

Drainage District #37 Meeting of Private Trustees
10:00 a.m. March 15, 2024
Clay County Administration Board Room

The March 15, 2024 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 trustee Allen McGranahan and guests Jerry Groenewold and Mike White. Leonard Langner attended before the meeting was called to order to share some feedback with Allen, but could not stay for the meeting. In attendance by phone were trustee Bill Gerdeman, clerk Connie Swan, and guests Gannett Swan and Steve Swan.

Bill Gerdeman, who was re-elected at the annual election held on January 20, 2024, was sworn in as trustee for a three-year term.

The minutes of the October 9, 2023 meeting were approved as presented and will be posted on the pickerelrun.com website.

The following bills were presented:

- Reutzel Excavating, Inc. \$273,757.95 Progress billing #2 for tree clearing, constructing access lanes, culverts, seeding and fertilizing, and mobilization.
- Connie Swan \$70.00 for registration fee to Iowa Drainage District Association for the annual meeting held December 1, 2023

Allen moved to approve the bills. Second by Bill. Motion carried.

New Business:

Gannett and Connie Swan reported on the Iowa Drainage District Association Annual Meeting that was held in Fort Dodge on December 1, 2023. Gannett attended in person and Connie by phone. Both indicated they thought it was good to attend. There were two break-out sessions, one specifically for drainage clerks, which was facilitated by a drainage lawyer. It was an opportunity for clerks to ask questions about both general and specific issues. The other session was on more general topics.

Business continued from previous meeting:

Repair Project Update

The field entrance that was supposed to be on the Derner property, but was incorrectly placed on the adjacent Kendall property, has been moved and the issue resolved.

The trees have been removed from the west bank and a lot of burning has been done, and residue buried. There is still work to be done to level and seed the area. Allen has spoken with landowners and deer hunters, and has received mostly positive feedback on what has been done thus far.

Allen walked much of the ditch prior to work beginning and was pleased to note a low occurrence of weeds in general and thistles in particular, and there was very little erosion. After work was conducted last fall, some areas were seeded via hand seeding, which was included in the bid. There was agreement that it will be

important that the results be effective in order to control weeds and avoid erosion. Various options were discussed for future maintenance. No action was taken.

While working on the project along the upper portion of the ditch, Reutzal Excavating was able to use a long-reach hoe to remove the beaver dam that was east of the bridge on highway N14. The removal was not part of the original bid, so there may be an additional charge. There has not been evidence of beaver activity since the removal of the dam. A local trapper was going to set a trap to make sure the beavers were gone.

Landowners are encouraged to bring questions and/or concerns to the trustees. The trustees rely on landowners to keep them informed of what is transpiring on their property, and they want to know and be able to address any issues as they arise.

Rip Rap

Allen will call Rod to talk about the status of this project. The goal is to complete it before spring planting begins.

Election

The election was held on January 20, 2024, the third Saturday in January, as required by Iowa Code 468.518. Allen poised the question of whether to consider changing the date of the election in order to allow more landowners to participate. Connie Swan will research this and report at a future meeting.

Allen moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Bill. Meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Swan, Clerk
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mcgranahan.family@gmail.com

Allen McGranahan, Chair