

DRAINAGE MEETING
JOINT DISTRICT BOONE #143-STORY #8
NOVEMBER 29, 2022

The Boone and Story County Drainage District Trustees met via Zoom in the Public Meeting Room of the Story County Administration Building to consider a proposal to take water from Joint Drainage District Boone #143-Story #8, Story County controlling, and to consider repairs to the open ditch and main tile in the same district. Members present were Latifah Faisal, chair, Lisa Heddens, and Linda Murken of Story County and Steve Duffy, Erich Kretzinger, and Bill Zinnel of Boone County. Also present were Story County Conservation Director Mike Cox, Engineer Darren Moon, Watershed Coordinator Sara Carmichael, Vegetation Management Biologist Joe Kooiker, IRVM Technician Tyler Kelley, Planning and Development Director Amelia Schoeneman, Drainage Clerk Scott Wall, Communications and Media Intern Bryce Garman, Boone County Drainage Clerk Kaitlynn Moran, Bolton and Menk Drainage Engineer Tyler Conley, Engineer Andrew Schippers from Ducks Unlimited, Shane Wulf from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Dustin Albrecht from the City of Ames, and land owners Lois Carlson, Gladys Schmidt, and Jake Kraayenbrink.

Faisal called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Murken moved, seconded by Zinnel, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously (MCU).

Cox spoke about the proposed wetland project. A map of the property acquired by Story County was displayed for reference purposes. Forty acres of the property is in the Ioway Creek flood plain and was previously used for row crops. It lies immediately to the east of the Boone #143-Story #8 open ditch but is not a part of the district. The proposal is to divert water from the district tile to create a nutrient removal wetland on 40 acres of the land owned by Story County for water quality improvement to drainage district outflow. Representatives from the partners in this project are in attendance and can add to his explanation of the project. The goal of this project is to provide a water quality benefit for water coming through the district facility and model nutrient removal practices for drainage water. One point that Cox emphasized was that this project will not impede the flow of water in Boone #143-Story #8 nor will it have any financial impact on the district.

Schippers spoke about the details of the project. The plans are about 95% percent complete with permission to take water from the district facilities being one of the final steps before construction. The proposal is to create a berm around the proposed wetland using material removed from the site to lower the ground level. A concrete structure holding a pump will be placed along the main district tile just upstream from the outlet. Water not pumped into the wetland will continue along the tile to the open ditch just as it does now. The water pumped into the new wetland will drain into existing wetlands to the southeast then into Ioway Creek.

Cox asked Schippers to discuss the options for taking water from the district.

Schippers said there was a second method considered which would pump water from the open ditch below the tile outlet. This would require a "trash pump" which can handle the debris likely to be present in an open ditch. Pumping water from the district tile is preferred because the water will not be carrying debris and the pump can be simpler.

Murken questioned the location of the tile outlet. She had thought it was under the 170th Street bridge, not south of the bridge as shown on the plans.

Cox confirmed that the plans show the correct location of the tile outlet. There is a waterway under the 170th Street bridge which flows to the open ditch where it drops 3-4 feet into the ditch just above the tile outlet.

Conley said he had photos of the area around the outlet that he will show when he discusses the condition of the district facilities.

Murken asked how the pump will be powered.

Schippers said they would tie into the local grid along 170th Street for electricity.

Murken asked how far the water will have to be lifted.

Schippers said about 3.8 feet.

Duffy asked if there has been any opposition to the wetland.

Cox said none that we are aware of.

Kraayenbrink said he had recently purchased a home on 48 acres of land in the district and wanted to know how this project will impact him. The property is in Boone County, south of 170th Street and west of 500th Avenue (Y Avenue in Boone County).

Conley said as far as the wetland project there will be no impact on Kraayenbrink's property or the district. There are issues with district facilities that should be addressed before the wetland project goes forward and the costs of those repairs would be assessed to the district landowners.

Wall said those issues were the subject of the second part of tonight's meeting. If we had even some rough estimates of possible project costs Moran would be able to give Kraayenbrink, or anyone else in Boone County, an estimate of their share of the cost and Wall could do the same for Story County landowners.

Duffy asked if Conley thought the wetlands proposal is a reasonable project.

Conley said it was. Taking water from drainage district facilities is very common.

Faisal said it might be best to hear from Conley on the conditions in the district before making a decision on the wetland project.

