

DRAINAGE MINUTES
MULTIPLE DISTRICTS
TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2018

The Drainage District Trustees of Story County met in the Public Meeting Room in the Story County Administration Building to consider levies against 7 drainage districts (see attached). Members present were Rick Sanders, chair, Martin Chitty, and Lauris Olson of Story County. Also present were Story County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) Biologist Joseph Kooiker and IRVM Specialist Tyler Kelley, Engineer Darren Moon, Drainage Clerk Scott Wall, and Deputy Auditor Rhonda Sykes.

Sanders called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Wall about the proposed levies.

Wall said the levies against Franklin #39, Colo-New Albany #9 & 48, Nevada #71, New Albany #75, Sherman #76, and Howard #102 are all due to repairs by Secondary Roads exceeding the available funds in those districts. It is Story County's policy to levy deficient districts such that there is at least \$2,000 in the fund after expenses to cover the costs of repairs in the near future so these districts will not be levied year after year. Larger districts, such as Sherman #76, can carry a larger fund balance (about \$5,000) while small districts like Howard #102 carry a smaller balance to avoid levying an excessive percentage of the district's original value. A \$1,000 balance is the smallest desirable carryover as anything less may not be sufficient to cover the cost of even a single repair.

Wall said Milford #32 is a little different in that it had a major repair project done in 2012 and there are 3 landowners who are in the 7th year of 10 in making waived 2012 assessment payments. The levy is necessitated by a need for additional funds to cover the interest on those waived payments, by repairs made to district tile by Secondary Roads since 2012, by a \$28,000 tile replacement project this spring, and by brush control performed by IVRM since 2012 plus more brush control planned for this year.

Chitty said the Milford #32 project was a good project and long overdue. The trustees need to keep the fund balance at a level that allows for the maintenance necessary to keep the open ditch free of growth.

Sanders said the Milford #32 cleanout was the project that led us to bringing Tyler on board and using IRVM to control the growth of brush and trees in Story County's open drainage ditches. Sanders noted that two districts, Grant #5 and Richland #20, are deficient in funds but are not being levied this year.

Wall said Richland #20 is in its second year of waived payments and the debt will come down as those payments are made every year. Like Milford #32, Richland #20 will likely require a levy before the end of the 15-year payment plan due to repairs and projects such as the currently blocked tile under the railroad immediately south of Fernald. That and a pending tile project in Fernald will likely be coming in the next year or two. Grant #5 is two years into a potential improvement that would involve annexation of additional land into the district and reclassification of the district. It would be unfair to levy the district as it currently exists if it is later enlarged and reclassified as the current owners would be paying all the engineering cost to date while the properties targeted for annexation would pay nothing.

Kooiker said that IRVM's original intention was to treat the Milford #32 open ditch every other year but they have found that there is enough regrowth in the district to necessitate spraying it on a yearly basis, at least for now. Eventually it will reach the point where it does not have to be treated as frequently.

Chitty moved, seconded by Olson, to approve the levies against all 7 drainage districts as recommended by the Drainage Clerk, said levies to be dated July 9, 2018 with assessments due and payable on or before October 1, 2018. Motion carried unanimously (MCU).

Chitty moved, seconded by Olson, to adjourn. MCU. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott T. Wall