

**SPECIAL SESSION OF THE FREEBORN MOWER COUNTIES
JOINT DITCH BOARD FOR JOINT DITCH NUMBER 5**

December 11, 2014

The Freeborn Mower Counties Joint Ditch Board #5 in and for the Counties of Freeborn and Mower, Minnesota, met in Special Session December 11, 2014 at 2:12 p.m. at the Government Center in Austin, Minnesota.

Members present, viz: Tim Gabrielson, Chair
 Mike Ankeny
 Polly Glynn
 Jerry Reinartz
 Craig Oscarson, County Coordinator

Member absent: Dan Belshan

Also present: Cody Fox, Mower County Ditch Inspector
 Donna Welsh, Finance Director
 Pat Martinson, Auditor-Treasurer Freeborn County

Commissioner Gabrielson called the meeting to order.

Cody Fox, Ditch Inspector, reviewed the major repair project that had occurred on Judicial Ditch #5 in the past year and provided a handout of the 2014 expenses that have been or need to be paid by year end along with the 2015 approved budget and levy data. In addition, Mr. Fox included a handout that outlined the history of the repair expenses and levy amounts on the ditch system. There is a need to pay for the 2014 repairs and there are not enough funds in the budget. The initial proposal for consideration is to borrow \$100,000 from County Ditch #1. Mr. Fox also thought it would be best to build up a bit of a fund balance with the loan to cover possible future repairs plus the need to have money in the budget to pay for tile repairs already planned for next year. There is tile repairs every year but it is uncertain to just what extent of the repairs that will be needed each year. It was noted that much of the tile system is clay and is getting very old. Today's meeting is informational and to give ditch owners an opportunity to provide input on how the ditch board should address this need. Once the ditch board decides on a course of action, there will be several options on paying any approved assessment.

Several citizens/ditch owners addressed the Board. After discussion, there appeared to be a consensus that a \$60,000 loan from County Ditch #1 would be sufficient to pay the 2014 expenses, pay for the 2015 estimated repairs and to provide some fund balance for the unexpected.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz to set a two (2) year special assessment in the amount of \$60,000 at four percent (4%) interest on the ditch system. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Ankeny, seconded by Commissioner Glynn to request up to a \$60,000 loan as needed from Judicial Ditch #1. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Reinartz to approve the minutes of December 11, 2014 subject to review and approval of the chair. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Glynn, seconded by Commissioner Ankeny to adjourn the meeting at 2:49 p.m. Motion carried.

THE FREEBORN MOWER COUNTY JOINT DITCH BOARD

BY: _____
Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____
Clerk/Coordinator

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