

DANE COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING
February 11, 2020

Location: Pleasant Springs Town Hall, 2354 County Road N, Stoughton, WI 53589

Drainage Board Members Present: Scott Ringelstetter and Leonard Massie

Others Present: Elizabeth Spencer (Board Attorney)

District No. 12 Members present: Bryan Peth, Norm Peth, Roseann Peth, Jerry Erdahl, Jeff Auby, and Richard Green.

Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM by Chairman Scott Ringelstetter.

Review and Approve Minutes for January 28, 2020 Meeting

- L. Massie moves to approve minutes. S. Ringelstetter seconds. MC 2-0.

Discussion of Suspension and Dissolution

- S. Ringelstetter explains history of suspension and the dissolution petition by DATCP in 2015. A hearing occurred in March of 2019 on the matter, and the court reactivated the district in August 2019.
- Member asks whether action by the Board will cost money.
 - L. Massie states yes. DATCP has records and plans for the district, but at the moment is unable to make copies and will not let the Board take the records to make copies. The plans will provide a baseline.
 - S. Ringelstetter notes that the Board has driven around the district, but it was difficult, as it appears the district has been absorbed into a state park.
- Is there work that must be done?
 - L. Massie states that the board doesn't know at this time, but it is likely.
- The Peths explain the drainage issues that they have experienced and attempts to resolve. J. Auby notes that if one person cleans their section of the ditch, it does nothing if work downstream does not occur.
- S. Ringelstetter notes that the Board has never had a situation with a state park before, and states that this circumstance does create new issues. L. Massie notes it is likely we cannot do much in the state park.

Maps and District Plans

- S. Ringelstetter expects it would take approximately \$30,000 to obtain new engineering plans. L. Massie further notes that we do not know how long it will take DATCP to provide us copies of the old plans, but he will follow up with State Drainage Engineer Bart Chapman.

Assessments

- L. Massie states that the Board must create an assessment of benefits. A new assessment of benefits requires the Board to hold a hearing. They will determine the total units, then assign a percentage of benefits, which determines the share of each assessment of costs. Part of the assessment is analysis of whether drainage can occur at all. If an area cannot be drained, there is no benefit. Once an assessment of benefits occurs, an assessment for cost may occur.

Public Comments

- What will the Board do about water outside the district coming into it?
 - L. Massie states that the Board cannot get money from upstream. The Board will only assess those in the district.
- R. Green asks, what about businesses with impervious services?
 - L. Massie cannot comment on how individual towns are collecting water here. He explains the history and suspension of the district over 50 years and now there are rural housing developments that create issues. At this point the Board just needs to collect information from the members to understand more what is going on in the district.
- J. Auby asks whether there is a budget, and notes that if the lake level cannot be lowered, there is little point in cleaning out the ditch, and that dissolution may be better. J. Erdahl agrees regarding dissolution.
 - L. Massie notes that there is no budget outside of assessment. The Board does not know whether the ditch will drain.
- L. Massie states that at this time the Board needs the plans from the state, and more information about the lake level and its management, in order to move forward with the district.
- J. Auby asks, if the district stays active but does not do anything, will there still be costs?
 - L. Massie states yes, as the Board is required to inspect the district and file an annual report each year. Members have 4 months to pay the assessment without interest. If a member fails to pay, it becomes part of the property tax bill.
- R. Green asks how the assessments are collected.
 - S. Ringelstetter states that every member will receive a statement in the mail, and it is paid to the Dane County Treasurer. L. Massie notes that for the Board to spend money, they must formally issue an order, which they submit to the treasurer.
- J. Auby asks, what is the assessment based on?
 - L. Massie states that the assessment is based on drainage benefits/wet soils attributed to that land. If the lake level cannot be fixed, the Board would not oppose the members moving to dissolve the district.
- L. Massie notes that the Board does not intend to clean the ditches unless the lake can be lowered. The Board uses Resource Engineering Associates for district engineering work, and they may have them look at it. L. Massie states it may take a couple years for anything to be truly done in the district.

District 32

- L. Massie moves to approve plan prepared for the Lerner Lateral in District 32 in the Village of Oregon.
- S. Ringelstetter seconds. MC 2-0

S. Ringelstetter moves to adjourn meeting at 7:56 PM. L. Massie seconds. MC 2-0.