

BENTON COUNTY DITCH AUTHORITY
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022
BENTON COUNTY BOARD ROOM

The Benton County Ditch Authority met in regular session on January 18, 2022 in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN with Board members Beth Schlangen, Scott Johnson, Steve Heinen, Jared Gapinski, and Ed Popp present. Also present was Chris Byrd, County Engineer (virtual); Montgomery Headley, County Administrator; and Beth Stay, Executive Assistant.

Chair Heinen called the meeting to order at 10:31 AM.

Johnson/Gapinski to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Gapinski/Johnson to approve the meeting minutes of December 28, 2021 as written. Motion carried unanimously.

County Engineer Chris Byrd requested the Benton County Ditch Authority Board set a date, time, and place for a public hearing on the Viewer's Report. Byrd stated that H2Overviewers have completed their work on several county ditches. Benefits and Damages Statements are being mailed to affected landowners on County Ditch (CD) 3, CD 4, CD 5, CD 6, CD 7, CD 9, CD 10, CD 11, CD 12, and CD 14. A Landowner meeting has been set for Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at Henry's Event Center in Foley, MN. The purpose of the landowner meeting is to inform the landowners of the process and provide the opportunity to ask questions. After the landowner meetings occur, the Ditch Authority must hold a public hearing to accept the viewer's reports. Byrd suggested Wednesday, February 23rd at Henry's Catering in Foley, MN. There were a couple of scheduling conflicts with this date, and the County Board recessed at 10:44 while Byrd contacted H2Overviewers to seek out other dates.

The Benton County Ditch Authority Board reconvened at 10:52 AM. After a discussion with Bryan Murphy, President of H2Overviewers, there was a consensus to set the date of Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 8:30 AM at Henry's Event Center in Foley, MN to have the public hearing. Murphy stated that Aaron Goemann of H2Overviewers would be present in-person, and Murphy could be present virtually to answer any questions by the landowners in attendance both in-person and virtually at the public hearing. Headley stated that the landowner meeting on February 8, 2022 will be considered a Special Ditch Authority Meeting, where an agenda will be prepared and posted to the public. Byrd stated that he will bring back orders at the next meeting in February to have official action to set the public hearing on March 9, 2022.

Motion by Johnson and seconded by Gapinski to adjourn the Ditch Authority Meeting at 11:03 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

Steven J. Heinen, Chair
Benton County Ditch Authority

ATTEST:

Montgomery Headley
Benton County Administrator