

Drainage District #37
Meeting of Private Trustees
February 25, 2022

The duly called meeting of the Drainage District #37 Trustees was called to order in the County Administration Conference Room by Chairman Allen McGranahan at 10:00 a.m. In attendance were Allen McGranahan, Bill Gerdeman, and Rodney Dillard. Clerk Connie Swan was in attendance by phone. Dale Langner was in attendance, representing the Langner/Kendall Family.

Minutes of the February 9, 2022 meetings were read and approved. They will be posted on the website.

Thank you notes were sent to those who officiated at the January 15th election.

Bill and Allen have separately walked portions of the one mile stretch of the drainage ditch from 290th Ave to 300th Ave, and were able to do so by walking on the ice. Carter Gerdeman and Luke Langner also walked this stretch and counted 240 problem trees. Carter Gerdeman and Bill Gerdeman walked Pickerel Run between where it crosses 290th Ave and a couple hundred yards south of where it crosses 340th St. Carter georeferenced the tile outlets and beaver dams, and took a picture of every 20 trees down, for a historical reference. The downed trees and branches could potentially interfere with water flow in the spring, and could also block the culverts. It was agreed that access will most likely never be easier than it is now, with the water frozen, and that the downed trees need to be addressed before spring thaw. Honeysuckles could be left intact and sprayed if necessary; root balls of cut trees will not be removed, with the hope of minimizing erosion. Research has been done to address the issue as follows:

- Michael & Son, Inc. from Armstrong, IA was contacted. Michael Sjoblom walked the area with Allen McGranahan on February 18th and submitted an estimate of \$5170.00 plus Iowa sales tax, to use a track loader and excavator to cut off trees and tree debris that is in the channel area and pile it on the ditch bank. This will be done from the ice, which will allow full access. Michael thought the project could be done in a less than a week.
- Allen also talked to Cory Jergens, who is a contractor who had done work on DD#61.
- Eric Anderson is not interested now, but would be interested in bidding on a larger project if one is done in the future.
- Adam DeLoss walked the stretch and suggested a cost of \$38,000 and that \$15,000 would be a good deal.
- Jim Pease of Kruse, Cate & Nelson, P.C. in Spencer is not interested, but provided some suggestions on contractors and engineers to contact.

Motion by Rod, second by Bill to proceed with contracting Michael & Son, Inc. of Armstrong to work on the one-mile stretch between 290th Ave and 300th Ave to remove downed trees and brush that are in the waterway, with work to begin as soon as possible. If time allows, more work can be done on other problem areas. Motion carried. Landowners along the work area will

be given a courtesy notification, with Dale Langner volunteering to communicate with the Kendall family and Melanie's LLC, and Bill communicating with Steve Hansen.

Rodney has received approval from the Dickens Fire Department to perform a planned burn in late April or early May along the stretch between 290th Ave and 300th Ave. The field edge will be disked before the burn in started.

There was discussion on the need to hire an engineer to assist with the larger drainage repair. Allen talked to a contractor, who gave a rough estimate that the cost would be \$200,000 or more to remove problem trees in the ditch right-of-way (those that are inside the bank and could be a problem in the future) and trees within 50 feet on either side of county tiles. This estimated cost exceeds the legal monetary threshold and requires a competitive bid process. An engineer would provide the parameters of the project and coordinate the bid letting. There has been communication with the following:

- Allen will meet with Beck Engineering on March 4th to look over the project.
- Lee Gallentine of Clapsaddle-Garber Associates, Inc. from Marshalltown indicated an interest in working on the project and provided an hourly rate schedule.
- Jon Rosengren of Bolton & Menk provided a 2020 schedule of fees and estimated the engineering cost would be \$25,000.
- Collin Klingbeil, who is a former employee of Bolton & Menk in Spencer, and currently employed by Jacobson-Westergard & Associates, Inc. from Estherville, is familiar with the project and made a nice presentation to Allen when they met.
- Ivan Dressler and Spencer Pech from ISG in Storm Lake will meet with Allen at a future date.

There was discussion about each of the engineers proposed thus far. Rod moved that engineer services be secured to assist with the bid-letting process and inspect tiles, with the intent of saving money in the long run. Bill seconded the motion. Motion carried. Selection of an engineer was tabled to a future meeting so that more research can be done.

In other discussion

- Bill indicated the need to draft a maintenance schedule.
- Bill will talk to Aaron in the CC Engineer's Office and Allen will talk to Bolton & Menk regarding digital copies of all reports that have been prepared and paid for by DD#37.
- Allen will update the draft of his letter to landowners to communicate what is going on, request email addresses, and direct people to the pickerelrun.com website for up-to-date information to all those who are interested.

Rod motioned to adjourn the meeting. Second by Bill. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Swan, Clerk DD#37