

Oct. 3, 2011 – 10:00 A.M. – DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING – Newton Co. Courthouse

The Newton County Drainage Board met on October 3, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. in the Newton County Courthouse with the following persons present: Board Members Russell Collins, James Pistello and Tim Drenth; County Engineer Larry Holderly; Drainage Board Attorney Dan Blaney; LeAnn Sale; Surveyor Chris Knochel; Secretary Debra Honn. The meeting was opened by Russ.

Minutes –September 6, 2011 – Signed

Minutes –September 19, 2011 – Jim made a motion to approve the minutes with a second motion from Tim.

Motion carried.

Narrows Ditch M-79 – Deb reported that this ditch was first assessed in 2007 for a length of 5 yrs with this being the final year. The current assessment rates are: \$1.21 (lower); \$6.47 (upper) for a total amount of \$29,937.85. Due to lack of cooperation with some of the landowners the extent of work to be done on this watershed has diminished dramatically. Therefore it is suggested to **lower the assessment rate** rather than increasing it.

Recommended assessment rates: Lower - \$1.00; Upper - \$2.50. This would bring in a total of \$14,031.23 per year. **Jim motioned to lower the assessment on the Narrows Ditch by decreasing the lower portion from \$1.21 to \$1.00/ac. and the upper portion from \$6.47 to \$2.50/ac. Tim seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Beaver Creek M-71 – Deb informed the board that the current assessment rate is \$.25 for a total of \$10,547.96. As of 9/20/11 the amount of money owed to GDIF for work already completed on Beaver Creek is \$62,319.95. Chris estimates the cost of remaining work at \$83,340 which would include tree clearing, removal of trees and dipping the middle 16,000' of the 30,000' lower creek. This would facilitate drainage of the upper end of the ditch. The total expenditure on this watershed would be \$145,659.95. Based upon the current debt and future work computations were based upon \$145,659.95/37278.33 ac = \$3.91 per ac./4 yrs. = \$.97. **The recommended assessment rate: \$1.00 which would bring in \$37,278.33 per year. Jim made a motion to raise the assessment rate from \$.25 to \$1.00 per acre with a second from Tim. Motion carried.**

Molson Ditch M-665 – Deb stated that a hearing was held in 2005 and the current assessment rate of \$3.76 was established at that time to extend for a period of 5 yrs. The basis of the determination was Chris' estimate in the amount of \$32,743.75. However initial repairs exceeded the estimate by approximately \$8,000 due to unforeseen problems. Other maintenance has been done since that time also for a total expenditure of \$55,390.00 on this w/s. 2011 is the final year of the initial assessment period. As of 9/15/11 the ditch still owes GDIF \$10,060.20. Chris estimates the cost of needed maintenance at \$12,000.00. **Therefore the options are to leave at the current rate of \$3.76/ac. which brings in \$8,098.81 per year or lower the assessment rate to \$2.56/ac. which would bring in \$5,514.09 per year. Since this ditch requires ongoing maintenance it was decided to review again in another year. Tim made a motion to leave the assessment rate at \$3.76/ac. with a second from Jim. Motion carried.**

Birchtree Estates Obstruction (Denham Subdivision Lateral) – Dan Blaney informed the board that his correspondence from Joe Morrison, attorney for Gary Coleman, stated that Coleman did not sign the petition and that Coleman believes that his girlfriend had signed his name. Since most work has been completed in that area, water is moving and no agreement has been made with the other party, the board agreed to leave things as they are.

Denham Subdivision – The conversation then turned to a ½ mile area that has not yet been cleaned on the North edge of the subdivision. Chris stated since there is already a regulated drain there so he could extend the regulated portion to include the ½ mi. area that is currently unregulated. **Jim made the motion to extend the regulated drain to encompass the entire Denham Subdivision with a second from Tim. Motion carried.**

TNC Wetlands Moratorium – Dan Blaney reported that he had a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed between the NC Drainage Board and The Nature Conservancy concerning approximately 225 acres in Section 17, McClellan Twp. The agreement gives the Conservancy permission to proceed with installation of the water control structure & earthen plug as long as they monitor effects of the installation on drainage of adjoining properties and report any adverse effects to the County. The agreement was signed by Jim, Russ, Tim and Chris and returned to Dan.

Lincoln Street Tile – Chris mentioned to the board that there was a mutual tile needing repair on Lincoln Street and that the landowners are working together to complete this project.

Goodland Lateral – Chris reported a landowner wanted to improve the Goodland Lateral and had agreed to pay for the expense. Since he is installing a two stage ditch. **The Nature Conservancy offered a \$2,000 grant for the project.** The l/o does not want to accept this money and have to claim it as income and Chris had therefore asked

the drainage board to accept it on behalf of Mr. Burton instead. Whereas it is a regulated drain and the surveyor's office had been to the project site several times to stake the ditch, it was decided it could be accepted and put in the Goodland Lateral Maintenance Fund.

Knight-Moffit – Chris informed the board that he has an agreement with McMahon Engineering to complete a scouring report on the CSX structure on the Knight-Moffit Ditch. It is a time and expense project with an estimated cost of \$4,500 - \$6,000. This is for a report to see if excavation can be done which confirms what the surveying company discovered or if the railroad is correct and it cannot be done without damaging the structure. While this is a Bi-County Ditch, Chris is the surveyor of record. It is unsure if CSX will go along with the report findings. Jim made a motion to hire McMahon Engineering to complete the report without exceeding the cost of \$6,000. Tim seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Request for Bridge Replacement – It was reported by Chris that Dave Bechman, a farm property manager, is requesting a bridge be replaced as it is undersized for farm equipment. The new bridge would be 9'6" x 45' in length. The total expense has been estimated at \$19,510. Chris suggested cost sharing since the bridge is the only access to the 69 acres on the east side of the bridge. According to statute if we do a reconstruction and have to remove the bridge that is part of the project and everybody must share in the expense. On a maintenance or future project it is whatever the drainage board agrees upon with the landowner. Jim asked who is dismantling the old bridge and what amount the landowner is willing to pay. It is the O'Brien Open Main which is a bi-county ditch for which Chris is the surveyor of record. The ditch has a current cash balance of \$26,700 as reported by Deb. The headwalls are starting to breakdown, the I-beams are bad and the bridge is not big enough. Chris will check with the landowner to see who will be dismantling the old bridge and how much he is willing to pay toward the project and then report back to the board.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.