

DANE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING  
November 8, 2018

Location: Town of Bristol Hall, 7747 County Road N, Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Drainage Boards Members Present: Scott Ringelstetter and Leonard Massie

Others Present: John Mitby (Board Attorney), Elizabeth Spencer (Board Attorney), Dan Wierzba (Resources Engineering Associates), Robert Pofahl (Resources Engineering Associates), Jerry Derr (Town of Bristol), Michael J. Lawton (Attorney), Bill Ringelstetter, and Robb Remiker.

District Members present:

District No. 4 Al Rogers, Diane Ihland, Dawn Porter, Brett Renk, Grant Gullickson, Annie Tremaine, Dennis Laufenberg, Bryan Rawls, Al Seltzner, Delano Tjugum, and Doug Tjugum.

Meeting called to order by President Scott Ringelstetter at 6:10 PM.

Presentation by Resources Engineering Associates on Potential Study

- Robert Pofahl displayed a map of a district depicting the watershed and 200 not currently part of the District. However, these would need to be more closely examined to determine what to add. Jerry Derr requested that his map be posted online.
- Pofahl presented estimated costs:
  - Study: Using existing topographic data, existing specifications, current boundaries, and select filed data to produce a design report would cost \$11,000.
  - System Upgrades:
    - 30 in. tile would cost \$50/ft
    - 24 in. pipe would cost \$40/ft
    - 48 in. pipe would cost \$65/ft
    - Total cost for the system is estimated at \$600,000.
- Pofahl addressed questions raised by the District in the previous surveys:
  - Pump drainage
    - Only would work in select areas but would assist low lying areas. Pump would cost around \$10,000 but price would increase as distance from a power source increases.
  - Downstream channel capacity
    - A limited hydraulic study on this issue would cost around \$5,000.
  - Runoff from subdivisions
    - REA could look into how the systems were planned and determine potential solutions. Cost would be around \$5,000-\$8,000.

Discussion/Questions from District Members

- Swampbust rules/Converted Wetlands
  - A. Tremaine asked if the swampbusting rules were being factored in to the decisions. Massie stated that the land at issue is already converted wetland. REA

states that they would have to look into it but they believe that that they would be able to complete their work without it being an issue.

- Estimated Support
  - There are 700 acres of assessed, benefited land and the Board would like to ensure that everything is assisted by this study. B. Renk raised the issue that if the system is improved the area farmers will like add in more tile to the system which will result in the system being overloaded again. The engineers need to look at a system that can handle 6x the current amount for it to actually be useful. Pofahl provides that an alternative to the overrun pipes would be to use open channels through farm fields. Open channels have been used in other drainage systems and are cheaper than pipes. However, historically, most farmers opposed these open channels. The Board would be required to pay damages to farms with the channels and there are a variety of requirements that must meet State Drainage Engineer approval. Farmers do not support this alternative.
- Future Residential Developments
  - D. Tjugum raises concern over the sizing of system as the area continues to develop, will there be enough increased capacity. Wierzba provides that there are about 200 acres in the watershed left for development. Massie states that if the city increase output they must handle it. Discussion over potential disputes with municipality but that the costs will likely be shifted to developers and the buyers.
  - Mitby states that the municipality plans in advance if we review the town plan and county plans we could have some idea. Massie also states that future water does not have to necessarily be in District 4, a storm water management district can be created.
  - The municipalities have done little to fix issues with previous developments and have not been held accountable. Mitby and Massie advise against lawsuits as they are not cost effective and they remove power from the District members.
- Issues Downstream
  - D. Tjugum raises issue about areas downstream. Massie provides that the Board does not have authority to handle things downstream. Any extra water that flows downstream is the problem of those residents. S. Ringelstetter states that the culverts and pipes limit the speed at which the water will drain downstream.
  - Members introduce the idea of split system at different points and building on.
- Review of Map with District Members
  - Interested members, including D. Laufenberg, G. Gullickson, Doug Tjugum, B. Renk review map of District with Pofahl and Wierzba regarding location of tiles, lateral connections, issue, areas, and potential solutions.
- Division of Payment
  - Payment of the study is determined in the same manner as assessments; it is based upon the benefited land. Discussion regarding whether it can be evenly split amongst the landowners. Some express opposition. Mitby and Board explain that while possible to change how the assessments are done so cost is evenly split, this is not financially wise as it will acquire additional meetings, hearings, and notices to change the assessment and then change it back again to reflect benefitted acres.

Recommendation

- Board asks members for their recommendation regarding going forward with the study. Member support study. Massie states that the study will cover the entire District. There will be a set price for the study.

Motion

- Massie moves that the Board contract with Resource Engineering Associates to do a study in District 4 to provide a basis for improvement to the facilities for \$11,000 and the Board will do an assessment of District 4 for no more than \$15,000 to cover costs if the District does not currently have the funds to cover the study.
- Ringelstetter seconds the motion. MC 2-0. Motion passes.
- Board and REA agree that study shall be completed by April 1, 2019.

Massie moves to adjourn meeting. Ringelstetter seconds motion. MC 2-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.