

IN THE MATTER DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 1 Reclassification Hearing
WORTH COUNTY, IOWA

MINUTES

The Board of Supervisors of Worth County, Iowa, acting for and on behalf of Drainage District No. 1, Worth County, Iowa met at the Worth County courthouse at 10:01 A.M. CST, January 5, 2026.

Members present: Enos Loberg, Chairperson
A.J. Stone, Vice-Chairperson
Mark Smeby, Supervisor

Also present: Jacki Backhaus, Auditor
Chesley Doty, Drainage Clerk
Jacob Hagan, AgriVia Engineer
Tyler Bauman, AgriVia Engineer
Jesse Luther, Sheriff
Jim Hanson, Conservation Director

Landowners present: John Shurtz, Crescent Swamp Lodge, LLC
Ronald & Marion Helgeson
Gene Severson
Lynn Butler
MaryAnn Christianson
Cindy Thompson
Erik Butler
Brenda Tenold-Moretz
Dan Tenold
Greg Thompson
Dave Irons

Via Zoom: Ryan Buske, Drainage Attorney
Nathaniel Julseth, DD 1 Commissioner

Enos Loberg called the meeting to order and determine a quorum.

Motion by A.J. Stone/Second Mark Smeby approve today's agenda. Motion carried.

Enos recessed the meeting and took a motion to open the public hearing on the reclassification for DD 1.

Motion by Mark Smeby/Second A.J. Stone

Roll Call	Smeby	Yea <u>x</u>	Nay <u> </u>
	Stone	Yea <u>x</u>	Nay <u> </u>
	Loberg	Yea <u>x</u>	Nay <u> </u>

Jacob Hagan started the meeting off by explaining that reclassification determines how much benefit you receive. He said reclass is a little different than annexation. Annexation is just an engineer and Reclass is the engineer and 2 uninterested individuals in Worth County that are appointed as commissioners. He said that Drainage District 1 is the oldest district in Worth County that was established in 1905 serving approximately 1,841 acres. This district includes a main open ditch that ends at Mockingbird Ave.

Jacob explained that Iowa law states you get benefit for three reasons - Affording an outlet, relieving the lands of overflow and bringing the outlet nearer. How you determine every engineer's way of determining that and say they break everything into one-acre squares, determine where the water flows from there, elevation data and soil data for every acre. Then they come up with their three major factors. He said number one would be bringing the outlet nearer. He said the land closest to the ditch would benefit more than the land that is farther away. The second would be relieving the lands of overflow. He said these would be your soil types and how much need for drainage do you need. They use five different soil type

scores. The third would be affording an outlet. They look at slope, infrastructure use and proximity to facility.

Jacob stated that they used \$100,000 for assessment schedule to make it easy for Chelsey to put numbers into the system. He said there hasn't been any work done yet, but this is just an easy figure to be able to come up with cost per acre. He said on \$100,000 it would be \$54/acre. Assessments are calculated based on benefit and not the same for each landowner. The closer you are to the ditch you will have a higher assessment.

Jacob explained that landowner rights are that any landowner can object to the reclassification schedule. All objections must be put in writing before the meeting is over. Jacob went over objections that were submitted for the reclassification. He said there was an objection by John Shurtz with Crescent Swamp Lodge and would summarize it. Jacob said that Shurtz was asking for reduction because he has land that is in the permanent wetland easement and cannot tile it. Shurtz also stated in his objection that it is in a forever easement with the United States Government. Shurtz objection stated that there is no economical activity that can take place from an agricultural standpoint. In the objection Shurtz stated that he had other acres in the forest reserve. Jacob said that with the forest reserve it is a property tax relief and not a permanent easement. Jacob said that he could take it out of the forest reserve and pay property taxes like ag land. Jacob gave the board a recommendation on the wetland easement that they reduce the assessment by 80%. Jacob said as far as the forest reserve he did not recommend a reduction to keep it consistent. Jim from the Conservation asked if theirs would be reduced and Jacob stated that the board would have to determine that and they would take it on a case-by-case basis. Mark asked if the reduction would be for projects going forward or the reduction for the reclassification report. Jacob said they could say right now that you are going to pay as much as everyone else and go forward. Jacob stated that since the board continued the annexation hearing then they have to continue the reclassification hearing. Jacob stated that they could make the reduction as an amendment to the Crescent Swamp Lodge.

Motion by A.J. Stone to continue this reclassification hearing until Monday, February 2nd at 9:45 a.m./Second by Mark Smeby. Motion Carried.

Roll Call	Smeby	Yea <u>x</u>	Nay <u> </u>
	Stone	Yea <u>x</u>	Nay <u> </u>
	Loberg	Yea <u>x</u>	Nay <u> </u>

Hearing adjourned at 10:25 a.m.



Enos Loberg
Chairperson

ATTEST:



Chelsey Doty
Drainage Clerk