

BENTON COUNTY DITCH AUTHORITY
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2022
BENTON COUNTY BOARDROOM

The Benton County Ditch Authority met in special session on November 1, 2022, in the County Boardroom in Foley, MN with Board members Beth Schlangen, Scott Johnson, and Jared Gapinski present. Commissioner Ed Popp was absent. Chair Heinen noted the absence excused. Also present was Mark Loidolt, Interim County Engineer; Drainage Consultant Joe Lewis of Houston Engineering, Montgomery Headley, County Administrator; and Beth Stay, Executive Assistant.

Chair Heinen called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM.

Gapinski/Johnson to approve the Meeting Minutes of October 4, 2022 as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Interim County Engineer Mark Loidolt provided information about a policy on tree clearing as part of a Ditch Repair project. There has been some discussion regarding whether both sides of the drainage ditch must have trees cleared when completing a ditch repair project. The repair of County Ditch No. 6 proceeded with clearing trees from one side of the ditch, per Drainage Authority direction. Letters were mailed to landowners on June 21, 2022 informing them of this decision. However, since the repair of CD 6 is mostly complete, a couple of landowners have raised concerns with this policy. Loidolt stated the policy should reviewed and confirmed whether ditch repair projects will clear trees on both sides of the ditch, or only one side. The policy will direct decisions on future repair projects. In the immediate future, we will need more direction if the contractor needs to clear more trees along County Ditch No. 6. Several ditches lie within Commissioner Popp's district, and with his absence, the remaining Drainage Authority members wished to table this topic until the next Ditch Authority Meeting. Motion by Johnson and seconded by Gapinski to table this discussion until the next Ditch Authority Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Drainage Consultant Joe Lewis of Houston Engineering provided an update on recent and upcoming projects. This item was for informational purposes only.

Motion by Popp and seconded by Gapinski to adjourn at 10:13 AM.

Steven J. Heinen, Chair
Benton County Ditch Authority

ATTEST:

Montgomery Headley
Benton County Administrator