

JOINT DRAINAGE MINUTES
DISTRICT HAMILTON #105-STORY #1
SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

The Drainage District Trustees of Hamilton and Story Counties met in person and via the ZOOM virtual meeting platform originating from the Public Meeting Room in the Story County Administration Building in Nevada, IA to receive the Engineer's Report (on file in the offices of the Hamilton and Story County Auditors) on the condition of the open drainage ditch in Joint Drainage District Hamilton #105-Story #1, Story County controlling. Members present were Lisa Heddens, chair, Latifah Faisal, and Linda Murken from Story County and Rick Young, Dan Campidilli, and Jerry Kloberdanz from Hamilton County. Also present were Hamilton County Drainage Clerk Lori Kloberdanz, Story County Outreach and Special Projects Manager Leanne Harter, Drainage Clerk Scott Wall, and Engineer Darren Moon, Drainage Engineers Kent Rode and Tyler Conley from Bolton and Menk's Algona Office, and Jacob Hagan from Bolton and Menk's Jefferson office.

Heddens called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Faisal moved, seconded by Kloberdanz, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously (MCU).

Rode summarized the Engineer's Report while sharing some of the aerial drone video Bolton & Menk had taken of the open drainage ditch on screen. The district contains 2,090 acres. The open ditch outlets into Keigley Branch which then drains to the South Skunk River. The open ditch (4.75 miles) and the bulk of the district is within Story County with the northern reaches of the district in Hamilton County. A review of the district's records shows several tree removals but no evidence of the entire ditch ever having been cleaned out.

The original ditch had 1:1 side slopes. With erosion and bank sloughing the side slopes today vary between vertical and 2:1. Rode recommends that the slopes be set at 1.5:1 when the ditch is repaired to improve their stability. No formal right-of-way (ROW) was set when the district was established. The report recommends setting a formal ROW easement of 100' (50' on either side of the centerline of the ditch) to allow access to the ditch for repairs. Landowners may still use the land within the easement but they cannot erect permanent structures there and the easement area should be removed from the property tax rolls.

The map in the report shows several areas along the edges of the district that are highlighted in pink. These are areas outside the district that appear to drain into the district and should be annexed. Because the district is still being assessed under the original classification Rode recommends that the district be reclassified.

There are several areas of CRP land along the ditch that will be damaged during repair. Restoring CRP acreage is the responsibility of the landowners but they are paid damages for the costs of that restoration by the district. Rode recommends that the open ditch be repaired, that lands outside the existing district that are benefitting be annexed, and that the district be reclassified.

Young said that, if the trustees are going to consider an annexation, they need to be prepared with survey data showing that the areas to be annexed do drain into the district.

Rode said Bolton & Menk uses LIDAR data to determine watersheds and he believes it is quite accurate and appropriate for that purpose. If areas to be annexed can show that their water is being tiled away from the district they should not be annexed. If they are not tiling away from the district they should be brought into it.

Kloberdanz moved, seconded by Murken, to accept the Engineer's Report on the open ditch in Joint Drainage District Hamilton #105-Story #1. MCU.

Wall said the trustees need to set a time and place for a public hearing to present the Engineer's Report to the district landowners. It should be an evening meeting and must be no less than 40 days from today. In the past the trustees have met in a location convenient to the landowners, most recently in Story City. Due to the ongoing pandemic Wall believes the hearing could be held in the same way as today's meeting. There would be a Zoom link so landowners can attend in person at either Story County (Nevada) or Hamilton County (Webster City) or virtually.

Murken said 40 days from today is mid to late October.

Rode recommended waiting until November to avoid conflicts with the harvest as most of the landowners in the district are farmers.

Following some debate about possible dates Faisal moved, seconded by Campidilli, to hold a public hearing on the Engineer's Report on Wednesday, November 17 at 6:00 p.m. MCU.

Murken moved, seconded by Campidilli, to adjourn. MCU. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott T. Wall