boone and Story Counties need to expect that there will be more large drainage projects in the future. At a minimum the trustees are required to evaluate Lateral A and see what needs to be done with it. Can Rode just look at Lateral A as a first step?

Rode said he needed more direction. The \$15,000 estimate was for a study that would evaluate Lateral A and the Main Tile downstream from Lateral as anything done to the lateral will impact downstream properties. Certainly, he can just look at Lateral A first and the costs will be lower. ISG has already done some hourly work for Boone County and they can do that here as well.

Duffy said he favors starting out by just looking at Lateral A.

Wall said not all the trustees may be aware that #93B-4 was reclassified in 2009 as part of project that replaced the main tile. There are separate assessment schedules in place for the Laterals so any work on Lateral A will be paid for by just the lands served by Lateral A. This should negate concerns that upstream landowners on the main tile would have to pay for something that will not benefit them.

Rode said he doesn't think you can only look at Lateral A without considering the main tile. There could be a cost sharing between the lands served by the lateral and the downstream properties served by the main.

Sanders asked if Lateral A should be videotaped. What would be the cost?

Rode said that was a good step and one he was going to suggest. The cost is \$1.40/foot.

Sanders said he believes the first step today is to revisit the previous decision for an engineering study. He moved, seconded by Behn, to reconsider the trustees' actions of July 5, 2017 concerning Lateral A. Motion carried unanimously (MCU).

Behn moved, seconded by Sanders, to videotape and survey Lateral A and determine the capacity of both it and the district main below where Lateral A connects to said main. MCU.

Rode said ISG recently approved a contract with CIT to videotape a tile near McCallsburg. That is supposed to take place in two weeks and he can make a proposal to CIT to see if they can run video of Lateral A while they are in the area.

Sanders moved, seconded by Behn, to adjourn. MCU. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott T. Wall