

DRAINAGE DISTRICT MEETING
JOINT DISTRICT POLK-STORY #1
APRIL 16, 2019

The Drainage District Trustees of Polk and Story Counties met in a telephone conference call in the Story County Administration Building to consider a request from landowners in Joint Drainage District Polk-Story #1, Story County controlling, to alleviate issues with poor drainage in the district. Members present were Linda Murken, chair, Lauris Olson, and Rick Sanders of Story County and Robert Brownell, Angella Connolly, Steve Van Oort, Tom Hockensmith, and Matt McCoy of Polk County. Also present were Polk County Planning and Development Manager Bret Vandelune, County Administrator Mark Wandro, Assistant County Attorney Ralph Marasco, Assistant County Attorney David Hibbard, and Chief Assistant County Clerk Rebecca Dewey and Story County Engineer Darren Moon and Drainage Clerk Scott Wall.

Murken called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. and asked Moon to explain the situation in Polk-Story #1.

Moon said he received a letter from three district landowners (attached) in July of 2018 requesting that three issues in the district be addressed. Story County took care of the first issue, the removal of trees over the tile in Story County. Polk County was notified of a broken intake on their side of the county line. The landowners also felt there were issues on CRP land in Polk County with cottonwood trees near the tile. Since the letter was written the landowners became concerned that water was not draining under an old railroad right-of-way and they hired a contractor to video the tile. The video showed several misaligned and broken tiles. Moon believes the issues in Polk-Story #1 have risen to a level that justifies hiring an engineer to evaluate the district as a whole and prepare an engineering report on issues requiring attention. Story County uses Bolton and Menk, Inc. for drainage district projects.

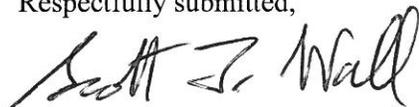
Vandelune asked for clarification on what the trustees were to do today. He believes Polk County is ready to support an engineering study. He asked if Story County had an idea of what the study would cost.

Wall confirmed that what was needed was direction from the trustees to have an engineer's report prepared for Polk-Story #1. Wall said costs depend on the size of the district but just the preliminary study and report could cost \$15-20,000. Once the report is completed the trustees will hold a hearing to present the report to all of the district landowners, get landowner input on how they would like the trustees to proceed, and decide what steps to take next.

Brownell moved, seconded by Sanders, to approve the Story County Engineer's recommendation to hire Bolton and Menk, Inc. to perform an engineering study of Polk-Story #1 and to prepare an Engineer's Report on said district. Motion carried unanimously (MCU) on a roll call vote.

Connolly moved, seconded by Sanders, to adjourn. MCU on a roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott T. Wall

July 20, 2018

To: Story County Engineer

From: Dean Lande
Mike and Charles Helland
Huxley, IA

Re: Drainage District 1 (Story/Polk shared district)

We both own and operate farms drained by the upper end of the east branch of DD-1. We have both had drainage improvements installed and those improvements are dependent on this tile for an outlet. The system appears to work only when there is relatively little pressure on the drainage system.

There are three areas of concern we have identified:

1. Trees have been allowed to grow within the abandoned railroad ROW north of 340th St. A group of trees is located over this tile on the west side of the ROW.
2. The portion of this drainage system that is in Story County is north of 340th St. The area north of 340th is consistently worse in terms of drainage than the area south of 340th. We are concerned that there may be a restriction related to the tile crossing under the road. A blow-out is located on the south side of the road between an intake in the road ditch and the road bank.
3. A CRP field is located downgrade in Polk County. The location of the tile is very obvious within the CRP (vegetation is different above the line). A few cottonwood trees are growing directly above the tile line within this area. It appears that some work has been done in the past in this area, but we are unaware of the nature or quality of the work done.

These three areas are circled on the enclosed map.

Obviously drainage systems were not designed for the kind of precipitation we received earlier in the growing season, but the problem of restricted flow was evident before that. The drainage within this district appears to be good downgrade from the CRP area mentioned above.

Respectfully,

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