

# MINUTES

Commissioners present: Joseph Zumwalt, Richard Zollinger and Melissa Shriver-Hackamack

## HUNT LIMA DRAINAGE DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

Date: November 13, 2025

Time 9:00 am

President Joe Zumwalt called the meeting to order at 9a.m.

**Additions/corrections to previous months reports:** There were no corrections or additions to the October minutes.

### **Approval of Minutes of previous month(s)**

Zumwalt made the motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting. Zollinger seconded. Motion carried.

### **Approval of Financial information for this month**

Shriver-Hackamack made the motion to approve financial information for the month of October. Zumwalt seconded that motion. Motion carried.

### **Approval of Current Bills approved for payment**

Zollinger made the motion to approve current bills for payment. Melissa Shriver-Hackamack seconded that motion. Motion carried.

Former Commissioner Jon Hoffmeister requested the board work to change the phone number for the tax exempt account at Farm and Home Supply. His number is still listed as the contact for the account. Shriver-Hackamack volunteered to make that correction and will take a tax example letter to take care of the issue.

### **Old Business**

#### **Levee Improvement Project**

- Wetland Project -The drainage District still owes \$105,000 to Newt for the levee improvement project. The District is withholding payment until the spring when the wetland project is evaluated. Tree survival rates are taken into account. Zumwalt says due to some other issues, the district will attempt to negotiate down a portion of the remaining balance
- Levee North of Meyer - Commissioners are currently finalizing a plan to address this area. It should be ready in December. The plan is approved by the Corps of Engineers. The estimated price is \$120,000. UFC has offered to assist with the project as well. The District will explore using the interest money from the original project bond to pay for this small section of levee that was not included in the original levee improvement project.

#### **Ditch Maintenance Update**

- Brush on bluff canal and culvert at Meyer
  - Crew discussed clearing Meyer Canal. Ditches dug while the equipment is there.
  - Mike Rabe reported to commissioners that the Spencer Ditch North own the East Side of the canal will need to be dug from the North side.
  - Landowner Jon Hoffmeister addressed the Board of Commissioners and those in attendance about the last paragraph of the October 2025 Minutes. He voiced disappointment that a landowner(s) in the district would imply during the October Meeting that he would not pay for his own ditch maintenance. He noted to all in attendance that he provided his own paid receipt of the work done on his private drainage ditch. He asked Commissioners to make notes in the minutes regarding this issue to show he provided evidence that the ditch maintenance on his private property was invoiced to him and that he paid it. A receipt of that payment was also submitted as evidence.

#### **Equipment/Building Repairs & Parts**

- Update on Bathroom at South Pump Station - Jeremy Huls reports the bathroom is looking good. A wiFi booster will be purchased for it.
- Update on South Pump Station Cooling Issues - Shriver- Hackamack reported that Klingner and Associates' Bob Venvertloh has submitted a proposal to deal with the pump overheating issues in the South Pumphouse. He submitted a plan with six options. He believes only one option is worthwhile to

try in order to resolve the issues. Option #6 would involve installing supply fans on the North wall and directing the heat to exhaust fans and hoods located at the radiators. That would direct the cooler outside air past the pumps, and discharge it to the South of the Pump station. The exhaust fans and hoods would need to be designed to deal with extremely hot air. Pump Station operators noted the models showed that 2.6 Million btu/hour of heat to discharge, which is a lot of heat being generated. Shriver-Hackamack notes this project is a priority for the district.

- Tractor with cab and Loader for North Pump Station/Skid Steer? There is an auction on November 28 for a nice tractor with lower hours. It is a 2000 John Deere 7410. We will look at the tractor before the auction.

**Relief Well Testing-** The district is waiting for the Brotke Well and Pump crew to come back by the area to complete relief well testing on the South Pump Station. This needs to be completed before the Corps 5 Year inspection in the spring.

#### **Dallas Rural Water District**

- Conditional Approval Letter for DRWD - Commissioner Zumwalt reported that the Conditional approval letter was delivered to the Dallas Rural Water District. The Army Corps of Engineers were also made aware of the conditional Approval. Zumwalt says the water district understands the strict terms and knows that the Hunt Lima Lake can remove the conditional approval for the project at any time if it does not meet the standards indicated by our letter.
- Update on the project - Meanwhile Dallas Rural Water District is currently talking with landowners about easements and access to the test well sites as they are not allowed to use Drainage District property or the levee itself to access the test sites.

#### **Office Supplies, Quick books, website, email updates**

The e-mail with the November Agenda went out efficiently this month. The website is also updated. Shriver-Hackamack noted that the website host is extremely difficult to work with. She will investigate options and make changes if necessary.

#### **New Business**

**New HLLDD Commissioner introduced** - Richard Zollinger is the new commissioner appointed by the Hancock County Board to replace Brock Yuskis who submitted his resignation last summer. He represents Farmland Reserve, which operated in the Hunt Lima Lake Drainage District.

**Election of Secretary and Treasurer-** Shriver-Hackamack was currently serving as both the Secretary and the Treasurer of the district. With the addition of Zollinger, an election of the board of commissioners was held. Shriver-Hackamack made a motion to nominate Zollinger as the District Treasurer. Zollinger nominated Shriver-Hackamack as secretary. The board approved the motions unanimously.

**Annual tax assessment at \$30/acre for 2026** - Zumwalt made a motion to approve the annual tax assessment for 2026 for \$30/acre. Zollinger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- Zumwalt noted that the District's attorney John Hauk will no longer be putting together the assessment bills any longer as of 2026. He will do the background checks on all the properties, but he will not print or mail the bills any longer due to the large amount of work it is to do that. Commissioners will pick up that duty.

- Zumwalt also noted according to state statutes, the District can hold 2 years worth of operating expenses in case of emergency situations. Right now there is about \$300,000 held in our accounts. The district is well within the state guidelines at this time.

#### **Insurance Update**

- Insurance Update - We are getting quotes for Workman's Comp Insurance as well as property insurance. Currently we have a \$4 Million policy for each of the pumphouses with a \$250 deductible. That policy costs \$29,000 for the year for both pump stations and the property. There are very few companies that cover commercial properties like ours. We are looking at getting other quotes. The district must also add the new bathroom at the South Pump Station. Currently the district has only submitted one large claim in recent years. That claim was for a lightning strike.

**City of Warsaw** request for track hoe assistance. Possible trade of work? The city of Warsaw will pay the district for transport of the heavy equipment, labor and all expenses to dig out the Warsaw Boat Club inlets. While the equipment is in that area, the district will do some ditch maintenance nearby. The city will then pay to haul equipment back. Shriver-Hackamack made a motion to fulfill Warsaw's request for track hoe assistance. The motion was seconded by Zollinger. Motion passed.

### **Other New Business**

**Fuel Tank** - Zumwalt mentioned that the district needs to watch for a new fuel tank to purchase. He will contact Scott Trent with Neil Oil in case there is one the District can get at a fair price.

- **IRS** - Former Commissioner Jon Hoffmeister indicated that the IRS is sending notices to him. Zumwalt will change the contact info and request a paper copy of the change.

- **Adams Telephone Account** - The Telephone account is used by pump house operators, however, they are not the authorized users on the account. That means they cannot get service when they call unless the authorized user calls. The commissioner decided to add all pump house operators and commissioners to be authorized users so business with Adams Telephone can be done efficiently as needed.

Shriver-Hackmack made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Zollinger seconded.

**November Monthly Meeting Adjourned.**