



APRIL 12, 2022
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
NICOLLET COUNTY DRAINAGE AUTHORITY

The Nicollet County Drainage Authority met in regular session on Tuesday, April 12, 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 Morrow and seconded by Commissioner Luepke to approve the consent agenda items as follows: approval of the March 22, 2022 Drainage Authority minutes. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Continued Public Hearing for CD48A Ditch Repairs

Chris Otterness, Project Engineer at Houston Engineering, provided an overview of the drainage issues occurring on CD48A and the recommended repair methods. He also described the equipment options that would be necessary to complete the work, as well as the cost estimates for each.

Commissioner Kolars asked what the length of the bog was, and Mr. Otterness responded that it was 1,400 feet in length. It is a semi-boggy area with cattails and floating bog material. He stated it may take two days with an excavator to remove the material. Also, since regrowth is a concern, an herbicide could be used which would slow the regrowth down. Mr. Otterness stated that with the weir being a little over half a foot higher in elevation than the channel, cleaning it out will make an immediate difference. Commissioner Morrow asked if the “cookie cutter” equipment is rare, and Mr. Otterness responded that there are not many in this area, but they are much more common down by Louisiana in the bayou area.

The public comment portioned was opened next, and Gene Dorn approached the Board. He had concerns about the frost heaving the top of the culvert and asked if extra dirt could be put on top of the culvert to keep it more stable over time. He also mentioned that the major concerns are downstream, and he would like to see herbicide used after the work is completed to cut down on the regrowth. He mentioned that dynamite was used in the past to clear out the channel, but Mr. Otterness responded that the DNR would most likely not approve that type of work any longer.

Jerry Payne, another landowner on 48A, approached the Board to speak. He was in agreement that herbicide should be used after the project is completed so material doesn't grow back too quickly. He also provided some photographs he had taken of the culvert area on his land. There were no other comments, and the public testimony portion was closed at 10:47 a.m.

Director Kopet approached the Board with additional questions. She asked to clarify whether the culvert would be replaced or lowered. Mr. Otterness replied that it would be replaced. She then asked whether the replacement expense would lie with the County or the DNR. Mr. Otterness replied that it would be a conversation to have with the County Attorney, as the culvert crosses the drainage system. He also stated that the cost estimate he provided includes the replacement cost of the culvert. Commissioner Luepke asked the residents present at the meeting if they would like to move forward with the project, and most raised their hands in agreement.

Commissioner Morrow made a motion to recommend moving forward with the 48A repair project, including both repair options, and communicating with the DNR on the project details. Commissioner Luepke seconded the motion, and it was carried with all voting in favor.

Commissioner Morrow then motioned for Nicollet County to enter into a contract with Houston Engineering to continue working on the next steps of the 48A project. Commissioner Luepke seconded the motion, and the motion was approved with all voting in favor.

Adjourn

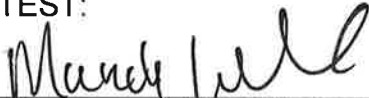
Motion by Commissioner Luepke and seconded by Commissioner Morrow to adjourn the Drainage Authority Meeting. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Chair Dranttel adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.



MARIE DRANTTEL, CHAIR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:



MANDY LANDKAMER,
CLERK TO THE BOARD