

BENTON COUNTY DITCH AUTHORITY
Tuesday, April 7, 2020
Benton County Board Room

The Benton County Ditch Authority met in special session on April 7, 2020 in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN with Board members Spencer Buerkle, Steve Heinen, Jake Bauerly, Ed Popp and Warren Peschl present. Also present was Chris Byrd, County Engineer; Monty Headley, County Administrator; and Vicki Feuling, Administrative Assistant

Call to order by Chair Buerkle was at 10:51 AM.

Popp/Peschl unanimous to approve the agenda as written.

Bauerly/Heinen unanimous to approve the minutes of February 18, 2020 as written.

Chris Byrd, County Engineer, explained that, due to the current public health emergency, the public hearing to receive comments on the report to re-establish the ditch records for County Ditch 6, has been postponed (originally scheduled for April 7th at 10:30 AM). He requested that the Ditch Authority set a new hearing date, perhaps the first meeting in May (May 5th); a determination can be made in the future whether this hearing is held "in person" or virtual. Byrd commented "...this is just the first in a series of steps...we'll do this public hearing to hear comments and re-establish the records...then we would move forward with preparing a repair project and probably a redetermination of benefits...if everything goes smoothly, maybe by the fall for actually cleaning it..." Peschl/Popp unanimous to set a new public hearing date to receive comments on the report to re-establish the ditch records for County Ditch 6, for May 5, 2020 at 10:30 AM; also when preparing the public hearing notice, Byrd will include language pertaining to public testimony, access to the room, etc. (language similar to what the Department of Development is using to describe how the public hearing is intended to be conducted).

Peschl explained that a county resident (Brad Chmielewski) is interested in learning about the process for creating a new county ditch. Byrd indicated that he will prepare a summary of the procedures for establishment of a new drainage system that Board members may share with their constituents (include tile systems as well as open ditches). Bauerly commented "...this problem here has been going on for years...I've gotten at least ten phone calls on this same ditch...septic systems are failing because the water level is high...their sheds are full of water..."

Peschl/Bauerly unanimous to adjourn at 10:59 AM.

Spencer C. Buerkle, Chair
Benton County Ditch Authority

ATTEST:

Montgomery Headley
Benton County Administrator

