

CURTICE INTERCOUNTY DRAIN
MEETING FOR DETERMINATION OF PRACTICABILITY
JUNE 24, 2021

The Hearing of Practicability for the Curtice Intercounty Drain was held at the Beaverton High School Gymnasium, 3090 Crockett Rd., Beaverton, Michigan at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 24, 2021.

Present: Michael Gregg, Chairman MDARD
Joe Sova, Midland County Drain Commissioner
Terry Walters, Gladwin County Drain Commissioner

Also Present: Ross Bower - Fahey, Schultz
Brittany Nichols - Fahey, Schultz
Nick Czerwinski – Spicer Group
Christian Valesano – Spicer Group
Lucy Zeestraten – Gladwin County Deputy Drain Commissioner
Norma Stuart – Midland County Deputy Drain Commissioner

Public Attendance: Approximately 20 landowners

Chairman Gregg called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Introductions were made and an explanation of the Drainage Board was conducted.

Terry Walters made a motion to have Midland County serve as Secretary, seconded by Joe Sova.

Roll call vote

Motion carried.

Joe Sova made a motion to approve the Agenda, seconded by Terry Walters.

Roll call vote

Motion carried.

Joe Sova made a motion to approve the minutes of May 12, 2021 and June 15, 2021. Terry Walters seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Chairman Gregg read the petition and gave a brief outline of the process. Joe Sova moved to find that the petition is sufficient and to convey jurisdiction. Terry Walters seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Chairman Gregg then explained the meeting today and that if found practicable, the process moving forward to the end of the project.

Ross Bower explained that the scope of the project, assessments, nor costs would be addressed today. He reminded the audience that the process of a drain project is dictated by the State of Michigan Drain Code, not a process that the Board has designated.

Chairman Gregg then turned the meeting over to Nick Czerwinski for an overview of the drain.

Nick Czerwinski gave a presentation of the Curtice Intercounty Drain and the items that were of a concern. Many road crossings are in poor shape, and many parts of the drain are overgrown and have large sediment bars. Nick also explained the proposed drainage district and how they came to that conclusion.

Chairman Gregg opened the Public Comment calling on those that filled out a speaker card and then to any others that would like to speak.

Roy Staley, 2896 Curtis Rd. – No comment. His initial question was answered during the presentation.

Pat Robison, 4390 Howard Rd.

– Asked about the USDA grant and the status of that grant.

Joe Sova responded that it was not mentioned because no scope or project is determined at this time, and that money is not a consideration when determining practicability of a petition.

– Asked about the tube from the private road portion of the Drain.

Nick Czerwinski explained to Pat what criteria is used to determine if a tube needs replacing.

Richard Wildey, 2628 Lyle Rd. – Nestor Drain is on his property. He said it was cleaned out and it destroyed his tree line and that his bridge was tore out.

Rick Kubczak, 3200 W. Dana – He had no comment, he says the presentation answered all his questions and that he wants to see a project done.

Jean Perkins, 5152 M18 – Wants everyone mailed information and who pays and the amounts. Asked about who pays for the state land, and what about her culvert and the water that is coming down the drain on her if the drain is cleaned out.

Ted Perkins, 5152 M18 – He keeps his area clean. He asked about his field tile.

Keith Brooks – He understood that Mudd Creek isn't part of the project.

Chairman Gregg explained that some people call it Mudd Creek but it is actually the Curtice Intercounty Drain.

Tom Murray, 4870 Beaverton Rd. – Tom is a Beaverton Township Trustee, and believes we need to look at getting something done.

Mike Schultz, 5650 M18 – He is ½ mile south of Lyle Rd. They cleaned out road ditches. As long as the assessment is fair, he had no problems.

Mike Bommarito, 2624 M18

– He wants to know if utility easement are assessed.

Chairman Gregg explained that if the easements are not deeded to the utility company then no.

– Asked about the low and high areas and if pump stations are going to be used.

Nick Czerwinski explained that when established the Drain was laid out in a path that gravity moved the flow of water.

Rilley Chase, 3265 W. Dana Rd. – The culvert off M18 is an issue. He would like to see the location of the culvert change.

Roy Staley, 2896 Curtis Rd. – Asked about the apportionment process and if he would be charged by the length of drain on his property.

Linda Staley – 2896 Curtis Rd. – Asked about the apportionments.

Ron Konopnicki, 4760 M18 – Said the pictures shown in the overview presentation were not of the Drain.

Keith Brooks, Coolidge Rd. – Against the project in his area. He takes care of his area of the drain and if we did a project it could ruin his landscaping.

Pat Robison, 4390 Howard Rd. – Asked about when she would be able to challenge the apportionments.

Chairman Gregg explained the apportionment appeal process.

Ron Konopnicki, 4760 M18 – Says acreage plays a part, and the more acreage, the higher the cost on the land owner.

Mike Bommarito, 2624 M18 – Wants improvements just in needed areas, not the whole Drain.

Rick Kubczak, 3200 W. Dana – When the road was paved, only ½ the culvert was paved, and that is causing the culvert to wash out.

Chairman Gregg asked about any written communication received. There was none from either County.

Chairman Gregg asked for comments from Joe Sova and Terry Walters on the drain, as in which areas are working and which are not.

Joe Sova responded that it has been 70 or so years since a project has been done and that he favors an improvement project. Terry Walters agreed.

Joe Sova made a motion that the proposed maintenance and improvement of the Curtice Intercounty Drain, as set forth in the petition, is practicable. Terry Walters seconded the motion.

Motion passed.

Joe Sova made a motion requesting Spicer Group, Inc. provide an engineering service proposal for the Curtice Intercounty Drain. Terry Walters seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Chairman Gregg presented an invoice #59586 from Fahey, Schultz in the amount of \$1,393.00. Joe Sova made a motion to pay the invoice, seconded by Terry Walters. Midland will act as treasurer for invoice paying purposes at this time.

Motion carried.

Terry Walters made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Joe Sova.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Joseph J. Sova

Midland County Drain Commissioner