

Green Lake County *Drainage Board*

571 County Rd. A
Green Lake, WI 54941-3188

Roger Sell - 920-398-2268
Patrick Krueger - 920-361-2129
Dick Severson - 920-398-2857

**Drainage Board
July 11, 2018
7:00 P.M. – 8:45 P.M.
Training Room, Green Lake County Government Center
571 County Rd. A, Green Lake, WI 54941**

Call to Order: The meeting of the Drainage Board was called to order by Chairman Krueger. The requirements of the open meeting law were certified as being met.

Present: Patrick Krueger, Chair
Roger Sell, Vice-Chair
Dick Severson, Secretary

Also Present: Charles Swantz, Dick Sobieski, David Gneiser, Todd Morris - Green Lake County LCD

Agenda: *Motion/second (Severson/Sell)* to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Minutes: *Motion/second (Sell/Severson)* to approve the April 4, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Public Hearing to discuss and set Annual Assessments in the Seneca-Warren Drainage District: The public hearing was called to order at 7:05 p.m. and Severson read the opening comments and then turned the meeting over to Krueger. Krueger explained the boards proposed budget of \$10,000 for 2018, and \$10,000 for 2019 and how they came up with those numbers.

David Gneiser spoke saying that the board does not need to pay lawyers, do not need to join the Wisconsin Association of Drainage Districts, and the board should get this loan paid off and get off our backs. Focus should be paying this off and gone. Adding the auxiliary drainage area is uncalled for, and his land does not drain any better now than before.

Richard (Dick) Sobieski spoke summarizing in the last couple of years that the board had \$30,270 dollars in expenses on meetings, reimbursements, and legal fees, and only \$14,800.00 on ditch maintenance. That is the problem with this drainage district, spending twice as much for meeting, reimbursements and legal fees than we are for maintenance. Do you know how much ditch could have been cleaned for \$44,000.00? Spending too much on meetings and state meetings. Waushara County Drainage Board only has two meetings a year. Dick feels that the first priority should be paying off the loan. Also feels that the lower end, east of Hwy D, is not getting any benefit. Mentioned that Zietlow still had water on his land on May 27th, and he is paying an assessment, what is his benefit? The ditch does not help anything. In order for someone to get an assessment, you need to show a benefit. Severson addressed the budget and explained that there is not anything budgeted in 2018 or 2019 for legal services, filing fees, what we do have is loan principal and legal services and you always have to budget for legal services, and if the legal fees are not needed they are not spent. Sobieski stated that as landowners they have Chapter 88 and ATCP 48 to abide by, so why do we always have to jump at legal services. Feels that the board in the past has used legal services too soon, and the board has spent a lot of money on meetings, legal services and engineers since the ditch was cleaned in 2001-2002. Sobieski feels that hiring MSA to assess additional landowners cost more than the benefit was at the end. Krueger stated that the boards plan is to pay off the loan as soon as the board has the money, and then some ditch maintenance could take place. Sobieski drove around after rains and the fields on the county line were flooded, he did not see anything else flooded. He drove around

by Alf's and he did not see anything else flooded. Feels that the loan should be paid off before any ditch maintenance is done.

Gneiser spoke, once this is paid off; we want out, leave us alone. We are not getting any benefit.

Sobieski stated that he felt this could happen but all the bills need to be paid, the judge has his hands tied on this, and as long as the paperwork is filed correctly, they can abandon the district.

Sobieski also stated that the loan should be paid off and then relook at the drainage assessments, benefits that landowners are receiving, east of Hwy D. The purpose of the ditch was for runoff of water, not seepage.

Severson explained why the board chose to change to a watershed district and have everybody pay for their water that runs to the ditch. For surface water runoff.

Sobieski, cannot give drainage to landowners east of Hwy D because the river is controlling the drainage.

Motion/second (Severson/Sell) to close the public hearing at 7:38 p.m. Motion carried.

Motion/second (Severson/Sell) to adopt the 2018-2019 budget as projected. Discussion by board that loan is paid off and there is money still in account could they not assess for 2019. Motion carried.

Motion/second (Sell/Severson) to not bill any parcel that is assessed less than \$3.00, which is the Administrative Fee. Motion carried.

Public Comments: none

Appearances: none

Souder Culvert Status: No response from Leo. Discussion among board, Krueger feels that Souder just moved the culvert from the west end of his property to his east property boundary. No complaints from upslope landowners. Board will just leave the culvert there because Leo did not respond.

Discussion/action on possible payment to Racine County Drainage Commission: Krueger received a letter from the Racine County Drainage Commission, who was key in passing the recent legislation. The letter was asking for help in paying the bill for legal services on getting this legislation passed. The board feels that Racine County did not ask the board to help pay before they started this, and they will not be paying anything to Racine County Drainage Commission.

Discussion/action on Loan Payment: The board is not going to make another payment at this time, they will wait until the assessments start coming in. Also, look at doing some maintenance, get profile of area that needed some work that was identified in last year's inspection, and get some bids to clean the ditch.

Vouchers: **Motion/second (Severson/Sell)** to approve \$426.25 to Berlin Journal Newspapers. Motion carried

Correspondence: Racine County Drainage Commission letter – Krueger has the letter.

Committee Discussion: Board will do the Annual Inspections and then hold the Annual Meeting. Tentative dates are October 31, 2018 for Inspection and November 7, 2018 for Annual Meeting.

Future Meeting Date: The next meeting will be November 7, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the Training Room of the Government Center in Green Lake.

Future Agenda Items for Action & Discussion:
Annual Inspection and DATCP Report
Loan Payment

Adjourn: *Motion/second (Sell/Severson)* to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Todd Morris, Recorder

Meeting expenses: Ditch #1	_____	Ditch #5	_____
Ditch #2	_____	Seneca-Warren	<u>100%</u>
Ditch #3	_____	General	_____
Ditch #4	_____		