

JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM DRAINAGE BOARD

Monthly Board Meeting

Highway Department Committee Room

1425 South Wisconsin Drive

Jefferson, WI 53549

April 10, 2023

9:30 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER was made by Chairman Hughes at 9:30 a.m.
2. ROLL CALL: Board Members Present – Chairman Hughes, Secretary Magnoni and Ron Griebenow.
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Chairman Hughes made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Ron Griebenow and carried.
4. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE: Agenda posted on County website
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chairman Hughes made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2023, monthly Drain Board meeting. Motion seconded by Ron Griebenow and passed.
6. CORRESPONDENCE: Village of Cambridge (note agenda below)
7. CITIZENS PRESENT: Bruce Degner
8. REPORT OF THE DRAINS:

A. DRAIN 16

1. The Drain Board discussed the board's responsibility concerning the non-compliance issue by Alliant Energy on the wildlife fencing. Secretary Magnoni reported that both Attorney Griggs and DATCP's state engineer, Barton Chapman, have advised the Drain Board concerning the course of action the Drain Board needs to take. The Drain Board directed the Secretary to draft a letter of notification to Alliant Energy to be reviewed by the Drain Board.

2. Secretary Magnoni reported he had met with David Schroeder who had requested locations of the district drains. Mr. Schroeder needed to identify these locations for drain maintenance that had been requested by Alliant Energy. Mr. Schroeder was given copies of engineering maps with district drains marked.

B. DRAIN 41

Ron Griebenow reported that Jaeckel Brothers was waiting for weather conditions to improve before beginning this project.

C. DRAIN 36

Jefferson County Board member and landowner, Bruce Degner, made a conference call with Brian Udovich of the Jefferson County Highway Department. Mr. Udovich said he was setting up a meeting with the D.O.T. which he hoped would be this week, however, he did not have the time. The purpose of this meeting is to attempt cooperation with the D.O.T. regarding culvert replacement under Highway 16.

D. DRAIN 20

Secretary Magnoni reported that Timewise did order a culvert, however, they did not call Jaeckel Brothers for pick up. When asked, Jaeckel Brothers responded that they would install both the Duesterbeck and Lippert culverts when weather permits.

E. DRAIN 15

The Drain Board discussed the statute's limitations and the need to complete the maintenance issues. The Board decided to move forward in July to brush the west side from Britscke Bridge north one-half mile.

F. GENERAL INFORMATION

Secretary Magnoni gave a summary report of the State Drain Board Association meeting held in Portage, Wisconsin.

1. Report of Barton Chapman, State Drainage Engineer

Mr. Chapman reported on the criteria for Drain Board member appointments.

- a. Boards must communicate to DATCP each January the names of Drain Board members.
- b. Candidates for Drain Boards must be qualified.
- c. Candidates cannot be anti-drainage, have a conflict of interest, or be a single interest candidate.

Mr. Chapman explained that no Drain Board member can leave the Board until a replacement is approved by the Circuit Court. He explained the liability issue and gave two examples of legal liability resulting from pipelines, wind projects, solar projects and road projects.

Mr. Chapman stated that his office is overloaded and help from him would be limited. He stated that finding employees was difficult. His report included an update on the Middleton issue and further information on DATCP's non-progress on the digital records project due to employee shortages.

2. Report of Steve Becker, NRCS State Conservation Engineer

Mr. Becker gave a presentation on the role of NRCS. He included a detailed explanation of the drainage issue from Sun Prairie to Hwy T, Cottage Grove. He explained that this problem is really not a drainage issue but it falls within the definition of a watershed issue. The parties involved include municipalities, counties, drain boards, state, landowners, and the Federal government through NRCS.

3. Report of Thomas German, Executive Secretary of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands.

Mr. German gave a presentation stating the following:

- a. Drain Boards are now eligible for loans through this Board
- b. The current loan rate is 5%.
- c. He reviewed the loan application and the procedure to follow by the Drain Boards.
- d. He revealed that since the eligibility was made available Dane County has received approval for two loans.

9. FINANCE REPORT

The first quarter Jefferson County finance report was handed out and reviewed. Because Patricia Cicero was not in attendance no report was given on the videography services.

Secretary Magnoni gave a report on the meeting he and Patricia Cicero had with Donna Miller in the Finance Department.

10. PREVIOUS AGENDA ITEMS NEEDING FURTHER DISCUSSION

a. Chairman Hughes gave a report on the Drain 15 Cambridge dead fall tree removal. He stated that the Cambridge Foundation had donated \$8,500.00 to the City of Cambridge. Jaeckel Brothers, who gave the city a bid, was contacted and work was to begin immediately. The City's responsibility included contacting all landowners of the work, including the piling of trees on the sides of the ditches. The Drain Board will be available as needed. The Cambridge contact person is Todd Lord, telephone #608-501-8944.

b. Secretary Magnoni reported that no update regarding Hwy 16 has been received from Attorney Griggs.

11. OTHER BUSINESS AS ALLOWED BY LAW: None

11. APPROVAL OF INVOICES:

The Drain Board received and approved

a. Griggs law Group

Drain #15Main-D

The detail of invoices paid can be reviewed in the County Finance office, 302 South Center Avenue, mobile office across from the County building.

12. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Drain Board will be on Monday, May 8, 2023, at the Highway Department Committee Room located at 1425 Wisconsin Drive, Jefferson, Wisconsin beginning at 9:30 a.m. This meeting will NOT be on Zoom.

13. MOTION TO ADJOURN

With no further business before the Drain Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m. Motion made to adjourn by motion by Ron Griebenow and seconded by Chairman Hughes. Passed.

Respectfully submitted for the meeting of April 10, 2023
Peter Magnoni, Secretary, Jefferson County Farm Drainage Board