

NEWTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

NEWTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE – Kentland, IN

July 2, 2012 10:00 A.M.

The Newton County Drainage Board met on July 2, 2012 at 10:00 AM with the following persons present: Board Members – Chairman Russ Collins, Jim Pistello, Tim Drenth; County Engineer Larry Holderly; County Surveyor Chris Knochel; Drainage Board Attorney Dan Blaney; Secretary Debra Chapman Risley; Landowners – King Clark, Mark Simons, Larry Miller and Lyle from the Fair Oaks Dairy.

Russ called the meeting to order.

Minutes – Jim made a motion to approve the June 18, 2012 minutes with a second from Tim. Motion carried and minutes were signed.

Mary E Spitler Tile Report M-15 – Chris distributed his Surveyor's Report on the Reconstruction of the Mary Spitler M-15. Mention was made by Chris to change the watershed acres to 514.34 rather than the 314 ac. that Chris included on his report.

Chris reported that he had spoken with Chad Rutledge. Based upon their conversation, Chad had changed his mind on the ditch and now prefers the regulated drain in front of his house with a deeper, larger ditch versus the two easements on his property. This would require making the drainage ditch deeper and wider and moving it out of the ROW. Jim responded that if Chad is negotiating with DeYoung that is a private matter. Chris mentioned that by moving the regulated ditch to the edge of the field & out of the ROW the current culvert would not be long enough now for a semi. Chris included a new installed 4' x 36' culvert in his surveyor's report. Russ questioned King as to whether or not this affected him to which King responded, "no". King said as long as his tile was replaced from Pt. A to Pt. B he was fine with it. Larry said his estimate to run the tile from the property line was approximately \$70,000 as the top of the hill would need to be scraped off in order to dig as deep as necessary. Larry said his estimate could be a little high. If Larry's estimate is correct Chris' suggestion could be as much as \$20,000 less than Larry's. Jim and Tim were questioning why this is just now being presented to the board - after numerous motions have already been made - now we have a new plan to address. Chris replied that they had requested a report and that is what he is giving them. Jim asked what Roger DeYoung had to say about Chris' reconstruction plans to which Chris replied that he had not spoken to Roger. Tim stated that he would like to speak to Roger. The topic was therefore tabled until the next meeting at which time all plans will be finalized or Jim will boycott anything that says Mary E Spitler. **Refer to audio tape for further details.**

Morrison-Talley M-63 – Chris states this is in regards to the proposed lateral of Mark Simons. He said we have two directions for the water to go - the Sarah Bright which is an SCS design and project and the proposal presented by Mark Simons. Larry said it will work. However in order to get the water coming from the elevator down to 150 E, the waterway will need to be dug deeper to get the water to flow East and we will also need to build a berm to keep the water from diverting. Mark reported that he didn't think Fredrickson's wanted anything done on their property. Russ said the water is restricted at the railroad so once the culvert can't handle it, the water will be forced to go East. Once it drops enough then it will go north and then it will be O.K. Mark just asked that they focus on getting the waterway ditch in there that Craig King proposed. It was mentioned that in order to do that we need to hold a hearing as Mark is not the only landowner involved between 150 E and the ditch. Also due to the estimated cost of the project we will need to request bids. Deb suggested Monday, September 17, 2012 as the hearing date. **Jim made a motion to accept Sept. 17th for a hearing to extend Morrison-Talley, bids to be opened and the contract also to be awarded at the hearing. Tim seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Bowton-Bonham – Chris mentioned this is a combined drain for assessment purposes and that it is also a Bi-County drain which will require a Benton-Newton Drainage Board Meeting. Chris is extending the ditch as there has been a lot of downstream damage from the regulated portion and he needs to extend it about a mile as it is affecting county roads and private driveways. He stated that the ditch has entrenched itself from the river to where it ends in Benton Co and it is all deeper by 2 or 3 feet. This is causing damage downstream from the regulated drain. **Deb was to schedule the Bi-County Meeting and notify the members of the date.**

Beaver Lake – Chris reported that he has the Beaver Lake scheduled for report on October 1st of this year. Larry Miller was present to ask if we can advance this ditch on the priority list. We are looking at doing the upper portion of the drain upstream from the Nature Conservancy. Chris said he had found repairs to the drains as late as 1955 and no record of work since then. The engineering and everything is there so Chris could show it as a reconstruction and restoration of the 1955 repair. It is in the area that Larry has brought to Chris' attention. Larry also asked if they did the work themselves if it would have to go through the assessment process. If the work was done themselves that would decrease the cost of repairs to all landowners. After September 1st trees can be removed per DNR. Lyle of the Dairy Farm was also present. There was discussion about Jim Dye's property (former buffalo farmer). They reported that Jim thinks the area farmers should pay. Dye wants crossings installed for his hunters. Chris stated since access can be obtained from county roads there is no land lock and the expense would therefore belong to the landowner for installation of culverts. Dan suggested a hearing with other landowners to discuss the topic. **Tim made a motion to schedule a hearing on Sept. 17th to discuss the Upper Beaver Lake with a second from Jim. Motion carried.**

Etta Whaley Tile – Chris mentioned that he and Larry have been working on this but have not yet reached a conclusion. The landowners realize that the waterway has been re-routed for the new construction which is to begin July 9th. Chris spoke to the contractor. If there are going to be any changes they must be handled immediately. An additional 12" tile was found on the north side of SR 16 which we did not know existed. We know of a lateral near that area that outlets into

that same main tile. What we were wondering was if we connect the 2-12" tiles, outlet them into the main and increased the main outlet a little to compensate for the additional 12" tile, can both be drained into the Etta Whaley. 3-D out of Monticello through state contract is doing the work. Russ suggested Chris contact 3-D to see if perhaps the county could pick up the expense for the larger pipe – using 30" pipe instead of 24". **Jim motioned for Chris to contract the contractor to see if the tile size can be increased. Tim seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Other Matters – Letter to Jody Melton - Deb presented the board with a letter written to Jody Melton, KRPC, requesting state appropriation in the amount of \$150,000. **The letter was signed by the board.**

Roadside Ditch by Trailer Park in Kentland - Chris reported west of the trailer park there is a culvert to drain the roadside ditch into the N-S railroad ditch. It is a 2' culvert that allows this to happen. The utility company burrowed into the culvert and cornstalks now get into it which prohibits proper drainage. Chris suggested placing a new culvert beside the old culvert. The old culvert still carries water but has a restriction due to the utility. Jim had spoken to Ronnie who is out there doing work now. Chris stated he thinks it is local fiber optic utility. Jim made a motion to have Ronnie Madison install a new culvert to drain roadside ditch by trailer park with a second from Tim. Motion carried. Larry suggested the railroad be contacted notifying them of our plans. **Russ asked Dan to send a letter to the railroad giving them 30 days to contact us or the project will be done.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.