

Drainage District #37 Meeting of Private Trustees  
10:00 a.m. June 21, 2023  
Clay County Administration Board Room

The June 21, 2023 meeting of the Drainage District #37 Trustees was called to order by Chairman Allen McGranahan at 10:00 a.m. in the Clay County Administration Board Room.

In attendance in person were trustees Allen McGranahan, Bill Gerdeman, and Rod Dillard; clerk Connie Swan; guests Lynn Swan, Leonard Langner, Vince Baack, Linda Carter, Tim Thrienen, John Rahn, Mary Rahn, Leann McGranahan, and Jerry Groenewold. In attendance by phone were guests Steve Swan and Royal Larson.

Allen McGranahan officially swore in Rod Dillard, who had completed his one-year term and was re-elected to a three-year term on January 21, 2023.

The minutes of the April 13, 2023 meeting were approved as presented and will be posted on the pickereIrun.com website.

The following bills were presented:

- Jacobson-Westergard & Associates, LLC \$452.50 Engineering services from April 3, 2023 through May 31, 2023 for construction administration, site visit, and annexation evaluation.
- Iowa Drainage District Association \$239.49 for dues based on 7,983 acres @ \$0.03/acre. An additional optional amount of \$99.79 was suggested for “County Mutual Protection”

Allen pointed out that the amounts paid to Jacobson-Westergard & Associates, LLC to date for project labor total \$17,275.50, plus \$1188.30 for expenses. These amounts do not include the current bill. The approved contract amount is \$25,000. Engineer Collin Klingbeil indicated that they will utilize summer interns to complete appropriate job duties, which will help minimize upcoming costs. Allen moved to approve paying Jacobson-Westergard & Associates, LLC \$452.50 and to pay the Iowa Drainage District Association \$239.49 for dues, but not the optional amount. Second by Rod. Motion carried. There was discussion on whether we are receiving any benefit from the Iowa Drainage District Association membership. It was noted that the address on the invoice is that of the Clay County Auditor’s Office, so newsletters and other mailings may be going to that address and are not being passed along to the trustees. The request will be made to the Clay County Auditor’s Office to change the address to that of the clerk. Connie Swan will also contact the Iowa Drainage District Association to find out if any publications can be sent via email.

Business continued from previous meeting:

## **Annexation**

Some land below Dan Green Slough is not currently part of DD#37, but drains through private tiles to the lower part of the DD#37 ditch. There was discussion on whether to go through the process of annexing those acres, and whether the cost of the annexation process would outweigh the benefit, as it is anticipated that the assessment on those acres would be minimal. An outlet fee might be possible, which would be charged to acres outside the district that are using DD#37 facilities. The topic was tabled until more information can be obtained from Attorney Gary Armstrong, as well as an estimate of cost to annex from Collin Klingbeil.

## **Reclassification**

Currently, if there is work done in the district, every landowner in the district pays a portion. There are county main tiles that flow into the main ditch. Reclassification would separate each district tile line into its own area, and if a repair or improvement was completed on that tile line, only the landowners receiving direct benefit would be assessed for the cost. There was discussion on the pros and cons of reclassification. The cost to reclassify is estimated at between \$50,000 and \$60,000. Further discussion was tabled to the next meeting.

## **Repair Project Update**

Allen and Collin Klingbeil walked a portion of the area where work has been done by Reutzel Excavating. A 12-foot-wide path has been excavated where necessary to allow access along the ditch. When the work is completed, this will be seeded with fescue, and safe herbicide will be used for weed and tree control. Some spoil banks will need to be flattened; erosion control is an important focus. Some brush piles have been burned, and remaining piles will be burned after harvest. Royal Larson, who represents Jacques Farms, LLC, said he felt the work that had been completed thus far had been done well.

## **Rip Rap on Wyatt Farm**

Bill Gerdeman has attempted to meet with Reutzel Excavating to haul the rip rap, but they have not been able to connect. Rod will contact Marlan Hagedorn to see if he is interested in completing the project.

## **New Business**

The balance in DD#37 account is currently a negative ~\$8000. The district has not received any progress billings from Reutzel Excavating. Collin and the auditor's office have indicated that an assessment should not be made for anticipated costs. No assessment will be made in 2023.

US Fish & Wildlife has been assessed as a landowner of acres in the district, but as a federal entity it has not and will not pay its portion. The auditor's office suggested that the amount due

be abated. Rod moved to abate the amount due from US Fish & Wildlife. Second by Bill.  
Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Swan, Clerk

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