

DRAINAGE DISTRICT MEETING
DISTRICTS RICHLAND #20 & GRANT #5
NOVEMBER 15, 2017

The Story County Drainage District Trustees met in the Public Meeting Room in the Story County Administration Building to consider completion of an improvement project in Drainage District Richland #20 and an amendment to the Engineer's Report on a proposed improvement in Drainage District Grant #5 (see attachments). Members present were Rick Sanders, chair, Martin Chitty, and Lauris Olson. Also present were County Engineer Darren Moon, Drainage Clerk Scott Wall, Kent Rode and Tyler Conley of ISG, and one landowner in Grant #5.

Sanders called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and asked Rode to review the proposed construction damages to be paid to landowners in Richland #20.

Rode said there was a calculation error on the spreadsheet that was originally submitted which was brought to ISG's attention by Ray Lounsberry, one of the landowners eligible for damages. The error has been corrected and Mr. Lounsberry is satisfied with the new figures. Soils in the project area had been heavily compacted and the damages include estimates of loss of value for future crops grown in the area of compaction.

Sanders asked if we had heard from all the landowners who were due construction damages.

Wall said Mr. Lounsberry was the only landowner to contact him about the proposed damages. It was this contact that brought the calculation errors to light and Mr. Lounsberry is satisfied with the new figures. He submitted a written statement (attached) concerning the original figures to be sure his concerns were made a part of the drainage district records.

Chitty moved, seconded by Olson, to approve the construction damage payments to landowners in Richland #20 as submitted by ISG. Motion approved unanimously (MCU).

Rode said Change Order #3 rectifies the quantities of materials used in the project from the original estimates to what was actually used. In this case the correction resulted in a \$6,419.00 reduction in the project cost.

Olson moved, seconded by Chitty, to approve Change Order #3 to the Richland #20 improvement. MCU.

Rode has submitted a Notice of Acceptability of Work stating that the improvement project to Richland #20 has been completed to project specifications and recommending that the trustees accept the project as complete.

Olson moved, seconded by Chitty, to accept the Notice of Acceptability of Work acknowledging completion of the Richland #20 improvement project. MCU.

Rode said there is a final payment due the contractor. It is the 10% retainage of the overall project cost and should be paid 30 days after approval by the trustees. This allows time for any unpaid claims to sub-contractors or other issues with the project to be addressed before the final payment is made.

Chitty moved, seconded by Olson, to approve Payment No. 8 (Final) thirty days from today. MCU.

Sanders asked if the Union Pacific had been billed for the culvert under their right-of-way. Wall said an invoice was sent to the Union Pacific on September 15, 2017 and a second notice was sent on November

6, 2017. Both invoices were sent to the same address as regular drainage district assessments are mailed too but copies of the second notice were also emailed to Anna Palmer, a paralegal with the railroad, and Daniel Peters, a real estate manager for the railroad. These were the two contacts Wall had email addresses for and Ms. Palmer responded that they would see that the invoice got to the proper department for payment.

Sanders declared the Richland #20 portion of the meeting complete and moved on to Grant #5. At a meeting on March 28, 2017 an improvement to Grant #5 was presented to the landowners in the district and there were concerns that the proposal did not address surface drainage to the southwest between 570th Avenue and Interstate 35. That meeting was recessed for an indefinite time period to allow ISG and district landowners to explore options not addressed in the original report.

Rode said he is submitting Addendum No. 1 to the Engineer's Report on Grant #5 to address issues raised in the March 2017 meeting. The addendum is broken into four sections. Section one addresses the Culvert under Lincoln Highway which is the beginning of the Grant #5 Open Ditch. It was found that, while the culvert meets standards for drainage districts it does not meet IDOT standards for public highways. To meet those standards the existing 4x5' culvert should be replaced by an 8x8' culvert. The larger culvert would allow for a deeper drainage ditch between Lincoln Highway and the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way to the north. The cost of the work within the right-of-way would be paid by the City of Ames which annexed the area in the spring of 2017.

Chitty asked if the trustees still have the authority to approve the Grant #5 project now that the City of Ames has annexed a large part of the land where the work will take place.

Rode said yes. The City will have the same rights of remonstrance to block the project as any other landowners in the district.

Sanders said that the presence of the Union Pacific Railroad and the recent annexation of land in Grant #5 by the City of Ames would add complexity to this project but regardless of what those two entities want the district trustees have to pursue a solution that is best for the district. The trustees need to attempt to bring the city and the railroad to the table as this project goes forward.