Conley displayed a map of the district. When the wetland project was first proposed Moon had expressed concerns with the condition of the open ditch and the main tile. Conley showed photos of the open ditch looking south from the outlet. It was clear in the photos that there are issues with trees and siltation inside the ditch banks. The conditions in the ditch warrant a full cleanout and repair. It would be easier to do the cleanout before the berm for the wetland is constructed. Conley also had photos of the main tile showing where it had collapsed or was collapsing in at least two areas below 170th Street. Conley said the tile should be repaired prior to the pump for the wetland being installed. This would avoid having to retrofit the pump structure into a new tile if it was installed while the existing tile is still in place. It would be best to do all needed repairs as a single project rather than addressing the ditch and tile separately. At a minimum Conley recommends an in-depth report on the main tile at least from 170th Street to the outlet and of the entire open ditch.

Murken asked if there were any problems with the district tile north of 170th Street.

Conley said none that he was aware of and that he would rely on landowner input if anyone knows of other problems with the district tile.

Duffy asked if this would require a reclassification.

Conley said no as it would just be a repair. The trustees can request a reclassification if they believe there are inequities in the existing classification but they are not obligated to reclassify. If repairs are only made to the open ditch and main tile there should not be any inequities since everyone in the district uses those facilities.

Zinnel asked if the repairs should be done before the wetland proposal is approved.

Conley said the wetland project can be approved contingent on the completion of repairs to the district facilities.

Kraayenbrink said the focus is in Story County, is that correct?

Faisal said all of the work being proposed is in Story County but the district drains parts of both Boone and Story Counties.

Kraayenbrink asked if the wetland was intended to remove some of the water from the district.

Faisal said the goal of the wetland is to improve water quality. It will take water from the district which drains both Boone and Story Counties but it is not intended to relieve pressure on the district. The district is just an available source of water.

Kraayenbrink asked if there were any crossings under the road between his property and the open ditch.

Conley showed the map of the district and pointed out that it dates from the early 1900's. The only district facility that crosses into Boone County is well to the north but there may be numerous private tiles that tie into the district facilities.

Kraayenbrink asked if anyone could show how the district benefits his property.

Moon said he thought the original plans for the district showed the main tile crossing under the county line then back to the open ditch. That would have given Kaayenbrink's land a clear benefit. Because the existing main is entirely in Story County and there are no tiles running under the road from Kraayenbrink's property to the ditch it is difficult to see how there could be a benefit.

Conley said he agreed that the road is a significant divide. If there are no pipes crossing the road along the county line there would be no way for Kraayenbrink's property to benefit from the district facilities.

Latifah asked if a reclassification is needed to remove lands from a district.

Conley has never been involved with removal of land from a district and would need to do some research on how that can be accomplished. *(Note: Story County has been through this process before in a district that was split by Interstate 35. The process is covered in Iowa Code Section 468.188. Simply put, if a public improvement cuts off a property's access to district facilities that property can be removed from the schedule without a reclassification.)*

Moon asked if the land can be left in the district but the benefit can be lowered.

Conley said that can be done though he doesn't know how best to lower the amount of a benefit without going through all of the notices and hearings associated with a classification.

Murken asked when this district was last reclassified if ever.

Wall said there has probably never been a reclassification, cleanout, or repair of the entire district which is the case with the majority of our districts. All properties in a district watershed have a presumed benefit. They can take advantage of their benefit by draining into a district facility but the benefit is there whether they use it or not. In the case of Kraayenbrink's property that benefit might be relatively small due to the difficulty of accessing a district facility.

Murken asked about the timeline for the wetland project. Is there a date it must be completed?

Cox asked how long it would take to get an engineer's report on Boone #143-Story #8.

Conley said he could have a survey crew in the field before the end of this year. A report could be ready in late winter or early spring then there would be a 40-day notification period before a meeting with landowners could be held. He is cautiously optimistic that construction could be done in early summer of 2023 since the land is not being farmed.

Cox said he could see that there would be some synergies with doing the district repairs concurrently with the wetland project. He asked if the project partners had any concerns with the availability of funding if the wetland construction is delayed.

Wulf said he does not envision any funding concerns from a delay in the project timeline.

Albrecht said since the City of Ames is not providing any funding they have no concerns about the timeline.

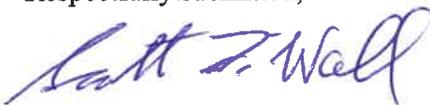
Murken said she felt the trustees should wait on approval of the wetland proposal until they have an engineer's report on the district.

Zinnel concurred.

Murken moved, seconded by Zinnel, to direct Tyler Conley to prepare an engineer's report on the condition of the Joint Drainage District Boone #143-Story #1 open ditch and the main tile from its outlet to where it passes under 170th Street. MCU.

Duffy moved, seconded by Heddens, to adjourn. MCU. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott T. Wall

