

DRAINAGE MEETING
MULTIPLE DISTRICTS
AUGUST 14, 2018

The Story County Drainage District Trustees met in the Public Meeting Room of the Story County Administration Building to consider a proposal from Bolton & Menk, Inc. to provide watchman services for Story County's drainage districts. Members present were Rick Sanders, chair, Martin Chitty, and Lauris Olson. Also present were County Engineer Darren Moon, Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) Biologist Joe Kooiker, and Drainage Clerk Scott Wall.

Sanders called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The trustees heard a proposal for drainage district watchman services from Bolton & Menk, Inc. in late May of this year and the County Engineer is requesting that the proposal be approved.

Moon confirmed that he would like to have the district watchman program available as an option for the services his office provides to drainage ditches in Story County. Bolton & Menk would only be brought in on an as needed basis for any projects beyond the capabilities of the engineer's tile crew.

Chitty asked how the engineer's new tile crew chief was working out.

Moon said it has been going well, better than he had hoped.

Sanders said we need to keep in mind that any time the watchman service is utilized the cost will be borne by the district landowners. It should only be used when it is necessary.

Olson said she initially had reservations about the watchman program but now feels it will be a good option for the engineer to have available. She is pleased that the engineer's new staff are able to continue to address most of the drainage issues in the county.

Chitty said it was his understanding that Moon will be the sole point of contact when watchman services are requested. If Kooiker has a project involving trees or brush that he thinks should be handled through the watchman service that request should go through Moon.

Olson asked Kooiker if that would present any problems between him and his manager in Conservation.

Kooiker replied that it would not and he favors having the watchman program implemented as well.

Olson moved, seconded by Chitty, to accept the proposal from Bolton & Menk, Inc. to provide drainage district watchman services on an as needed basis. Motion carried unanimously (MCU).

Wall said Moon had requested that a problem with a tile under railroad right-of-way be added to the agenda as a possible first project for the watchman service.

Moon said the tile is just south of Fernald in the Richland #20 drainage district. They've televised the tile and it is partially blocked by railroad ballast but still functioning at a reduced capacity. His office has been working on this issue for over a year and, because the tile is in the railroad right-of-way, they haven't had the resources to adequately deal with issues pertaining to the railroad and the railroad's permitting process.

Sanders asked if, with the watchman program approved, Moon would need to come to the trustees every time he had a project for the watchman.

Moon said he was asking for direction from the trustees on how to utilize the watchman service.

Sanders and Chitty both said they believed this should be just like any other work done by the engineer's crews. Now that the contract for services is approved if Moon has a project requiring watchman services he should go ahead and contact Bolton & Menk. If the costs look like they may become excessive the trustees can be brought in to consider any extensive repair projects.

Wall gave an update on Joint Drainage District Marshall-Story #1 and a petition (on file in the Auditor's Office) received from 7 landowners in that district. They believe that, as part of the project to replace the main district tile, Kent Rode recommended that a waterway be created over the new tile. They feel that Jim and Doug Lively are responsible for installing the waterway but nothing has been done. Rode was contacted and neither he nor Wall recall anything being said about a waterway over the tile. Rode said it would be a good idea but it is not addressed in his report and there is no obligation on any landowner in Marshall-Story #1 to establish a waterway.

Sanders said the petition has been filed and is being treated as strictly for the trustees' information at this point and not as a call for the trustees to take action. Sanders said he told the gentleman who submitted the petition that he did not believe the trustees would be taking any action on a waterway over the Marshall-Story #1 tile.

Chitty asked if the Marshall County Trustees had received this information.

Wall said they had not but he would forward a copy of the petition to Marshall County.

Moon had a petition (on file in the Auditor's Office) from landowners in Joint Drainage District Polk-Story #1 that he wanted to bring to the trustees' attention. There are large trees growing over the district tile in the abandoned railroad Right of way near 340th Street. The petitioners would like to see the trees removed. There is also an issue with vegetation in a CRP field in Polk County but Moon said they will look at the trees first and see if removing them resolves the issue.

Chitty moved, seconded by Olson, to adjourn. MCU. Meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott T. Wall