



**MARCH 22, 2022**  
**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE**  
**NICOLLET COUNTY DRAINAGE AUTHORITY**

The Nicollet County Drainage Authority met in regular session on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. with Chair Dranttel presiding. Commissioners John Luepke, Jack Kolars, and Terry Morrow were also present. Also present were County Administrator Mandy Landkamer, Property & Public Services Director Jaci Kopet, County Attorney Michelle Zehnder Fischer, and Recording Secretary Sarah Frahm.

**Consent Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Luepke and seconded by Commissioner Morrow to approve the consent agenda items as follows: approval of the March 8, 2022 Drainage Authority minutes. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

**Public Hearing for CD48A Ditch Repairs**

Chris Otterness, Project Engineer at Houston Engineering, went over a presentation of the drainage issues occurring on CD48A. The recommended repairs include removing accumulated sediment from the channel, replacing a 54-inch culvert between Duck and Middle Lakes, repairing locations of bank sloughing, and removing portions of Middle Lake floating bogs, if possible. Due to the wet conditions in the area, using traditional excavation equipment will be challenging. Mr. Otterness discussed an “amphibious” excavation method using a floating excavator. Another alternative would be a “cookie cutter” method using a harvester to move material that was cut down.

Commissioner Dranttel asked which piece of equipment would be preferred to use for this type of work. Mr. Otterness stated that the cookie cutter method would be more limited in the material it could remove as compared to the amphibious equipment, which would have the ability to dredge the channel.

The meeting was opened for public comment, and Jerry Payne approached the Board. He is concerned about the weir holding too much water. After listening to the presentation, he understood that the weir would not be an area where work would be done. He didn't believe dredging material from the upper areas of the channel would accomplish much if nothing was done with the weir. With no other feedback, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed at 10:28 a.m.

Director Kopet approached the Board and asked if DNR permitting would be required, and Mr. Otterness stated that a letter of permission would be needed. The Board would first need to indicate approval of support for the project.

Commissioner Luepke asked about the cookie cutter method and how harvesting the material would work. His concern is that if the material is moved to the side, it may eventually work its way into the channel. Mr. Otterness shared that if both costs are about the same, the excavator method would be more beneficial.

Director Kopet suggested continuing the public hearing so landowners can have another opportunity to share their feedback before the County moves forward with the project. Commissioner Luepke motioned and Commissioner Morrow seconded to continue the public hearing to April 19 at 10:00 a.m. The motion was carried with all voting in favor.

**Adjourn**

Motion by Commissioner Luepke and seconded by Commissioner Morrow to adjourn the Drainage Authority Meeting. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Chair Dranttel adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.



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MARIE DRANTTEL, CHAIR  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:



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MANDY LANDKAMER,  
CLERK TO THE BOARD