

**DRAFT: 06/21/2011**  
**Approved 8/16/2011**

**Sewer Advisory Committee**  
**June 21, 2011**  
**6 PM**  
**Grattan Township Hall**

Meeting Minutes

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Sewer Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:05 pm.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll call: Frank Force, Alan Rumbaugh, Tom Manikowski, Jen Medema present. Excused: Terry Conley. Also in attendance - Robert Carlstrom and Chris Chambers from infrastructure Alternatives

**III. Approval of the Agenda**

Committee reviewed the agenda. Jen Medema motioned to approve agenda, A. Rumbaugh support, motion accepted.

**IV. Approval of the Minutes**

Committee reviewed minutes from last meeting, May 17, 2011. Medema motioned to approved minutes, with Rumbaugh support, minutes approved.

**V. Public Comment** - Robert introduced Chris Chambers who's been assigned to our WWTF.

**VI. Unfinished Business**

**A. Grattan/Vergennes Irrigation Upgrade**

- a. Progress** – Robert reported on progress, noted it is looking bare now that lands have been cleared
- b. Farm leases** – Frank reported that Jim Fues has prepared four farm leases. The fields currently under development for the new irrigation system will be leased out to farmers and are called the Primary Zones. Adjacent to these fields are two additional parcels, named the Reserve zones. Photocopies of site were reviewed.
- c. Reserve Zones** – Also under review by the sewer administrator and township board is an additional sewer lands project. The sewer advisory committee has been asked about developing the reserve zone parcels now for future irrigation so that they can be leased and farmed. Various options were considered and pursued involving trades in labor and equipment for farm leases. Instead Frank reports the current proposal is for the work to be quoted by the onsite contractors and funded in part by leftover contingency proceeds in the Irrigation Upgrade Loan. From Frank's report, based on preliminary information the total cost would be around \$55,000. The committee then discussed capacity needs, reviewed that the new permit's maximum irrigation rate exceeds expectations of need. Also discussed were the contingency funds, as these are limited and the recent postponement of sludge removal due to lack of funds. Tom Manikowski made the motion "At this time it is the recommendation of the Sewer Advisory Committee that the Board does not pursue the clearing and underdraining of the two Grattan/Vergennes reserve zones."

Discussion. Alan stated if another farmer were to offer up a trade in kind deal he would like the committee to consider it. Frank asked about the main heads and should they get quotes for that part of the equipment that would serve a potential expansion. Committee saw no need but had no objection. Medema seconded the motion, all ayes, motion carried.

- d. Wetlands** - During clearing of the fields, there was discovery of a small wetland feature, reported by Robert. Frank's concern was what could happen if the wetland was altered without proper preview of local and state wetland ordinances. So he had the township attorney and DEQ advisors review it and it was the general consensus that the wetland which measured to be not more than 4 acres and not contiguous to Big Crooked Lake, could be altered for the sake of the irrigation upgrade. The benefits in this regard outweigh the loss of the wetland. Medema and Force expressed a wish to relocate the wetland flora and fauna.

#### **B. Collection System Upgrade**

- a. Progress** – Robert reported on progress of upgrades at pump stations, pump base and electrical panels and the expected improvements in operation and efficiency.
- b. Tipping Bucket at Grattan Vergennes** – Discussed the quote for a tipping bucket/flow meter and mission dialer at the G/V site. Franks said the flow meter is not part of the discussion, just the tipping bucket and mission dialer. The Board feels it necessary both for the rainfall info and the remote capabilities. Funds could come from contingency money. The Committee discussed it and agreed the remote capabilities of the mission dialer would be beneficial and the tipping bucket would provide real time rainfall information for its location. Medema asked if it could wait until project is complete to see what money is available in contingency fund. Frank replied that they would like to have it installed when G/V comes back online this fall, avoiding extra set up costs. Alan Rumbaugh motioned for "The committee to recommend to the board that they move forward with the tipping bucket/mission dialer for the Grattan/Vergennes WWTF" Discussed. Tom reiterated his concern with the budget, not knowing if we can fund what is being approved. Frank seconded motion, rollcall vote, Frank -yes, Alan- yes, Tom-no, jen-no. Motion failed.
- c. Ditch Cleaning** – This is a notice regarding a work session meeting on Monday July 11 at 6pm with the township, the Road Commission and the Drain Commission to address township concerns with roads flooding. Frank to get business names for drain excavators from the Drain Commission for work on McArthur Drain.
- d. Old Orchard** – Old orchard at Grattan to be removed. All arranged and scheduled.

#### **VII. New Business**

- A. Financials** –Reviewed sewer fund sheet, questions by Alan and Tom on the budget reports. Frank said the township will soon be upgrading to BS&A software. Frank also reported the final draft resolution for rate changes to the C/I hookup fee reflect the change in assessments. From \$1200 to \$625.
- B. Volunteer labor program** – Alan and Frank reported that four pump stations are being mowed by resident volunteers, looking for more participation!

#### **VIII. Committee Communications**

7:21 pm adjourned.

Submitted by Jen Medema