Olson said the project plans are being developed while all the land in the Ames annexation is still agricultural. What if some of the land is sold to an owner who objects to the Grant #5 project? Will the trustees have to start over?

Rode said no. The drainage goes with the land and prospective buyers should be told that a project is in the works and assessments for drainage district work are a possibility.

Section two addresses the flow of surface water from the north end of the district to the west and south, away from the existing facilities. There is a private tile that drains water in the proposed northern annexation area under 570th Avenue and away from the current district tile. It was originally thought that all surface waters drained to the south and east into existing Grant #5 but it was found that in significant rainfall events, when surface water pools to a depth of 1.5' some of that water will flow to the southwest. To alleviate the drainage issues in this area a west main tile could be installed as a second main outlet to Grant #5.

Section three addresses landowner supposition that adding a western area to Grant #5 would alleviate pressure on the existing facilities and the proposed improvements to the east part of the district could be reduced in size with a commensurate reduction in project cost. The report finds that a western component will only drain water in heavy rain events. For most rain events all surface water will still drain to the

south and east. Even when some water drains to the southwest the bulk of it will still flow to the southeast. The conclusions and recommendations of the original report are still valid and no cost reduction to the eastern part of Grant #5 will result from adding a western component.

Sanders said trying to address the information in the addendum in a public hearing along with the original Engineer's Report will be confusing for the landowners. He would like ISG to incorporate the addendum into a new Engineer's Report and present that to the landowners as a single, unified report. With upcoming holidays and the county budgeting process in the next months he said we should look at a March meeting. This would occur after any snowbirds have returned to Story County but before field work begins. The project could then be finalized and bid in time for work to begin a year from now when the 2018 crops have been harvested.

Rode concurred with Sander's assessment.

The final section concerns water quality. The area covered by Grant #5 does not lend itself to creation of wetlands to improve water quality but there is a type of side inlet (Wascob) that could be used to replace the aging, existing inlets. It would slow the entry of surface water into the open ditch enough for sediments to drop out of the water before it enters the inlets but not so much that standing water would damage crops.

Sanders asked if a location had been determined for these inlets.

Rode said these would be installed wherever there were existing surface drains, many of which are in poor condition. There are a lot of things landowners can do individually to improve water quality and they are encouraged to do so but the district take many water quality measures as they would require taking land out of production. The Wascob inlets are one thing the district can do to improve water quality in the open ditch.

Sanders said the Wascob inlets are the first thing he's seen that drainage districts can use without negatively impacting cropland. He likes that they are adjacent to the open ditch and building up the berm on the top of the ditch gives us a place to put the silt that comes out of the ditch when it is cleaned as opposed to spreading it across the nearby farmland.

Olson asked what the proposed inlets would cost and where they would be placed.

Rode and Conley said they were working with an estimated cost of about \$5,000 each. This is more expensive than the aging inlets they would replace because their design requires more materials. The new inlets would replace existing inlets that are wearing out and need replacement in any case.

Chitty asked if the new culvert under Lincoln Way will necessitate the deepening of the Grant #5 open ditch south of the road.

Rode said the existing ditch can handle the larger culvert without modification. The original report recommends replacing the main tile from the railroad to Lincoln Way with an open ditch. The larger culvert would require that this proposed ditch be deepened.

Sanders reiterated that the addendum be folded into a new report without noting what is new and what is old. It will replace the original report rather than supplement it. While the trustees will acknowledge what had transpired in earlier meetings this would be a fresh start and we would treat it as a new, complete report, incorporating what was learned as a result of the earlier meetings with landowners.

Chitty moved, seconded by Olson, to accept Addendum No. 1 to the Engineer's Report on Grant #5. MCU.

Sanders said the trustees should select a date in March for a public hearing on the new Engineer's Report. The meeting on March 28, 2017 was well attended and we should look for a similar date for the next meeting. March 20, 2018 is a Tuesday and is during the week following area schools' spring break. Landowners should be notified as soon as practicable then notified a second time, closer to the meeting. The trustees also need to make an effort to get the Union Pacific and the City of Ames to attend.

Olson moved, seconded by Chitty, to continue the recessed meeting from March 28, 2017 on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the Story County Administration Building.

Chitty moved, seconded by Olson, to adjourn. MCU. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott T. Wall