



NOVEMBER 28, 2023
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
NICOLLET COUNTY DRAINAGE AUTHORITY

The Nicollet County Drainage Authority met in regular session on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 following the adjournment of the regular Board of Commissioners meeting. Present at the meeting were Commissioners Kolars, Dranttel, Morrow, Dehen, and Zins. Also present were County Administrator Mandy Landkamer and County Attorney Michelle Zehnder Fischer.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Dehen and seconded by Commissioner Morrow to approve the agenda. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Morrow and seconded by Commissioner Dehen to approve the consent agenda items as follows:

1. November 14, 2023 Drainage Authority Minutes
2. Consider Ditch Repair Reports 23-024 through 23-032

Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Public Appearances

There were no public appearances.

Public Services

CD77 Lateral 2 Final Acceptance and Levy Order

Director Kopet came forward to share information regarding the CD77 Lateral 2 Improvement Project. At the Public Hearing on November 14, 2023, the Final Report from ISG was approved by motion, as well as the levy to landowners on the ditch system.

Motion by Commissioner Morrow and seconded by Commissioner Dranttel to approve the Final Acceptance and Findings. The motion carried 5-0 with all voting in favor on a roll call vote.

Motion by Commissioner Morrow and seconded by Commissioner Dehen to approve the CD77 Lateral 2 Levy Order and Findings. The motion carried 5-0 with all voting in favor on a roll call vote.

Public Works

Consider Ditch Repair Report #23-034

Director Greenwood and Ditch Inspector Henry provided information regarding pump maintenance for CD 86A. The manufacturer recommends annual servicing to check oil levels and mechanical functioning of the pumps, as well as winterizing to protect them from freezing conditions. Quality Flow Services has provided two quotes to complete the work. The first quote is for removal, servicing, and winterizing the pumps. The second quote is for installation and verifying pump performance.

Commissioner Morrow asked if this required maintenance would be an annual expense to the County, to which Director Greenwood replied yes. He then asked if the County was made

aware of these annual costs by the engineer before installation, to which Director Greenwood replied no. Finally, Commissioner Morrow asked if it would have been a reasonable expectation for the engineer to have made these costs clear before installation, to which Director Greenwood replied yes. Director Greenwood shared that since the pumps are so large, a crane is needed to remove them. Commissioner Dranttel asked if other pumps are able to be submerged in ice and Director Greenwood said yes, as the pumps used on other systems are a different style. Occasional maintenance is expected on an as-needed basis, however none are required to be removed annually and winterized.

Commissioner Morrow expressed concern that this significant maintenance cost was not clearly disclosed during the project work. Director Greenwood stated that the pumps originally planned for installation were similar to other "trash" pumps installed on other ditch systems in the County. As the project progressed, however, a submersible pump design was discovered for potential use. In emails from August of 2018, Engineer Brandel of ISG and landowners Tim Waibel and Lynn Fluegge agreed that the newer submersible pump design would be a better fit for the project than the more commonly used trash pumps. Director Greenwood also added that the trash pumps only need to be pulled on an as-needed basis, and it was not clarified that the newer pumps would need to be pulled annually.

There was discussion about the installation of the pumps in the spring. Director Greenwood stated that the installation date would be dependent on the weather and when the ground thaws. Because the work needs to be completed as soon as weather allows, Commissioner Dehen moved to amend the original motion to authorize Director Greenwood and Ditch Inspector Henry to facilitate the re-installation of the pumps concerning the freeze/thaw requirements. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dranttel and passed 3-2 on a roll call vote, with Commissioners Zins and Morrow voting no.

Motion by Commissioner Zins and seconded by Commissioner Dranttel to approve Ditch Repair Report #23-034 as amended. Motion passed 5-0, with all voting in favor on a roll call vote.

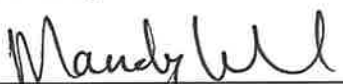
Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.



JACK KOLARS, CHAIR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:



MANDY LANDKAMER,
CLERK TO THE BOARD