

## **February 03, 2026**

The Newton County Drainage Board met in the Commissioner's Room of the Newton County Government Center at 10:00 a.m. CST on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026. This meeting was originally scheduled for the Newton County Courthouse, however had to be moved due to a water outage. A sign was posted to inform the public of the change in location and the reason for the move.

Members present were Councilman Scott Carlson, Commissioner Steve Eilers, Commissioner Rob Churchill, Surveyor Beau Watkins, Secretary Jamie Rowe and Attorney Jacob Ahler. Also present was Michael Schoof, Property Manager of Willow Slough FWA.

**Councilman Carlson called the meeting to order.**

### **Minutes**

**01-06-2026**

*Commissioner Churchill made a motion to approve the minutes. Second by Commissioner Eilers. Motion passed 3-0.*

### **Bid Opening**

#### **Best Ditch Clearing & Culvert Bid Opening (717)**

Due to a watermain break at the Newton County Courthouse, the Courthouse was closed. Bids were accepted in the Auditor's Office until the hour of 9:00 a.m. Surveyor Watkins confirmed that he had reached out to every contractor present at the job viewing to ensure they were aware of the change of meeting location.

Under the guidance of Attorney Ahler, the Board opened two bids:

- Dirt Diggers Excavating, Inc.           \$108,920.00
- Sand Knob, LLC                           \$21,800.00

Dirt Diggers Excavating, Inc. was more than 10% over the Surveyor's estimate.

Discussion was held regarding the scope of work and confirmation that Sand Knob, LLC was present at the job viewing.

*After due discussion, Commissioner Eilers made a motion to accept the bid from Sand Knob, LLC for \$21,800.00. Second by Commissioner Churchill. Motion passed 3-0.*

### **2026 Certified Drain Assessment**

The Board was presented with the schedule of assessments payable in 2026.

*Commissioner Eilers made a motion to accept the 2026 Certified Drain Assessments as presented. Second by Commissioner Churchill. Motion passed 3-0.*

### **VC Borklund / Landfill (508)**

Surveyor Watkins reminded the Board that this is the waterway south of the landfill entrance. He had previously been in contact with John Whaley, who farms the property. Mr. Whaley informed Surveyor Watkins that the stand pipe in the field is functioning properly for the private tile and that the main is also functioning properly.

Currently, the roadside ditch is filling nearly to the roadway. As a result, water is flowing into a low spot and being held there, largely due to sediment from the landfill. Surveyor Watkins and Mr. Whaley agreed that if the waterway is redressed, the ditch water will spill into the waterway and flow south.

This situation has been previously discussed and agreed to qualify for use of a special fund that the landfill pays into annually. Surveyor Watkins has been contacted by the landowner, who requested a meeting between them along with the property manager and managers of the landfill. This meeting will take place at the Surveyor's Office on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

### **Other Matters**

#### **IDNR/TNC Joint Wetland Project**

Mr. Schoof was present to follow up on his discussion with the Board at the December meeting. He stated that he has followed-up with the appropriate landowners. One landowner is agreeable to the project, provided it does not impede drainage. The other landowner will wait until the modeling is completed before deciding.

Mr. Schoof stated that the modeling, which is being completed by Ducks Unlimited, should be ready in early March.

After due discussion, *Commissioner Churchill made a motion to approve Area 13 control structures (as labeled on the map provided in December) affecting drains named One-Half Section Line Lateral and the Houseworth Riner Ditch (#579). Second by Commissioner Eilers. Motion passed 3-0.*

### **Hearings**

Attorney Ahler stated that he will not be available for the hearings but will meet with the Secretary to discuss questions. Councilman Carlson stated that one of the Board members may be available to attend.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, *Commissioner Churchill made a motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Eilers. Motion passed 3-0.*

X

Scott Carlson  
President

X

Steve Eilers  
Vice President

X

Robert Churchill