

**PUBLIC HEARING – COUNTY DITCH #30
REDETERMINATION OF BENEFITS
December 2, 2015**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the courtroom at the Courthouse at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, December 2, 2015, for the public hearing for the redetermination of benefits for County Ditch #30. Chairman Sandberg called the hearing to order with Commissioners Athey and Olson present. Commissioners Backer and Berning were absent. Also present were Ditch Viewers John Cunningham, Martin Heck and Eldon Knutson, Ditch Attorney Kurt Deter, County Engineer Anderson, County Auditor Michelle Knutson, landowners and other interested parties. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Attorney Deter reviewed the purpose of the meeting, a brief history of the ditch and the reasons a redetermination was completed. He stated that the viewers would present their report and there would be an opportunity to ask questions.

Viewer Cunningham explained their process including the land classification system for valuing benefited acres and reviewed various maps used and the report that was submitted.

Attorney Deter explained the one-rod grass strip and stated the benefits of being included in a county ditch system. Being in a system allows a property owner to tile into the system and gives them the right to participate in the decision as to whether repairs or improvements should be made.

Engineer Anderson stated that because some of the buffer has already been established, the cost to seed the remaining buffer will be approximately \$3,000. Engineer Anderson then distributed a spreadsheet of the work to be done in 2016. Planned work includes installing a weir at Benson Lake, making the ditch on-grade until County Highway 10, removal of trees and seeding of the buffer strip.

Discussion was held on Branch 1 in Section 30. The plans state that it was originally a 10" tile, but is currently an open ditch. No one present recalled that it was ever a tile. Mr. Deter stated that repairs can only be done as constructed. Evidence will need to be gathered to verify if it was ever constructed as a tile.

Several questions were asked regarding cost and issues with culverts along the ditch.

Landowner Keith Anderson stated that he has been denied an outlet 3 times in the past. Engineer Anderson explained that because he had not previously benefitted into this ditch, a permit would not be granted to use it as an outlet. Now that he is benefitted into the ditch, a permit should not be an issue.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to close the oral portion of the hearing.

Mr. Deter reviewed the Findings of Fact and Order that he prepared. Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the Findings and Order as presented. Final copy of the order will be submitted once the Viewers' Report has been verified and finalized.

Chairman Sandberg declared the hearing adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Roger Sandberg, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor