

FARIBAULT COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
COUNTY DITCH 24 MEETING
MARCH 25, 2014

The Faribault County Board of Commissioners met at the Faribault County Law Enforcement Center in the City of Blue Earth as the Faribault County Drainage Authority on March 25, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. to consider solutions to the re-establishment of shallow grass waterways and buffer strips on County Ditch 24. The following members were present: Bill Groskreutz, Tom Loveall, John Roper, Tom Warmka, and Greg Young Commissioners. Also in attendance were County Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator John Thompson, Drainage Engineer Joe Mutschler, Drainage Inspector Merissa Lore, and Kurt Deter, attorney for the County Drainage Authority.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Loveall.

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Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator Thompson presented the affidavit of mailing and publication.

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Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator Thompson reviewed the situation. Shallow grass waterways were made part of the CD24 system with an improvement on a final order dated in 1959. The improvement called for 50 foot wide waterways. The system had a redetermination of benefits completed in 2013. Staff found that the waterway from the 1959 improvement was from much less than 50 feet in most areas and non-existent in other areas. It was stated that staff would like a decision from the Drainage Authority on how to proceed with implementing the grass strips and re-establishing the waterway.

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Attorney Kurt Deter stated that the Drainage Authority retains jurisdiction over the area. The Drainage Authority could reduce the width of the waterway if there were no complaints from landowners. The Drainage Authority discussed several options including re-establishing the 50 foot wide grass waterway and adding the buffer strips or reducing the width of the waterway.

Lynn Cole, a landowner at the outlet of the system, stated that sediment and trash from fields was an issue and felt that a 50 wide waterway was still needed.

Discussion was held on the need for more than a 50 foot wide waterway that would exist with the addition of the buffer strips.

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Warmka/Young motion carried unanimously to the following:

1. Re-establish the shallow grass waterway to the original 50 foot width.
2. The buffer strip purchased in the redetermination of benefits completed in 2013 will be included in the 50 foot wide waterway approved in #1 above.
3. The waterway in the road right of way along the east side of 330th Avenue in Section 9 in Winnebago Township will only have the one rod buffer strip established on the east side of the waterway.

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Letters will be mailed by staff to inform landowners that staff will be staking the system when conditions allow.

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The meeting was adjourned.

Tom Loveall, Chair

John Thompson, Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator