

DRAINAGE MEETING
MULTIPLE DISTRICTS
MAY 16, 2023

The Story County Drainage District Trustees met in the Public Meeting Room of the Story County Courthouse in Nevada, IA to consider levies against eight internal districts and one joint district (see attached). Members present were Latifah Faisal, chair, Linda Murken, and Lisa Heddens. Also present were County Engineer Darren Moon, Communications and Social Media Intern Bryce Garman, and Drainage Clerk Scott Wall.

Faisal called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

Wall said the levies against the eight internal districts are for completed work or pending work for which we have cost estimates or quotes. For districts with smaller original assessments the levies are such that there will be about \$2,000 carryover in the funds after expenses. Larger districts have a larger carryover.

Milford #30 is being levied because of routine maintenance and repairs by county personnel. In Richland #20, Richland #20 Sub 1, Richland #20 Sub 2, and Lincoln #91 Story County IRVM has obtained quotes for spraying the open ditches to control the growth of trees and brush this summer and early next year.

Richland #20 Sub 3 is running a deficit from a repair project and one landowner is in the 4th year of a 10-year payment plan. While it appears that the remaining payments will cover the deficit our Bookkeeping Department is concerned that interest on the outstanding debt will keep the district fund in the negative after all payments are collected six years from now. They have requested a levy against this district such that there will be about \$3,000 in the fund by the end of the waived payments.

Faisal asked if that was why the levy sheet still shows a negative balance if this levy is approved.

Wall said that was correct. The remaining payments to be collected exceed the current debt but because the current debt is building interest the County Bookkeeping Department believes the fund will be negative by the time the last installment payment is made.

Sherman #83 represents the first use of Bolton & Menk's drainage watchman service for a large repair. This spring a significant length of district tile was replaced and we have the invoice from the contractor, invoices from Bolton & Menk, and know the remaining amount Bolton & Menk has yet to bill the district.

Murken noted that the levy against Sherman #83 was quite large and there were only 28 tax parcels in the district. How many landowners?

Wall guessed perhaps 15 landowners so many of them would have significant assessments. The trustees should consider allowing waived payments against this district and could make waived payments available for all eight districts. He would not recommend offering more than the minimum ten-year payment plan allowed by the Code of Iowa. (*Note: Sherman #83 has 16 landowners.*)

Moon asked if Secondary Roads would be expected to cover the costs of the pending repair until assessment payments are received.

Wall replied that he expected Bolton & Menk to handle billings and explain the process to the contractor. We will send the contractor stamped warrants and see what happens. Someone may end up having to buy the warrants so the contractor gets paid before October. That could be the Engineer's Office.

In Warren #11 a landowner approached us this spring with a request to repair a section of the open ditch on his property which had collapsed, allowing floodwaters to enter his field and wash away a significant amount of soil. This project was also turned over to Bolton & Menk's district watchman service. The work has not begun but we have received a \$25,000 estimate for the repair. The time the trustees approved the use of the watchman service during an earlier meeting and they also directed Bolton & Menk to draft a new engineer's report on the condition of the Warren #11 open ditch, updating a 2010 report by Fox Engineering. The current damage to the open ditch bank is likely the result of continued inaction on needed repairs to the open ditch which have been delayed due to landowner resistance. This levy is larger than just the repair estimate because there will watchman service billings and engineering report costs that will be more than the \$10,266.38 carryover from this levy. Levying now will help prevent the district from carrying a large debt load into 2024.

Heddens moved, seconded by Murken, to accept the drainage clerk's recommendation to levy Drainage Districts Warren #11, Richland #20, Richland #20 Sub 1, Richland #20 Sub 2, Richland #20 Sub 3, Milford #30, Sherman #83, and Lincoln #91, said levies to be due and payable on or before October 2, 2023 with owners of any parcel with an assessment of more than \$500 being allowed to request that their payments be spread over a period of 10 years at 6% interest. MCU.

