

UNAPPROVED

Jefferson County Farm Drainage Board
 Landowner/Public Hearing Meeting Drain 41
 Jefferson County Courthouse
 311 S Center Avenue (County Board Room)
 Jefferson, WI 53549
 March 17, 2026
 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

1. Call to order: Chairman Hughes called the meeting to order at 10.00 a.m.
2. Roll call: Drain Board members present: Chairman Hughes (via TEAM), Secretary Magnoni, and Ron Griebenow; Legal Counsel Andrew Giggs, and proposed new board member, Cyndi Pitzner
3. Chairman Hughes stated that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the repair of culverts in Drain 41 in the area of the Rupnow property. The Drain Board had received an estimate for repair at the time of the last assessment in 2022 however, flooding conditions and the loss of the project contractor required the Drain Board to seek additional estimates for the repair. Because the new estimates are higher than the funds originally assessed and reserved for the repair, it requires the Drain Board to call for this additional assessment.
4. Chairman Hughes introduced Barten Chapman, P.E. DATCP, Drainage Program Manager/State Drainage Engineer who stated that the Drain Board must repair or replace these culverts as previously agreed in the September 12, 2022 minutes of the Drain Board. Chairman Hughes disputed this statement, responding that he did not have these minutes in front of him, however, he was of the opinion that the Drain Board did not approve culvert replacement, only the repair of culverts as indicated in inspection minutes of the previous May 9, 2022, Drain Board meeting. Mr. Chapman continued to comment that he was not permitted to comment at public hearings as advised by legal counsel. Mr. Chapman then continued and stated that the Drain Board was not required to do anything related to this drain issue. The decision will be the Drain Board's only.
5. The cost impact for the work to be done was provided to all those in attendance at the Registration Table (sign in sheet attached to these minutes.).
6. Chairman Hughes then opened the meeting to all in attendance for comments, concerns, and opinions of landowners as follows:
 - a. Why were Drain Board member's telephone numbers not published?
 - b. A landowner presented the history of this drain, who repaired the drains, and who paid for culverts and crossovers in past years. Following these comments a landowner claimed that he had requested that he complete repair and maintenance of the drain on his property however, the Drain Board had denied his request. Chairman Hughes stated that the Drain Board has always encouraged landowners to be proactive in the maintenance of their own drains.
 - c. Was money set aside for the repair of these culverts?;
 - d. Many landowners testified that their farm crossings were installed as private crossings when theirs was in a town drain and not in a drainage district.
 - e. Why do some landowners benefit more than others?
 - f. Purpose of the drain clean out is to keep water flowing.
 - g. Where was the assessment money spent?

- h. Why didn't I get copies of all expenditures in this drain when I requested them?
 - 1. How much money was left in the drain fund and where was the money spent in this drain?
 - J. Landowners should pay themselves for culverts and cross overs.
 - k. Following landowner comments, Chairman Hughes did a recap and background history of this drain and the need for the assessment based on the opinion of DATCP. Ron Griebenow also gave a history of his involvement the last number of years, working with this drain.
7. Chairman Hughes then called for a show of hands of voting landowners in attendance. The total number was twelve (12). Attorney Griggs stated that option # 1 on the handout detail would be 33% of assessed value AND option #2 would be 15% of assessed value. Chairman Hughes then asked for a show of hands for those supporting option #1. Result- 0 support. Then the show of hands for those supporting option #2. Result- 1 support.
8. Chairman Hughes stated that the vote was advisory and the Drain Board would take this matter up at the next Drain Board meeting in April 2026. He went on to comment that the Board needed to discuss this matter further with Attorney Griggs.
9. Ron Griebenow made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 11:20 a.m. Secretary Magnoni seconded the motion which carried.

Respectfully submitted for Landowner Public Hearing/Meeting of March 17, 2026
Peter Magnoni, Secretary, Jefferson County Drainage Board