Curtice & Branches Intercounty Drain

Intercounty Drain Drainage Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday October 15, 2024

The Drainage Board for the Curtice & Branches Intercounty Drain met at the office of the Midland County Drain Commissioner, 222 W. Ellsworth St., Midland, Michigan at 10:00a.m. on Tuesday October 15, 2024.

Present: Joe Brezvai, MDARD, Chair (on behalf of Mike Gregg)
Joe Sova, Midland County Drain Commissioner
Lucy Zeestraten, Gladwin County Deputy Drain Commissioner (behalf of Terry Walters)

Also Present: Christian Valesano – Spicer Group
Troy Williamson – Bilacic Trucking
Brian Williamson – Bilacic Trucking
Tonya Lewandowski – ECT (via Teams)

Chairman Joe Brezvai called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Motion to elect Gladwin County as Secretary by Joe Sova, Second by Lucy Zeestraten. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to approve agenda by Joe Sova. Seconded by Lucy Zeestraten. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to approve minutes from September 11, 2024, by Lucy Zeestraten. Seconded by Joe Sova. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Brezvai then asked Spicer Group to give update on the progress of the project. Christian Valesano presented a map that showed the completed channel excavation all the way up to Branch #1 and Branch #3 (map is attached). That has all been dug and spoils knock down will take place after deer season and the property owners are on board. Spoil level on Branch #2 between Curtis Rd. and Coolidge Rd. Soil erosion measures in progress just a little past Shearer Rd. Working between Bergman and M-18. Installing spillways that were stacked out. Curtice Branch #1- and 11-Mile Branch #2 intersection culverts were installed. Soil erosion measures are stacked from Baker Rd on the main branch to M-18 and then more stacking from Baker Rd. all the way to Coolidge Rd.

Chairman Brezvai asked if the Road Commission gave there blessing on the culvert crossings, were there any areas of concern from them? Christian stated that he hadn't spoken to the Road Commission. There were some questions on one of the approaches on 11-Mile and whetherr the approach they patched back in wasn't as wide as it was originally. Christian is going to talk to Art with the Road Commission to make sure it's acceptable.

Chairman Brezvai presented Progress Payment No.7 in the amount of $55,870.00. Motion to pay progress payment by Joe Sova. Seconded by Lucy Zeestraten. All in favor. Motion carried.

Tonya Lewandowski informed the board that NRCS and ECT meet weekly to ask/answer any questions that NRCS team might have. Try to get those resolved so when payoffs do come to the board, we are all on the same page. Christian will be sending a reimbursement that's ready for submission. There was discussion what time frame the bat trees removal is. Removal is September 1st to April 30th. Wood Turtle is November 1st. There was a note on the VMP that the contractor is to visually inspect driving only 10 mph in the months between April and October. Bilacic feels that they will start clearing near November 1st.

Chairman Brezvai presented the Treasurers report. Current balances are Construction Fund $1,098,703.52, Note/Grant Fund $288,979.92 and Debt Retirement $146,745.50. Motion to receive and file Treasurer report by Lucy Zeestraten. Seconded by Joe Sova. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Brezvai presented the following invoices for approval and payment.

Spicer Group	232571	$8,705.75
Bilacic Trucking	PP#7	$55,838.70

Motion to pay both invoices by Joe Sova. Seconded by Lucy Zeestraten. All in favor. Motion carried.
Drain orders were circulated for signatures.

Other business: Christian had 2 landowner requests, and they as follow:

Branch #1 Shearer Rd. and 11-Mile Rd. come down through Mr. Altman's property and crossing 26A is currently cattle crossing through the bottom of the drain. It was proposed to just replace the animal crossing. The property owner is now wanting to replace it with a culvert. Christian reached out to NRCS to see of it would be grant eligible. Dan didn't say for sure but was confident they would be able to cover the 50% of the culvert. The culvert would be 8ft round and would have to be 45 to 48 ft long. Bilacic is estimating the culvert to cost $18,000.00. He's already being assessed for $29,075.00 for that ford crossing so he would be assessed over $6,000.00 the difference in that 35% that he already paid original and what the remainder of the up buy after the NRCS 50%. We would need a general permit. Christian asked if the board is willing have the permit come out of contingency or the property owner would pay. The permit is about $100.00 but there would be some engineering involved and the over all cost would be around $1,000.00. Joe S. and Lucy both agree that the balance remaining should be charged to the property owner. Joe recommends that the property owner is given both options with it and without it. Then we would be waiting on conformation from NRCS if they will cover 50%. Joe S. stated that there needs to be an agreement for him to sign committing to the culvert. Joe B. asked about the permit because he doesn't want to hold up the work waiting for a permit. Christian will have all the information by the next board meeting to be voted on.