Wall spoke about the levy against Joint District Hamilton #149-Story #5. This was a Hamilton County district until recently when it annexed a few properties in Story County, becoming a joint district. Hamilton County has had some significant repair work done that exceeded the amount in the district fund and they have a work order for another \$4,000 of repairs. Their trustees approved the recommended levy about one month ago and they are asking Story County to approve the same levy. Wall believes it is a reasonable request and it is not unusual for our joint districts to hold separate meetings to approve levies to pay for repairs in the category of ongoing maintenance.

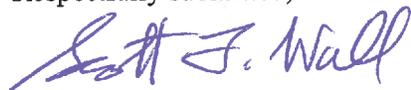
Murken questioned the share of the total levy by Hamilton and Story Counties. Since Story County's share of the total cost is quite low we shouldn't have to worry about offering a payment plan.

Wall confirmed that. Hamilton County may have offered waived payments on their side but only parcels with assessments of over \$500 are eligible for waived payments so none of the Story County parcels will qualify even if we make that an option.

Murken moved, seconded by Heddens, to accept the drainage clerks' recommendations to levy Joint Drainage District Hamilton #149-Story #5, said levy to be due and payable on or before October 2, 2023. MCU.

Heddens moved, seconded by Murken, to adjourn. MCU. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott T. Wall

DRAINAGE DISTRICT LEVY WORKSHEET
May 16, 2023

<u>DRAINAGE DISTRICT</u>	<u>CURRENT BALANCE</u>	<u>EXPECTED BILLINGS</u>	<u>NEW BALANCE</u>	<u>ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT</u>	<u>PARCELS</u>	<u>ASSESSMENT %</u>	<u>AMOUNT LEVIED</u>	<u>CARRY FORWARD</u>
1 WARREN #11 Last levied on 07/22/2020 at 26%. Warren #11 is facing a large emergency repair, an engineer's report, possible reclassification, and, likely, a recommendation for the repair of 8.5 miles of open drainage ditch. Once an estimate has been received for the repair the district should be levied to cover that amount plus estimated costs of any engineer's report. We have an estimate of \$25,000 for the repair.	155.67	(\$25,000)	155.67	30,999.82	296	113	35,110.71	10,266.38
2 RICHLAND #20 Last levied on 05/18/2017 at 113%. Richland #20 has one landowner who is in the 7 th year of a 15-year payment schedule. The outstanding balance owed is \$11,682.44. A levy in 2023 will get the district on track with a balance of around \$2,358.92 once the payment schedule is completed in 2031. The levy includes a \$750 estimate IRVM has quote for contract spraying of the main open ditch.	(12,973.76)	(750.00)	(13,723.76)	10,000.00	176	41	4,400.24	(9,323.52)
3 RICHLAND #20 SUB 1 Last levied on 05/18/2017 at 81%. IRVM has acquired a \$750.00 quote for contract spraying of the east main open ditch.	14.10	(750.00)	(735.90)	30,000.00	93	12	3,754.38	3,028.38
4 RICHLAND #20 SUB 2 Last levied on 04/18/2017 at 100%. IRVM has acquired a \$1,500.00 quote for contract spraying of the west main open ditch.	5.61	(1,500.00)	(1,494.49)	380,000.00	88	2	7,680.54	6,186.05
5 RICHLAND #20 SUB 3 Last levied on 07/22/2020 at 1.045%. Richland 20 Sub 3 has one landowner who is in the 4 th year of a 10-year payment schedule. The outstanding balance owed is \$6,261.17. Bookkeeping wants to see a \$3,000 balance here at the end of the payment plan.	(5,661.72)	0.00	(5,661.72)	10,000.00	92	22	2,368.75	(3,292.97)
6 MILFORD #30 Last levied on 07/02/2012 at 179%.	(597.53)	0.00	(597.53)	2,167.20	14	120	2,605.60	2,008.07
7 SHERMAN #83 Last levied on 07/03/2017 at 33%. There was an extensive tile replacement project in this district this spring.	(45,303.95)	0.00	(45,303.95)	8,149.00	28	587	47,834.66	2,530.71
8 LINCOLN #91 Last levied on 08/06/2021 at 53%. IRVM has a \$9,000 estimate for tree removal along the open ditch.	2,858.35	(9,000.00)	(6,141.65)	9,969.60	43	82	8,184.21	2,042.56
TOTALS					830		111,939.09	

