

DRAINAGE MINUTES
JOINT DISTRICT HARDIN #58-STORY #3
WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2018

The Drainage District Trustees of Hardin and Story Counties met in a telephone conference call in Conference Room A in the Story County Administration Building to consider a levy for repairs to Joint Drainage District Hardin #58-Story #3, Story County controlling. Members present were Rick Sanders, chair, Martin Chitty, and Lauris Olson of Story County and BJ Hoffman and Lance Granzow of Hardin County. Also present were Story County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) Biologist Joseph Kooiker and IRVM Specialist Tyler Kelley and Story and Hardin County Drainage Clerks Scott Wall and Tina Schlemme.

Sanders called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m. and said it was Story County's understanding that Hardin County had considered the proposed levy (see attached) last week and had some questions regarding the amount requested.

Hoffman said their questions were primarily concerned with what the requested levy was paying for. They are not against maintaining the district but would like to know the scope of the proposed work.

Kelley said that a beaver dam and several large trees were removed from the open ditch last summer. There are a lot of willow trees in the project area, too many to cut, and IRVM's intention is to spray those trees this summer along with any re-sprouts from the trees cut last year then return in 2020 for a second spraying. In addition, there are two large piles of trees from last year's cutting that are waiting to be burned. Kelley believes the amount requested will cover this year's work and the 2020 respraying so the district will not have to be levied again in a year or two.

Schlemme asked how often Story County sprays their ditches. Hardin County is on a system where their open ditches are treated every 3 years.

Kelley said 35-1 has never been sprayed. This will be the first year of what is intended to be a 3 year treatment cycle once the existing vegetation has been cleared.

Sanders said while Hardin County has been doing regular maintenance on their open ditches for years, Story County has neglected their drainage ditches for 50 years and it will take time to address the results of that neglect.

Granzow wanted to know if IRVM charged their cost only or did they make a profit on their drainage district maintenance. Hardin's Secondary Roads Department used to take care of drainage district maintenance and they said they had to charge a profit for their work so they were not undercutting private sector companies.

Kelley said they charge their cost only, which they calculate based on IDOT fee schedules.

Schlemme said she looked at Hardin's records for treatment of their open ditches and they are paying \$.12 to \$.20 per foot. IRVM's proposal came to \$.80 per foot which is why Hardin was questioning the size of the levy. IRVM's request makes more sense now that she knows the work involves more than simply spraying growth in the ditch.

Hoffman asked if it wouldn't make more sense to levy for this year's work then come back for another levy in 2019 or 2020.

Sanders said he is not as optimistic as Kelley that the amount requested will carry us through 2020. The said the willows in #35-3 are really a jungle. Story County is playing catch up to Hardin County but we'll get there and our linear costs will come down. Sanders is comfortable with the amount being requested.

Hoffman moved, seconded by Chitty, to approve the levy against Joint Drainage District Hardin #58-Story #3 as requested by Story County, said levy to be dated July 9, 2018 with assessments due and payable on or before October 1, 2018. Motion carried unanimously (MCU) on a roll call vote.

Chitty moved, seconded by Granzow, to adjourn. MCU. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott T. Wall