Second property owner, Ted Eastling, Curtice Rd. and 11 Mile Rd. Branch #1 comes up 11 Mile Rd., crosses diagonal under Curtice Rd. goes to the East and then to the North. Crossing 29 is a footbridge. The footbridge was there prior to the ditch being dug. Theres a good 2 to 2 1/2ft of sediment coming out. The footbridge was thought to just span across from bank to bank. After they started to dig, they discovered that its sitting on a trailer with an axel and tires attached. Bilacic thinks it an old hay wagon. Can't slope the banks with the tires there so its an obstruction. Christian has spoken with the property owner and has an appointment to meet with him. He has other things that he wants Christian to look at. The property owner needs the footbridge so Christian asked if the board would be willing to do a 35% cost share with the property owner. Joe S. and Lucy both agreed on the cost share with the property owner.

It was decided that the site visit would be next month after the meeting..

Public Comment: None

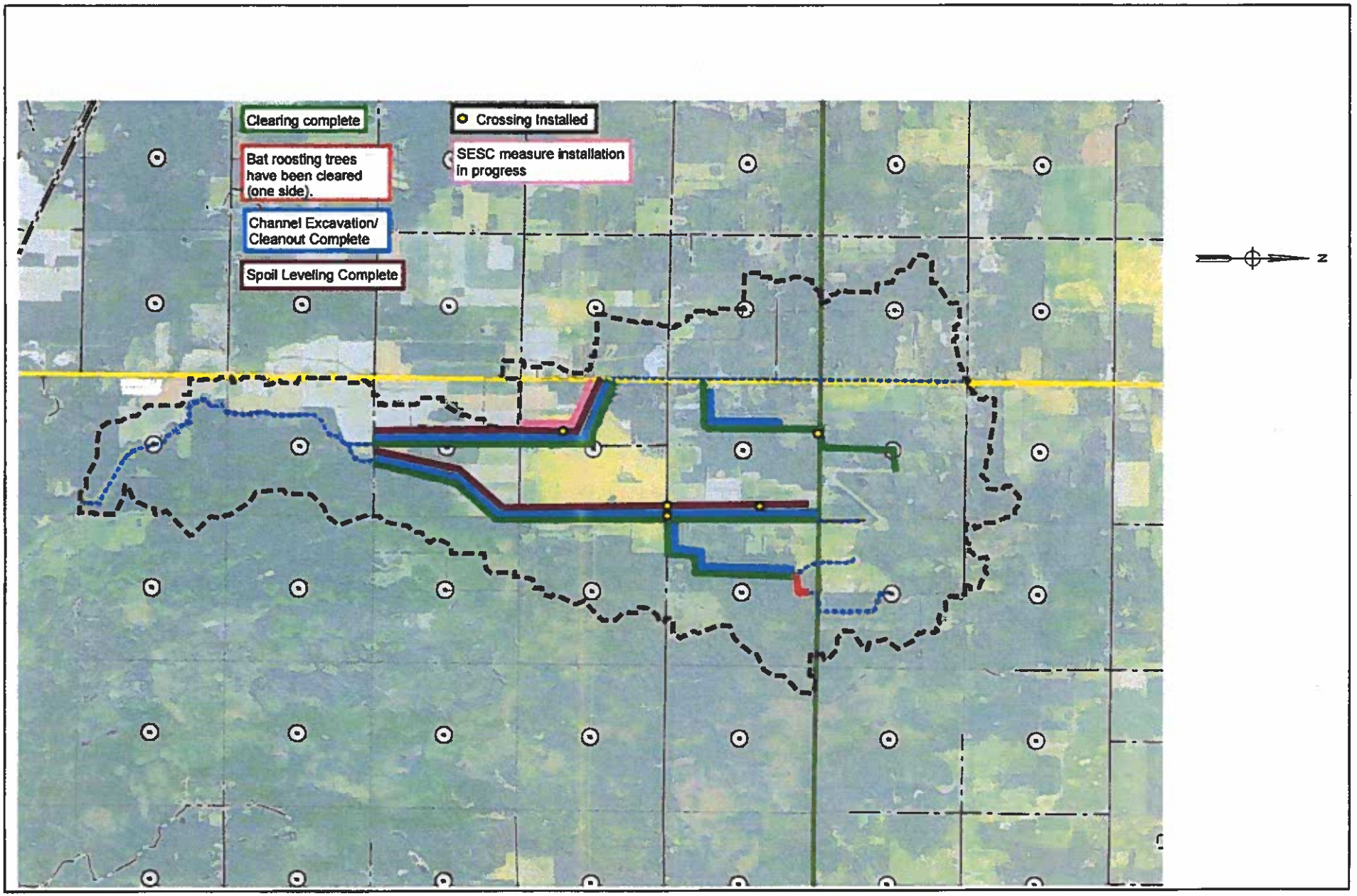
Chairman Joe Brezvai announced that Mike Gregg will be retiring Jan 3, 2025

Next meeting was scheduled for November 12 at 10a.m. in Midland 2nd floor and December 11 at 10a.m. in Midland 3rd floor.

Motion to adjourn by Joe Sova, seconded by Lucy Zeestraten. All in favor. Motion carried
Meeting adjourned at 10:47 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Sova
Midland County Drain Commissioner


Clearing complete
Crossing Installed
Bat roosting trees have been cleared (one side).
SESC measure installation in progress
Channel Excavation/ Cleanout Complete
Spoil Leveling Complete
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