

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD

State of Minnesota
County of Kanabec
Office of the County Coordinator

April 14, 2021

The Kanabec County Drainage Authority Board met at 6:30pm on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 pursuant to recess with the following Board Members present: Gene Anderson, Rickey Mattson, Dennis McNally, Craig Smith, and Les Nielsen. Others Present: Public Works Director/Ditch Inspector Chad Gramentz, Attorney Kurt Deter, Environmental Services Supervisor Teresa Wickeham, County Coordinator Kris McNally and Recording Secretary Kelsey Schiferli.

The meeting was held in the Mora High School Auditorium to allow for social distancing due to COVID-19. The meeting was also held via WebEx for anyone wishing to attend virtually.

6:30pm - The Chairperson called the meeting into session.

Public Works Director/County Ditch Inspector Chad Gramentz presented the agenda.

Attorney Kurt Deter gave an introduction and oral presentation on the history of county ditch systems and the purpose of the meeting. His presentation included the origination and purpose of county ditch systems, the difference between county ditches and county road ditches, who is responsible for maintaining the ditch, how costs are allocated, and the role of the Kanabec County Board as the Drainage Authority.

The Drainage Authority Board held a discussion regarding the leveling of ditch banks, where the timber from ditch cleaning goes, the difference between county road ditches and county ditches, and whether or not County Ditch #2 extends into Isanti County.

The Chairperson called for public comment. Approximately 30 comments were made from both in-person and online participants regarding the following topics:

Estimated cost per acre to repair a county ditch.
Number acres are in county ditches #2 and #10.
Lack of drainage in relation to county road projects.
Small residential lots in the ditch assessment area.
Specific complaints made on the ditch petitions.
County ditches and state land.
Damage to county ditches caused by cattle.
Directional flow of county ditch #2.
Removal of fill from county ditches during cleanup and repair.
How the opinions of landowners in the ditch assessment area relate to repairs of the ditch.
Cost of tree removal.

Responsibilities of the county.
Costs vs. benefits of repairing the ditch.
Division of ditch repair cost among landowners.
Culverts being raised over time causing drainage issues.
Percentage of landowners in ditch assessment required for repairs vs. improvements.
Process of ditch petition submission and drainage authority decision.
Distances from county ditches, public waters, and private ditches for farming.
Process for landowners to acquire approval to clean county ditches on their property.
Number of signatures on petitions for ditches #2 and #10.
Cost allocation for parts of the ditch system.
Number of county ditches in Kanabec County.
Questions regarding the availability of grant funds to offset ditch repair costs.
Clarification of MN Statute 103.b. and county ditch repair.
Partial abandonment and total abandonment of county ditches.
Beaver dams and drainage issues.

8:13pm - The Chairperson closed public comment.

The County Board will consider the petitions to repair County Ditches #2 and #10 at a future board meeting.

Action #1 – It was moved by Dennis McNally, seconded by Les Nielsen and carried unanimously to adjourn the informational meeting at 8:15pm and to meet again in regular session on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 9am.

Signed _____
 Chairperson of the Kanabec County Board of Commissioners,
 Kanabec County, Minnesota

Attest: _____
 Board Clerk