

BENTON COUNTY DITCH AUTHORITY  
Tuesday, September 3, 2019  
Benton County Board Room

The Benton County Ditch Authority met in special session on September 3, 2019 in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN with Board members Warren Peschl, Spencer Buerkle, Steve Heinen, Ed Popp and Jake Bauerly present. Also present was Chris Byrd, County Engineer; Monty Headley, County Administrator; and Vicki Feuling, Administrative Assistant.

Call to order by Chair Jake Bauerly was at 10:27 AM.

Peschl/Heinen unanimous to approve the agenda as written.

Popp/Buerkle unanimous to approve the minutes of August 6, 2019 as written.

Chris Byrd, County Engineer, reported that the Public Works Department has received a petition to repair County Ditch 14 in Maywood Township; according to MN Statute 103E.715, the petition must be presented to the Ditch Authority at its next meeting. Byrd explained that the next step could be to move forward with the preparation of an Engineer's Report, which would determine the next course of action, or the Ditch Authority could decide to hold a public hearing before going to that step. He confirmed that Ditch 14 has not been repaired or cleaned in a number of years.

Byrd referenced the Board's previous direction to contract with Houston Engineering for engineering services on County Ditch 6, and also to have conversations with them about possibly using their services for other ditch systems as well. He stated that Houston Engineering is willing to provide services for Ditch 14 as well and are putting together a proposal; if desired, he would bring forth an agreement for Ditch Authority approval in the future.

Byrd explained that the purpose of today's meeting is for the Ditch Authority to receive the petition and reach consensus on how to proceed. He clarified that he has not yet inspected the ditch as a result of this petition (petition from Jason Alderink); however, there have been inspections in the past. Byrd commented "...County Ditch 14 becomes County Ditch 9 at a point...may lead to repairing Ditch 9 as well since it directly dumps into it...a repair of the whole length may be recommended as all benefitted landowners would be assessed..."

Byrd stated his recommendation to move forward with contracting with Houston Engineering to complete the inspection report and then have a public hearing at that point. He clarified "...our official action would be to commence an engineering report on Ditch 14...I fully believe our engineering report from Ditch 14 will say we need to address Ditch 9 as well...we don't need to wait for someone to ask us to clean Ditch 9...bring that report back to the Ditch Authority and move forward with the public hearings..."

Peschl/Popp unanimous to receive the petition on County Ditch 14 and proceed with the Engineer's Report.

Buerkle/Heinen unanimous to adjourn at 10:38 AM.

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A. Jake Bauerly, Chair  
Benton County Ditch Authority

ATTEST:

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Montgomery Headley  
Benton County Administrator