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Clay County Ditch No. 9 Hearing Minutes

Monday May 12, 2025

Managers Present: Peter Fjestad; Catherine Affield; William Davis; Gerald Van Amburg; William Steffl.

Managers Absent: Curtis Stubstad; Troy Larson.

Staff Present: Kristine Goeden, Administrator; Matthew Schlauderaff, Watershed Specialist.

Consultants Present: Bennett Uhler, Engineer, Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI).

Others Attending: Matthew Neudecker, Engineer, Bolton & Menk; Alex Groff, Engineer, Bolton & Menk; Lori Pender; Loretta Gille; David Gille; June Steffl; Paul Krabbenhoft, Clay County Commission.

President Fjestad called meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Hearing is held to discuss petition submitted by Clay County Highway Department to reroute Clay County Ditch No. 9 for the installation of a roundabout at the intersection of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 52 and CSAH 12.

Neudecker stated proposed roundabout intersection will be located approximately 900 feet west of current intersection. This will result in the need for Clay County Ditch No. 9 to be realigned and existing culverts to be replaced.

Neudecker stated traffic study found there have been 18 car crashes in the last 10 years and a fatal accident occurred in 2023. Law enforcement has informed that speeds are an issue at the intersection. The outcome of the proposed roundabout is to create a safe and efficient controlled intersection to meet current and future traffic demands.

Bolton and Menk analyzed capacity of existing system and determined proposed realignment and culvert replacement will maintain capacity of system. Proposed realigned ditch bottom will be 8 feet wide with 4:1 side slopes. Two 36" reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) will replace existing culverts. Proposed changes will not impair or deprive landowners of their drainage benefits. Bolton and Menk found proposed outlet to be adequate.

Realignment with installation of roundabout is estimated to cost \$3,170,027.00.

Landowners were invited to provide comment or ask questions.

Pender asked if tile systems pumping into Clay County Ditch No. 9 were considered in design. Neudecker confirmed.

Krabbenhoft asked about size of proposed roundabout. Neudecker stated roundabout would be same size as roundabout on Highway 75. Groff clarified there would be less curb on proposed roundabout for intersection of CSAH 52 and CSAH 12.

L. Gille asked why roundabouts are better. She stated they are difficult to keep clear of snow. Neudecker stated roundabouts are designed for functionality. He stated signals on traffic lights can go out and require more maintenance than roundabouts. Overtime, roundabouts are more cost effective. Groff clarified roundabouts slow drivers down and lead to less fatal accidents.

Krabbenhoft asked what buffer on ditch would be after roundabout is installed. Neudecker stated it would be 1-rod or 16.5 feet. Krabbenhoft clarified that no additional buffer is needed. Neudecker confirmed.

Davis asked if railroad would be impacted. Neudecker stated proposed realignment would not impact railroad.

L. Gille stated roundabout is needed at this intersection.

President Fjestad adjourned meeting at 6:14 PM.

/s/ William Davis
Secretary