

Green Lake County *Drainage Board*

571 County Rd. A
Green Lake, WI 54941-3188

Steven Foust - 920-426-3639
David Gneiser - 920-369-6314
Richard M Sobieski - 920-229-5285

**Drainage Board
October 27, 2021
7:00 P.M. – 8:45 P.M.
Training Room, Green Lake County Government Center
571 County Rd. A, Green Lake, WI 54941**

Call to Order: The meeting of the Drainage Board was called to order by Chairman Krueger. The requirements of the open meeting law were certified as being met.

Present: David Gneiser
Steven Foust
Richard M Sobieski

Also Present: LeRoy Petit, John Imobersteg (zoom), Rachel Baker – WDNR (zoom),
Bart Chapman –DATCP (zoom), Todd Morris – Green Lake County LCD

Agenda: ***Motion/second (Sobieski/Gneiser)*** to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Election of Officers:

Motion/second (Sobieski/Foust) to nominate David Gneiser as Chairman. Mr. Gneiser accepted. Motion carried.

Motion/second (Sobieski/Gneiser) to nominate Steven Foust as Vice-chairman. Mr. Foust accepted. Motion carried.

Motion/second (Gneiser/Foust) to nominate Richard Sobieski as Secretary. Mr. Sobieski accepted. Motion carried.

Minutes: ***Motion/second (Sobieski/Foust)*** to approve the November 18, 2020 meeting minutes with addition. Motion carried.

Addition to minutes by Mr. Foust, wanted to change wording from not assessing church to not assessing church and cemetery.

Public Comments: Mr. Petit asked to hold comments until after the report on annual inspections. Gneiser allowed this.

Mr. John Imobersteg stated that he signed a petition to eliminate woodland owners from district ditch assessments. All Mr. Imobersteg owns is woodland which is enrolled in Managed Forest Law (MFL). Owns land in Waushara County.

Appearances: none

Report on Annual Inspections:

District 1 – Inspection completed by Mr. Gneiser. He spoke with Steve Smits, Double S Dairy on ditch. There is a lot of brush in corridor. Mr. Smits will discuss the ditch with neighbors to see if they want any maintenance on the ditch. If maintenance is wanted, they will contact the drainage board.

District 2 – Inspection completed by Mr. Foust. Looks good, there is water standing in ditch. Mr. Foust feels the board should see if Mr. Eckert wants to extend ditch to east of district.

District3 – Inspection completed by Mr. Foust. There is a culvert replacement taking place on the ditch by district landowner. There are buckthorn and box elder trees along the west end of ditch. These should be removed and stumps treated with herbicide.

District 5 – Inspection completed by Mr. Sobieski. Received complaint from James Trochinski that the culvert that was installed along Hwy E is failing. Upon inspection of his property, there was signs of tile blowouts in road ditch. The highway department is scheduled to replace the asphalt on Hwy E in 2022 and would be willing to replace the tile for district. They estimated their cost to be \$4000.00 to do this. Mr. Foust also looked at site and spoke with another contractor that estimated the cost to be around \$18,000.00. Mr. Sobieski also spoke with landowners west of district boundary to see if they were interested in extending tile to in front of properties. Mr. Featherston wanted nothing to do with it, Mr. Chappa stated that water used to flow to west.

Mr. Petit commented on the tile. He stated that the tile is not necessary for his property. The road ditch handles the surface water flow and his property and neighbors, Mr. Steger, receive no benefit from the tile. Mr. Petit feels that the tile should stop at his east property line. Mr. Petit also stated that his neighbor has the entire road ditch filled in with a culvert underneath. Mr. Petit feels that this ditch should be dug out and a road ditch installed. Mr. Petit would like to withdraw from district. Mr. Sobieski advised Mr. Petit to get a petition to withdraw from the district so the board can act on the petition.

Seneca-Warren – Inspection completed by Mr. Sobieski. There is some brush, willow and boxelder, on the ditch banks that should be removed. Pertraszak Excavating has a mower that mounts on backhoe that would work to mow down. Stumps would need to be treated to prevent regrowth. There is approximately 1' – 2' of sediment in bottom of ditch from junction with lateral A, station 146+37, to the culvert on Zietlow's property, station 309+94. Zietlow culvert is about 1.5' higher than planned bottom. If want to dig to specification upstream this culvert would need to be lowered. At South Rd. the west culvert has sediment sitting in it and not flowing. Mr. Sobieski recommended that both sides be cleaned out, this may cause flow to scour out culvert and clean it out. The sediment in culvert is also a concern brought up by Mr. Alf who owns the land along the ditch in this area. Mr. Sobieski also stated that the ditch flow is not obstructed by having sediment in the culvert. The water level is the same on both sides of culvert. On the upper end of the ditch from station 444+88, Hwy EE culvert to station 466+61, end, Mr. Souder would like to clean the ditch at no charge to the district. Board stated that this would be allowed.

Review and approve DATCP Reports: Board reviewed DATCP reports and Mr. Gneiser signed the reports.

Discussion/action on Maintenance Issues in All Districts: Discussion held on maintenance issues. For the Seneca-Warren District, the plan is to have the brush removed/mowed along with cleaning the ditch center from 146+37 – 309+94, 16,357 ft. or approximately 3.1 miles.

District 5, wait for any maintenance until after petition to withdraw from district is returned from Mr. Petit.

Evaluating Overall Drainage and Benefits to Landowners:

Mr. Foust discussed issue that the board cannot assess Managed Forest Law (MFL) lands and feels that the assessments need to be changed to address this.

Mr. Bart Chapman, DATCP, spoke on the original intent of drainage districts was to drain lands for crop production. Now with more impervious surfaces occurring in the districts that throws a wrench into the system, causing more surface runoff, which is not what the original ditches were designed for. Stated that drainage ditches are now becoming storm water ditches and affecting the ability to drain cropland. He stated that this issue is happening statewide and Green Lake Drainage Board is not alone on dealing with this challenge. Lengthy discussion with Mr. Chapman. He is also interested in looking more into State Statute 77.84 dealing with MFL.

Vouchers: Berlin Journal Newspaper, \$265.00 for Class II Notice

Motion/second (Foust/Sobieski) to pay bills for services as soon as board receives them and not wait until a meeting to approve them. This is to reverse a motion made on July 11, 2017 that no bills will be paid until the board approves payment. Motion carried.

Correspondence: none

Committee Discussion: Short discussion on possible Sucker Creek stream realignment to get it to flow back in original channel. Mr. Morris will send a copy of the Sucker Creek map to Rachel Baker, WDNR.

The board received twenty-five "Petition by Landowner for Withdrawal of Lands From The Seneca-Warren Drainage District." A public hearing will be held on the withdrawal petitions. This will require a Class II Notice with mailing to affected landowners.

Future Meeting Date: The next meeting will be December 1, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. in the Training Room of the Government Center in Green Lake.

Future Agenda Items for Action & Discussion:

Act on Petitions for Withdrawal in Seneca-Warren District

Act on Petitions for Withdrawal in District 5

State Statutes 77.84

Adjourn: Motion/second (_____/_____) to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, _____, Recorder

Meeting expenses: Ditch #1	_____	Ditch #5	_____
Ditch #2	_____	Seneca-Warren	_____
Ditch #3	_____	General	_____
Ditch #4	_____		