

Minutes of the Brookings County Ad Hoc Committee to Study Drainage Issues
Unapproved
March 11, 2020

Chair Spence Hawley called the meeting to order at 3:00. Jim Sampson, Lee Ann Pierce, Jay Gilbertson, Lyle Bowes, Ben Kleinjan, Robert Hill. Richard Haugen was also present. Tom Davis and Lyle Johnson were also in the attendance. Mr. Hill left the meeting at 3:30 PM.

Gilbertson/Pierce moved to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Gilbertson/Bowes moved to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Chair Hawley invited Tom Davis to address the board. Mr. Davis went over drainage concerns in Alton Township, Section 10 along 210th Street. In 1993 between Section 10 and 15 on 210th Street on an unnamed tributary, a bridge was replaced with two culverts, the replacement culverts washed out. The culverts were replaced and two more culverts were added to help with the flow. During heavy rain events the water continues to go over the road on 210th St. Downstream on 481st Ave and 480th Ave water goes over the road there also during heavy rain events. Chair Hawley thanked Mr. Davis for his comments.

Chair Hawley invited Lyle Johnson to address the board. Mr. Johnson went over what he has seen over the years that has affected drainage: 1) the installation of the dam on inlet/outlet of Lake Poinsett, that raised the lake and pushes more water downstream; 2) Mickelson Wetland was put in north of Lake Poinsett; 3) Highway 14 bridge east of Volga at the Big Sioux River, there used to be a bridge at the Bruce corner and a little farther west was a bridge over the Big Sioux. When new highway 14 bridge was put in, the bridge at the Bruce corner was removed and a berm was installed farther north. A few years later the berm was removed and railroad Bridge upgraded. Now 1 mile south of Highway 14 water from the river goes out of the banks overflows the township road and spreads out over the land. Chair Hawley thanks Mr. Johnson for his comments.

Chair Hawley acknowledge a letter received from Harry Jones with drainage concerns.

Chair Hawley asked Jim Sampson, Brookings County GIS Department to address the board. Mr. Sampson presented an aerial image of the county and townships in the southern part of the county that received damage to roads and culverts from 2019 storm disaster declarations in March and September 2019. He then showed an aerial image with bridges and culvert inventory that is on file.

After Mr. Sampson's presentation, the committee discussed; 1) study the water sheds in Lake Sinai, Oslo, Medary, Trenton and Parnell Townships; 2) how are flow rates and size of culvert openings are determined; 3) invite Brian Gustad, Brookings County Highway Superintendent to the next meeting to discuss the county bridges and culverts and if there are any restrictions or choke points on those; 4) invite a South Dakota Department of Transportation representative to the next meeting, to discuss how the size of a bridge or culvert is determined on a state road, as it relates to flow rates; 5) invite township supervisors to discuss their culvert inventory and their areas of reoccurring road damage.

The committee discussed next meeting will be Wednesday, April 1, 2020 from 3:00 – 5:00 PM in the room 310, Commission Chambers to discuss: 1) county bridge and culvert inventory; 2) discussion with Brian Gustad, Brookings County Highway Superintendent on restrictions or choke points on county culvert and bridges; 3) discussion with a representative from the South Dakota Department of Transportation on how the size of a bridge or culvert is determined.

Pierce/Bowes moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Submitted by
Richard Haugen
Brookings County Development
Deputy Director – Draft March 11, 2020 minutes.