

Steele County Water Resource District

Drain 2 Re-Assessment Hearing Meeting April 2nd, 2024 Minutes

The Steele County Water Resource Board met on Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. at the Steele County Courthouse, Finley, North Dakota.

Steele County Board members present –Josh Ihry, Tor Bergstrom, and Greg Thykeson.
Others present - Lyndon Pease - Moore Engineering, Cassie Tostenson – Nilson Brand Law, Tasha Krueger- Steele County WRD Secretary.

Also known to be present: Darrell Nottestad, Randy Eide, Jay Showers, Randy Richards, Pete Satrom, Mylo Erickson, Blair Meyers, Dan Motter, Dan Thompson.

The Steele County Chairman Ihry called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

Manager Ihry opened the Drain 2 Re-assessment hearing.

Engineer Pease explained the process of the hearing and reviewed the information that was provided.

The current acre is 7,219.96 acres. The current maintenance assessment revenue at \$4 per acre would be \$ 28,879.82 yearly.

The proposed area is 10,387.66 acres. The proposed assessment maintenance revenue at \$4 per acre would be \$41,550.62 yearly.

All the parcels will be moved to 50%-100% assessment benefit factor.

Engineer Pease discussed the updated LIDAR, road crossings, intercept culverts, and drain tile that has been maintained to provide benefits to the land entering the drain.

Attorney Tostenson explained the legal process and discussed the proposed order of re-assessment benefits the board is planning to adopt after the hearing. The drains haven't been re-assessed since the drains were first built.

There was some discussion on the proposed benefit areas.

There was discussion on the elimination of the smaller benefit amounts.

Pease explained the benefits being within a ¼ mile of the legal drain or laterals benefits have increased.

Randy Eide asked if the original voted was based on the benefit ratio which is correct and the hearing will change the benefit ratio.

Manager Bergstrom explain the increase in assessments. It's the ability to move water, the new data that is being presented, and the benefits showing the lack of water coming onto the land. The drain needs to be re-assessed to maintain the drain.

Darrell Nottestad-Section 25-146-54 NW ¼. had concern about not receiving a benefit he is currently being assessed. He feels there was no water on his land and the benefit should be 0, per Bill Bruvik years back. Pease explained to Darrell that Section 25-146-54 NW ¼, western ½ of the northwest quarter is not be assessed but the eastern ¼ of the northwest quarter is being assessed. There have also been improvements done on the County Road and a larger culvert was installed in this area to meet today's stream crossing standards.

Randy Richards spoke. The explained how the drain originally started at his farm to prevent beaver dams, culverts not sized correctly, and water backing up into the fields. If you own land near the drain, you receive a benefit. The assessment funds are to maintain the drain and keep the water flowing.

Randy Eide mentioned the drain turned out to be better than expected.

Jay Showers-Section 26-145-54 SE ½ had concern about spill piles after being cleaned out and being in the buffer zone. Manager Ihry mentioned the pile should be level. If there are ever concerns about piles or maintance issues the board needs to be aware of the issue so it can be repaired.

Pete Satrom-Section 11-144-54 NW ¼ less 2.54 acres. County Road 5 is blocking the water heading north. The water can't make it under the structure to head back north. The board will review the map and make adjustments if needed.

There is an additional 3,167.70 acres that are being added to the drain.

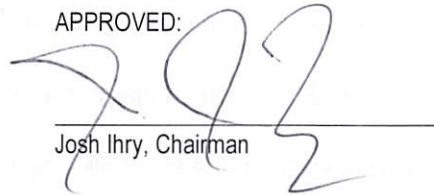
Jay Showers-Section 26-145-54 W ½ has drain tile installed. Bill Erbstosser stated, he installed drain tiled onto that section which drains into the drain so he should be assessed.

The board will review the comments on Section 25-146-54 NW ¼ Section 26-145-54 SE ½ & Section 11-144-54 NW ¼ and discuss the assessment benefits of the land before adopting the order to re-assess.

Adjournment

There was no further business to be considered by the Board, the meeting adjourned without objection at 10:50 A.M.

APPROVED:



Josh Ihry, Chairman

ATTEST:



Tasha Krueger, Secretary