

JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM DRAINAGE BOARD

Monthly Board Meeting  
 Jefferson County Courthouse  
 311 S. Center Avenue, Room 202  
 Jefferson, WI 53549  
 October 12, 2020  
 9:30 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER was made by Chairman Hughes at 9:28 a.m. (via Zoom)
2. ROLL CALL: Board Members Present – Hughes, Griebenow, and Magnoni,
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The Board approved the agenda for October 12, 2020
4. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE: Agenda posted on County website
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Drain Board approved the minutes of the September 14, 2020 board meeting.
6. CORRESPONDENCE: Marc DeVries to Cindy Diestelmann re Farm Drainage Board (copy attached)

The Drain Board was informed by Secretary Magnoni that Cindy Diestelmann, Finance Office, had hand delivered to him a written document from Marc DeVries, County Finance Director, addressed to Cindy Diestelmann, which included forwarding directions to the Farm Drainage Board. Said document is included as a part of these minutes and is attached to the minutes. The position of the Drain Board was complete surprise as no related information had previously been received from the Finance Committee. Secretary Magnoni also reported that neither the County Office of Planning or Zoning nor Land Information were informed of the Committee's action. The Drain Board discussed the State of Wisconsin's statutory mandates which this document's action would possibly violate. The Board then discussed the various drains in process or to be put in process due to crop out. These drains would suffer if this action of the Finance Committee did become effective after this very short notification period. The Drain Board referred this matter to legal counsel for guidance and direction. During this discussion period the Offices of Land Information and Planning and Zoning left a note for Board members to stop at the Land Information Office to further discuss the Finance Committee's action. See Note following minutes.

7. CITIZENS PRESENT: None

8. REPORT OF DRAINS:

**A. DRAIN 15 MAIN**

Secretary Magnoni reported that he had sent out three bid requests to three contractors, inviting them to update their previous bids to remove stones at Britzke Bridge. (All bid requests attached.) He reported that Contractor Krause Excavating did respond that their schedule was too busy to re-bid this project. Bids from contractors Velia Excavating and Jaeckel Brothers Inc. had not been received at the time of this meeting.

**B. DRAIN 44**

1. Update on insurance claim information was not received at the time of the meeting.
2. The DATCP Application/Modification approval was not received at the time of this meeting.

**C. DRAIN 20**

The meeting to review the culvert problem was not held due to a scheduling problem with Contractor Jaeckel.

**D. DRAIN 33**

Secretary Magnoni reported on the contact with landowner, Battist, regarding the annual inspection and opinion of Professional Vegetation Management. During this contact it was determined that no action would occur at this time.

**9. PREVIOUS AGENDA ITEMS NEEDING FURTHER DISCUSSION****DRAIN 32**

Secretary Magnoni reported on the on-site meeting with Contractor Jaeckel regarding the trees and other issues with this Drain. The Drain Board agreed to move ahead with obtaining a firm cost estimate from the contractor and then to request that Attorney Andrew Griggs schedule a landowners' meeting.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS AS ALLOWED BY LAW:**

1. Secretary Magnoni reported on the progress to complete the Annual Report. He indicated that following the DATCP outline involved an extensive amount of time, effort, and document gathering.

**2. DRAIN 16**

Chairman Hughes reminded the Board that with crop out we need to follow-up with the Drain culvert replacement on the David Hubner property.

**11. APPROVAL OF INVOICES**

The Drain Board approved the following invoices for payment:

a. Griggs Law Group	<u>DRAIN #</u>
b. We Energies	Multiple drains
	36

The detail of invoices paid can be reviewed in the County Finance Office, Room 309. Jefferson County Courthouse.

**12. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Drain Board will be Monday, November 9, 2020, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

**13. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

With no further business before the Drain Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted for the meeting of October 12, 2020.

Peter Magnoni, Secretary

Jefferson County Farm Drainage Board

**NOTE:** After adjournment, Drain Board members, Magnoni and Griebenow proceeded to the County Office of Land Information. These two offices reported that they had met with Director

of Finance, Marc Devries, who stated to them that he was willing to delay the implementation of this policy change until December 31, 2021, provided the Drain Board develop a transition plan during this period of time. Griebenow and Magnoni requested this change would need to be committed to written form for full Drain Board consideration. As of October 19, 2020, no communication has been received from the Finance Committee or Finance Director.

**Cindy Diestelmann**

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**From:** Marc DeVries  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2020 8:47 AM  
**To:** Cindy Diestelmann  
**Cc:** Benjamin Wehmeier  
**Subject:** Farm Drainage Board

Hi Cindy –

At the September Finance Committee meeting, the Committee voted to cease providing levy for the Drainage Board to pay its per diems and other operating expenses beginning in 2021. The Drainage Board will be responsible for its own costs beginning January 1, 2021. The Drainage Board will need to structure its assessments accordingly as the County will not fund overdrawn drainage districts.

Please pass this along to the Drainage Board so that they are aware that they need to do this.

Thank you,

Marc



**Marc A. DeVries, CPA**  
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