

FARIBAULT COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
DRAINAGE AUTHORITY  
COUNTY DITCH 62  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

The Faribault County Board of Commissioners met as the Drainage Authority for County Ditch 62 at the Courthouse in the City of Blue Earth at 2:00 p.m. on September 8, 2015. The following members were present: Bill Groskreutz, Tom Loveall, John Roper, Tom Warmka, and Greg Young Commissioners. County Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator John Thompson, Legal Counsel Kurt Deter, Drainage Manager Merissa Lore, Drainage Inspector Jadrian Irwin, Viewers Bob Hanson and Mark Behrends and Engineer Charles Brandel were also present.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Groskreutz.

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Kurt Deter, County Legal Counsel, explained the reason for the hearing. A petition for improvement of the system and a redetermination of benefits were being considered. A preliminary hearing for the improvement was held July 7, 2015 at which time the engineer was directed to prepare a final report and the viewers were appointed for the project.

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Loveall/Warmka motion passed unanimously to accept the affidavit of publication, affidavit of mailing and affidavit of posting presented by Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator Thompson.

It was stated that an advisory letter has not been received from the DNR. Engineer Brandel stated that issues from the preliminary advisory letter were addressed in the final report.

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Chuck Brandel of I&S Group and engineer for the project presented his final report on the improvement project. The project involves the addition of approximately 2,500' of private tile to the CD62 system along with the addition of a wood chip bioreactor. Grant dollars will be paying for approximately \$182,709 of the total \$221,583 estimated cost. System costs are projected to be \$38,874.

The meeting was opened for public comment on the engineer's report. Discussion was held on other options, how the bioreactor would work, how much maintenance the bioreactor would need, maintenance around the outlet of the present private tile and other issues. The public comment period was closed.

The engineer stated that considerations of environmental and land use criteria of M.S. 103E.015 subd. 1 have been addressed in the final report and that the project was practicable and feasible and that the project would be a public benefit and contribute to the public welfare of this area and, therefore, the projects should be considered for final approval as described in the final report.

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Viewer Mark Behrends presented the viewers reports for the improvement and the redetermination of benefits. An informational meeting was held on August 25, 2015. Changes were made in their final report after talking with several landowners about their benefits. These changes are included in the report presented at this meeting. The viewing process and the system improvement were discussed at this meeting.

A final viewers report, benefit and damages report and property owners report were presented for the system before any improvement was completed showing benefits of \$925,496 for lands and roads including 576.8 acres of farmland and 9.12 acres of roads.

A final viewer's report, benefit and damages statement and property owners report were presented for the system if the improvement was approved showing benefits of \$1,050,604 of benefits and \$1,100 in damages for 646.15 acres of farmland and 16.22 acres of roads. If the improvement were completed this report would be used for the improvement and any subsequent repair of the system.

The hearing was opened for public comment on the viewers report. Questions and discussion were held on how the benefits and damages were determined. The public comment portion was closed.

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Loveall/Roper motion carried to accept the engineer's report and the final viewer's reports, direct staff to prepare a final order that includes the following items: (a) final engineer's report and the Viewers Report have been made and other proceedings have been completed under 103E, (b) engineer's and viewer's reports made or amended are complete and correct, (c) damages and benefits have been properly determined, (d) estimated benefits are greater than the total estimated costs, including damages, (e) proposed drainage improvement project is practicable, and (f) redetermined benefits and damages as presented by the viewers in their "After Improvement" report, and the benefitted and damaged areas shall be used in place of the original benefits and damages on all subsequent proceedings for County Ditch 62. Commissioner Young voted no.

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The meeting was adjourned.

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William Groskreutz Jr., Chair

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John Thompson, Auditor/Treasurer/Coordinator