

JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM DRAINAGE BOARD

Monthly Board Meeting  
Committee Room C1021-First Floor  
311 South Center Avenue  
Jefferson, Wisconsin 53549  
December 11, 2023  
9:30 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER was made by David Hughes at 9:30 a.m.
2. ROLL CALL: Board Members Present – Chairman Hughes, Secretary Magnoni and Ron Griebenow.
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Chairman Hughes to change the order of the agenda to allow items Drain 36 and Drains 20 and 41 to be discussed first, awaiting the arrival of Barton Chapman for Drain 15. Seconded by Ron Griebenow. 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 November 15, 2023, monthly Drain Board meeting. Motion seconded by Ron Griebenow and passed.
6. CORRESPONDENCE: None
7. CITIZENS PRESENT: See attached sign in sheet December 11, 2023
8. REPORT OF THE DRAINS:

**A. DRAIN 36**

Landowners Dean Jaeger and Bruce Degner appeared before the Drain Board initiating considerable discussion concerning all investigations of this culver/D.O.T., issue. Jerry Bradley from Sun Prairie suggested we bring this issue to the attention of D.O.T. Secretary, Craig Thompson. Brian Udovich of Jefferson County Highway Department suggested that he follow-up contacting Secretary Thompson with Barton Chapman, who asked to be included in this follow-up.

**B. DRAINS 20 AND 41**

Ron Griebenow stated he had two bids for this brushing project, with the Jaeckel Brothers bid being for a fixed amount. The other bid was from Lucas Vellema (time and materials) being more risky. Secretary Magnoni made a motion to approve the Jaeckel Brothers bid for \$4,600.00. Chairman Hughes seconded the motion which carried. Chairman Hughes asked if the damaged culvert was going to be replaced with this brushing work. Mr. Griebenow stated he believed it could be repaired as part of this bid, however, if the culvert needed to be replaced the maximum cost would not be greater than \$2,000.00. The Secretary stated that the drain fund was adequate to cover these costs.

**C. DRAIN 15**

Steven Becker from the Federal office of NRCS presented an informative report on the concept of developing a watershed project for Drain 15 and Drain 23 (Dane County) from Sun Prairie to Lake Koshkonong. The list of various interested stakeholders attending is attached to these minutes. The purpose of this presentation was to determine if the Jefferson County Drainage Board was positive in its support of this concept so funds could be requested from the Federal government for an engineering study of the overall impact of this project. Following this presentation the Drain Board members were impressed and supportive of this project which is needed now and in the future. Mr. Becker stated that our support would need to be in writing in a letter addressed to the Jefferson County Office of Land and Water Conservation.

**DRAIN 16**

Secretary Magnoni reported on the current status of Drain 16 related to the Badger Solar Project. He stated that the beaver dams have been removed and flooded crop areas had dried up enough for the corn crops to be harvested. He further stated that a landowner had contacted him regarding an additional year extension requested by Badger Solar. This information prompted the Secretary to contact the engineering firm to determine the reason for the extension and also the need for this part of Drain 16 to be cleaned. The concern is that in our agreement, both the Drain Board and DATCP required that Badger Solar clean the drain when the new culverts were installed. It was further discussed that the additional request for the extension for 2024 was prompted because of very high interest rates and lower buy back rates from the utility companies that made the project currently unable to meet its financial projections. The question for the Drainage Board is that this drain needs maintenance work, and we are under contract (along with DATCP approval) with Badger Solar. The question is, "If the Drain Board would want to move forward with maintenance, does the Drain Board need a contract modification or some type of written agreement?" No action was taken, however, this issue will continue to be pursued.

**9. FINANCE REPORT**

Patricia Cicero passed out the current copies of the Jefferson County Finance Report and requested that all expenses incurred be sent in for payment prior to the end of the calendar year.

**10. PREVIOUS AGENDA ITEMS NEEDING FURTHER DISCUSSION**

No additional information has been received on the erosion control and storm water management ordinance.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS AS ALLOWED BY LAW: None****12. APPROVAL OF INVOICES:**

The Jefferson County Finance Office was not able to process current invoices, therefore, no invoices were approved.

**13. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Drain Board will be on Monday, January 8, 2024, at the Highway Department Conference Room, 1425 South Wisconsin Drive, Jefferson, WI 53549, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

**14. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

With no further business before the Drain Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m. Motion made to adjourn by Chairman Hughes and seconded by Ron Griebenow. Passed.

Respectfully submitted for the meeting of December 11, 2023  
Peter Magnoni, Secretary, Jefferson County Farm Drainage Board

# Drainage Board Meeting Sign-In (12/11/23)

- 1) Adam Dowling USDA-NRCS
- 2) JERRY BRADLEY SON PRAIRIE
- 3) Fabienne Placide USDA-NRCS
4. Steve Becker USDA-NRCS 608-400-6176
- 5 Dean Jaeger Ironia
6. Bruce Degner Ironia
7. Anita Martin Lake Mills (Co. Board)
8. Colton Hutchinson Jefferson County LWCD
9. Patricia Cicero Jefferson County LWCD
- 10 Sam Peterson Jeff Co. LWCD
- 11 Dave Hoffman JC LWCD
- 12 Barton T. Chapman DATCP
- 13 BRIAN UDOVICH JEFF CO. HWY. DEPT.

## DAW Board members

David Hughes Chairman

Peter MAGNOLI Sec

Ronald Griebnow Board member