

# Green Lake County *Drainage Board*

492 Hill St.  
P.O. Box 3188  
Green Lake, WI 54941-3188

Merlyn Soda  
Michael Disterhaft  
Steve J. Meilahn

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## **Drainage Board Minutes September 12, 2007 7:00 pm – 8:55 pm Courthouse Demonstration Room Green Lake, WI**

**Call to order:** The meeting of the Drainage Board was called to order by Chairman Soda. The requirements of the open meeting law were certified as being met.

**Present:** Merlyn Soda, Chairman  
Michael Disterhaft, Vice-Chairman  
Steve Meilahn, Secretary

**Also Present:** Landowners:

Norbert Walejko	Rita Stobbe	Gene Schroeder
Bob Alf	Joseph Hoppa	LaVern Alf
Mark Niemuth	Bert Zietlow	Rodney Zietlow
Bob Nigbor		
James A. Hebbe, County Conservationist		
Brenda Sondalle, LCD Administrative Assistant		

**Agenda:** *Motion (Disterhaft/Meilahn)* to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**Minutes:** *Motion (Meilahn/Disterhaft)* to approve the July 11, 2007 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** none

**Appearances:** none

**Public Hearing Matters to Consider Drainage District Assessments:** *Motion (Meilahn/Disterhaft)* to move into the public hearing to consider drainage district assessments. Roll call vote. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Meilahn read opening remarks.

District #1: no comments

District #2: no comments

District #3: One written comment read from Ruth Fyvie stating that she was not in favor of increasing her assessment.

District #4: no comments

District #5: Joe Hoppa stated he was against the assessment.

Seneca-Warren: Gene Schroeder stated that the ditch through the DNR land is a bottleneck causing water to pond.

LaVern Alf felt the ditch is worse than it was before, the water is backing up on his property because it can't drain properly through the DNR land. Are there plans to put culverts on all laterals?

Rodney Zietlow and Bob Nigbor asked for clarification on this year's proposed assessment and how many more years before the work is paid up.

Bert Zietlow's land is in need of a culvert.

Rita Stobbe stated that the DNR is in the process of buying her land.

**Motion (Meilahn/Disterhaft)** to close the assessment public hearing. Roll call vote. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

**Set 2007 Drainage District Assessments:**

**Districts #1, #2, #3, and #4.** **Motion (Meilahn/Disterhaft)** to set the assessments for districts #1, #2, #3, and #4 the same as last year as follows:

District	Assessment	
1	\$ 350.00	\$.50/ac - minimum \$50 per landowner
2	403.30	\$.50/ac - minimum \$50 per landowner
3	359.50	\$2.00/ac - minimum \$50 per landowner
4	50.00	\$.50/ac - minimum \$50 per landowner

**Motion carried.**

**District #5**

Joe Hoppa questioned the expense this past year of attorney fees and asked if that bill could be charged equally to each landowner in the district instead of per the benefits assessment since he pays a large portion of the assessment. Hebbe was unsure if they could assess each landowner equally if there was a current benefits assessment.

**Motion (Meilahn/Disterhaft)** to assess \$2,000 based on the benefits assessment unless there is another way of assessing each landowner equally. Motion carried.

**Seneca-Warren District**

Many landowners in attendance felt that since the ditch through the DNR land is causing problems by not allowing water to drain, the Board should focus on getting that portion of the ditch cleaned out. Also, Sucker Creek draining into the Lateral A ditch is a problem that needs to be addressed.

**Motion (Disterhaft/Meilahn)** to leave the assessments same as last year at \$10,000 under the condition we sincerely try to do something to get the ditch through the DNR land cleaned out. Motion carried.

**Public Hearing Matters to Consider Ditch Corridor Expansion:** **Motion (Meilahn/Disterhaft)** to move into the public hearing to consider ditch corridor expansion. Roll call vote. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Discussion has come up in the past of the ideal corridor width for conducting ditch inspections and maintenance.

Landowners who spoke not in favor of expanding the corridor at this time were: Joe Hoppa, Gene Schroeder, Bob Nigbor. One written comment from Tom Guden was not in favor of the expansion.

**Motion (Meilahn/Disterhaft)** to close the ditch corridor expansion public hearing. Roll call vote. 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

**Corridor Expansion Discussion and Action: Motion (Disterhaft/Soda)** to leave the corridors at 20 feet. 2 ayes, 1 nay (Meilahn) Motion carried.

**Seneca-Warren Drainage Ditch – Bob Nigbor Ditch Cleaning Cost Estimate:** Bob Nigbor reported that the ditch through his property has filled in and is in need of being cleaned out again. Nigbor will inspect the site when crops are off and present the Board with an estimate for the cleaning. Nigbor also reported that there are still stumps on his property from the last cleanout that haven't been taken care of yet.

**Seneca-Warren Drainage Ditch – LaVern Alf Site Update:** Lavern Alf commented earlier at the meeting that he feels the ditch is worse than it was before because water is not draining properly downstream from him through the DNR land and water is backing up onto his land. Alf also asked if there are plans to put culverts on all laterals.

**Seneca-Warren Drainage Ditch – Lateral A Cleanout Plans:** Joe Formiller has applied for a DNR permit to clean his private lateral but has not received a response yet. LaVern Alf would like Lateral A cleaned out up to his property even if Joe Formiller does not clean his ditch out.

**Vouchers: Motion (Meilahn/Disterhaft)** to approve two vouchers: Berlin Journal Newspapers \$267.40 for the Class III Public Hearing Notice for Assessments; and \$650 to Petraszak Excavating for Cleanout work at County Road D bridge with the Petraszak bill held until clarification on the amount cleaned. Motion carried.

**Correspondence:** none

**Committee Discussion and Future Agenda Items:** Disterhaft was wondering why only a small area was cleaned out below County Road D. Hebbe will check into this. Future agenda items on the Seneca-Warren Drainage Ditch are:

- Bob Nigbor Ditch Cleaning Cost Estimate
- LaVern Alf Site Update
- Lateral A Cleanout Plans
- DNR Ditch Cleaning Discussion

**Next Meeting Date:** Wednesday, October 24, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in the Demonstration Room of the Courthouse in Green Lake.

**Adjourn: Motion (Meilahn/Disterhaft)** to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Sondalle  
Recorder

Meeting expenses: General – 100%