

FARIBAULT COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
COUNTY DITCH 26 MAIN & BRANCH B PRELIMINARY MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2014

The Faribault County Board of Commissioners met at the Faribault County Ag Center in the City of Blue Earth as the Faribault County Drainage Authority on February 18, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. for a preliminary report on County Ditch 26 Improvement of Main Line and Branch B. The following members were present: Bill Groskreutz, Tom Loveall, John Roper, Tom Warmka, and Greg Young Commissioners. County Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator John Thompson, Drainage Engineer Joe Mutschler and Drainage Inspector Merissa Lore and Soil and Water/Planning and Zoning Program Administrator Michele Stindtman were also present.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Loveall.

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Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator Thompson presented the affidavit of mailing. Thompson stated that the petition has been reviewed and the legal requirements have been met. The County Attorney had also approved the petition and bond.

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Attorney Bruce Sellers, representing the petitioners, gave a brief review of the reason for the project.

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Project Engineer Chuck Brandel of I & S Group reviewed the preliminary report. Three options were presented to the drainage authority. The engineer stated that all the options were feasible. There was a necessity for the drainage project, the project will be of public benefit, and promote the public health. After considering the environmental and land use criteria in M.S. §103E.015, subdivision 1, the outlet was adequate.

The engineer stated that separable maintenance is necessary due to the age and condition of the existing tile.

Brandel stated that option one followed the request outlined in the petition and represented a .38% drainage co-efficient. Options two and three addressed the engineer's belief that a .50% drainage co-efficient was proper in this circumstance.

The board discussed the options at length with the engineer. Commissioner Roper asked that a bulkhead repair be included in the options at the point of entry into the open ditch. There were several questions on the use of separable maintenance.

Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator Thompson stated that after proper notice the DNR did not submit an advisory letter on the preliminary report.

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The public comment portion of the hearing was opened. Daryl Murray, Carroll Olson, Jim Haaland, Duane Bromeland, Doug Nimz, and George Lincoln all spoke on various issues relating to the project. Items discussed included other options, separable maintenance, how benefits were calculated, cross connections of private tile, prior improvements on the system, tile routes, and the need for bulkhead repair. The public comment portion of the hearing was closed.

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Young/Roper motion carried unanimously to have staff draft the order including the following:

1. The petition of Duane Bromeland and others for the improvement of County Ditch #26 Main Tile Line and Branch B is sufficient and meets statutory requirements,
2. The engineers have completed their preliminary survey and made and filed their report thereon, according to law,
3. The proposed ditch improvement, as outlined in the petition and modified and recommended by the engineer preliminary report by the engineer, is feasible, that there is necessity therefore, that it will be of public benefit and promote the public health and that the outlet for said ditch is adequate,
4. Consideration was given to environmental and land use criteria in Minn. Stat. 103E.015 subdivision 1, and
5. The Drainage Authority finds that the bulkhead is in need of repair and/or improvement.
6. The engineer shall proceed and complete a final detailed survey and report, and furnish all necessary plans and specifications for said ditch, including any proposed changes or modifications as mentioned in the order,
7. The engineer shall present option one with the bulkhead repair/improvement and option 3 from the preliminary report in the final report to the board for consideration at the final hearing.
8. Appoint as viewers Wes Tennis, Mark Behrens and Chris Christianson, disinterested parties and Minnesota residents, to view the lands and properties affected by said ditch and to report thereon as required by law.

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The meeting was adjourned.

Tom Loveall, Chair

John Thompson, Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator

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