

Drainage District #37  
Meeting of Private Trustees  
May 9, 2022

The May 9, 2022 meeting of the Drainage District #37 Trustees was called to order by Chairman Allen McGranahan at 12:05 p.m. in the Clay County Administration Board Room. Those physically present were trustee Allen McGranahan, clerk Connie Swan, and guests, Bob Swan, Lynn Swan, Brent Swart, and Jennifer Loudermilk. In attendance by phone were trustees Bill Gerdeman and Rod Dillard, and guest Linda Carter.

The minutes of the April 7, 2022 meeting were approved as presented and will be posted on the pickerelrun.com website.

Allen presented a bill from Jacobson-Westergard & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$1828.80 for the work to date on tree inventory. Rod moved to approve payment of the bill. Second by Bill. Motion carried.

Old business:

Burning along the creek bank has been postponed until next year as weather has not allowed for it to be completed and the DNR does not allow burning after May 15<sup>th</sup>.

New business:

**1. Outstanding warrants and assessment**

The current balance of obligations for warrants outstanding is \$500,004.44. The interest-to-date on those obligations is \$83,737.29. The estimated anticipated interest until an assessment can be made this fall is \$15,000. Engineering costs for the tree removal project are estimated to be \$25,000. Other upcoming projected project costs are: Sorensen tile repair \$500; Wyatt rip rap \$10,000; attorney fees \$5,000. Total \$639,241.73.

Clay County Auditor Ann Baschke provided an explanation of the warrants. When a vendor completes work for the district, the vendor receives a warrant in the amount of their bill. The vendor has the option of (1) retaining the warrant until there are funds in the drainage district account to redeem the warrant with interest of 5%; (2) selling the warrant to Clay County to hold until there are funds in the drainage district account to redeem the warrant with interest of 5%; (3) selling the warrant to a bank or other party to

hold until there are funds in the drainage district account to redeem the warrant with interest of 5%. The interest rate is set by the Clay County Board of Supervisors. Warrants are redeemed in the order of occurrence as funds become available in the drainage district account. The majority of outstanding warrants are currently held by Clay County. According to Auditor Baschke, an assessment could not be made until the project was completed, but could be done now because of the change of trustee control. The assessment could include enough to cover anticipated costs to complete the project. When the assessment is made, landowners will have an opportunity to set up a payment plan for a 5- or 10-year period. Owners in attendance were in favor of assessing the amount of current obligations, plus enough to pay for anticipated costs to complete the project; this was not put to a vote by the trustees, and more research will be done.

2. Allen presented information from engineer Collin Klingbeil of Jacobson-Westergard & Associates, Inc regarding the tree tabulation that had been completed along the drainage ditch from the spillway to highway N-14, in which there are 150 trees that require removal, and between 300<sup>th</sup> and 290<sup>th</sup> streets, in which there are 599 trees that require removal. Allen had accompanied the engineer for a portion of the assessment and said that Collin had been diligent. Tree count on the remaining sections will be completed by technicians, hopefully in May. Tile mains have been located on the portions that have been assessed, and this will be done on the remaining sections.

Trees will be cut and the stumps treated to prevent regrowth. There is no known market for the trees.

The main question Collin had was whether trees were to be left where they fall, or piled and burned. Piling and burning will cost significantly more than letting trees lie. Landowners along the creek will be contacted to find out their preference. One contractor estimated the cost of the project to be \$200,000 to \$250,000.

Bill motioned to adjourn. Second by Rod.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00:26 p.m.