

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD

State of Minnesota
County of Kanabec
Office of the County Coordinator

August 17, 2021

The Kanabec County Drainage Authority Board met at 6:30pm on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 pursuant to recess with the following Board Members present: Gene Anderson, Rick Mattson, Dennis McNally, Craig Smith, and Les Nielsen. Others Present: Public Works Director/Ditch Inspector Chad Gramentz, Engineers Zach Schuster and Chris Otterness from Houston Engineering, Environmental Services GIS Technician Ryan Carda, County Auditor/Treasurer Denise Snyder, County Coordinator Kris McNally and Recording Secretary Kelsey Schiferli.

The meeting was held in the Kanabec County Jail Training Room in order to allow enough space to accommodate all attendees.

6:30pm - The Chairperson called the meeting to order.

Action #1 - It was moved by Dennis McNally seconded by Craig Smith and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Engineer Chris Otterness presented the inspection reports for Kanabec County Ditches 2 and 10. His presentation included descriptions of each ditch including the length, original slopes and depth, and direction of flow. He also presented the findings of the inspection reports which included blockage of flow, poorly defined channels, poor flow at road crossings, beaver dams, fallen trees, trees within banks, and areas of stagnant water.

Engineer Chris Otterness gave an overview of estimated construction costs to repair each ditch. Both full and partial repair estimates were reviewed. The difference between maintenance, repair and improvement were reviewed.

The results of the inspection report indicate that both County Ditches 2 and 10 are in need of repair. The next step would be for the Drainage Authority to order a repair report if they choose to move forward with the repair process.

The Chairperson called for public comment. Those that responded included:

Bill Watson	Questions regarding whether or not the original designs have been reviewed for effectiveness and what the approximate cost of a repair report would be. Ditch 10, opposed.
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Loren Berg	Questions regarding the number of acres the ditches provide drainage for and possible grant funding for the project. Ditch 2, opposed.
Jason Shockman	Questions regarding field culverts and who is responsible for them. Questions regarding drainage into Isanti County. Ditch 2, only in favor if the entire ditch will be repaired. Questions regarding allocation of interest for repairs.
Leonard Flikke	Questions and comments regarding the percentage of petitioners required to initiate the repair process, private ditches that run into county ditches, the cost to repair, tax forfeited land in the assessment area, and who would benefit from repairing the ditch.
Eugene Welch	Comments regarding when to repair the ditch, possible abandonment of the ditch, and benefits of the ditches to more people than just the landowners. Ditch 10, opposed.
Dennis Gilbert	Comments regarding the original purpose of the ditch.
Loren Lemke	Comments regarding property owners taking a vote whether or not the ditches should be repaired. Ditch 10, opposed.
Robert Coleman	Questions regarding clarification of the percentage of landowners required to petition request repair of the ditch.
Mark Knutson	Comments regarding the flooding of roads Pomroy Township. Ditch 10, opposed.
Ray Schwanke	Questions regarding how the cost to each landowner is determined. Ditch 10, opposed. Comments regarding drainage and impact on wetlands.

GIS Technician Ryan Carda and Public Works Director Chad Gramentz presented a map of the assessment area for each ditch in order to show how the cost per landowner was determined. The original cost was based on the percentage of each 40 acre parcel that would benefit from the ditch at the time it was designed. The cost per parcel today is based on the original benefits assessment from 1904. A sample of the original benefits assessment was presented, as well as the ditch petitions that were submitted earlier this year.

Additional public comments:

Amanda Peterson	Questions and comments regarding landowners repairing their own portions
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	of the ditch, wildlife conservation, and ownership of the ditch.
Scott Peterson	Questions and comments regarding spoil piles. Ditch 10, Opposed.
Dennis Gilbert	Questions regarding petitioners. Ditch 10, opposed.
Dale Rumble	Ditch 10, opposed.
Gary Thompson	Ditch 10, opposed.
Jeremy Gardner	Ditch 10, opposed.
Adam Stenstrom	Ditch 10, opposed.
Steve Oien	Ditch 10, opposed. Comments regarding road culverts and flow blockage.
Kaye Carda	Ditch 10, opposed.
Mike Knutson	Ditch 10, opposed.
Dan Helmbrecht	Ditch 10, opposed.
Galen Graber	Ditch 10, opposed.
Kevin Petersen	Ditch 10, opposed.
Shane Oslin	Ditch 10, opposed.
Charles Alcock	Ditch 10, opposed.
Robert Coleman	Ditch 10, opposed.
Matt Weimer	Ditch 2, opposed.
Joe Dolan	Ditch 2, opposed.
Daryl Erickson	Ditch 2, in favor.
Danny Richardson	Ditch 2, opposed.
Kevin Belkholm	Ditch 2, in favor of full clean out.
Loren Barnick	Ditch 2, in favor of cleaning and fixing.
Paul Belkholm	Ditch 2, in favor.
Rick Kawelek	Comments regarding cost to repair.
Melissa Willits	Questions regarding the bid process.
Bob Richardson	Comments regarding cost.

The Drainage Authority Board held a discussion regarding rules for crossing privately owned land to access County Ditches for repair, potential damages to property, types of equipment and contractors required to perform the work, the effectiveness of the ditches when they were originally constructed, allocation of cost for non-tax paying entities within the assessment area, and the determination of the size of easement on each side of the ditch. Information only, no action was taken.

The Drainage Authority expressed consensus to obtain proposals for a repair report on County Ditch 2.

County Ditch Inspector Chad Gramentz will meet with Attorney Kurt Deter to discuss the possible dismissal of repair of County Ditch 10. He will also contact the petitioners of County Ditch 10.

8:30pm – The Chairperson adjourned the meeting. The Drainage Authority will meet again on a date yet to be determined.

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

Attest: _____
Board Clerk