COUNTY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT STAFF REPORT

TO: The Members of the County Commission

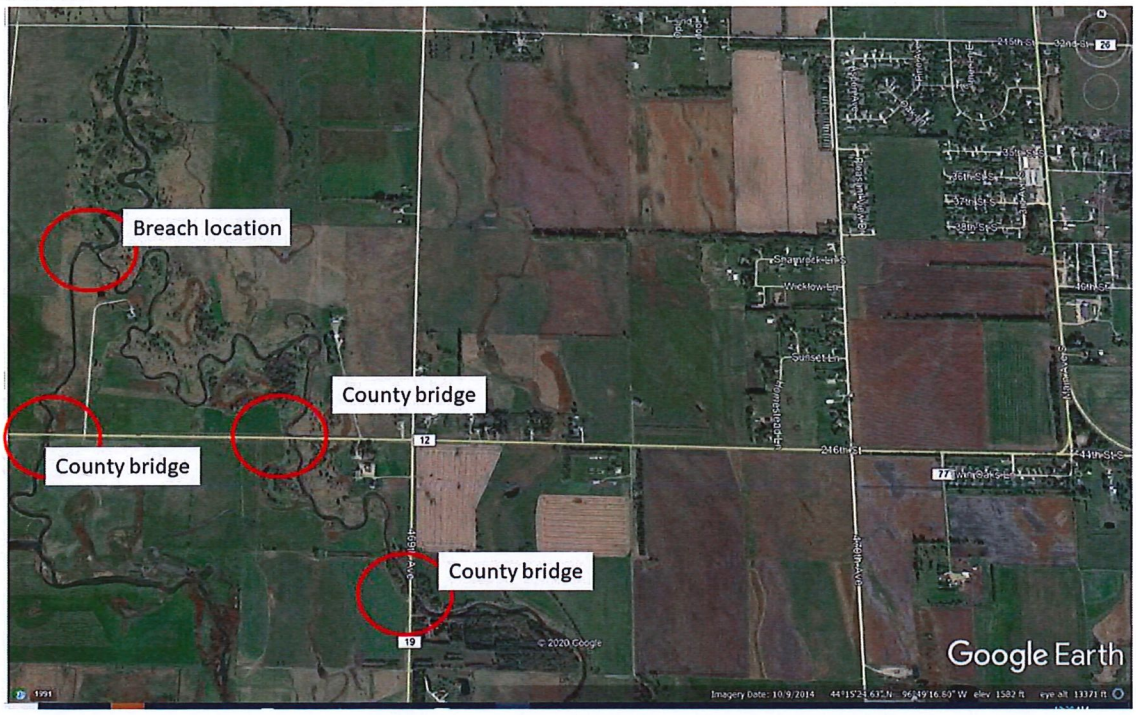
DATE: June 10, 2020

SUBJECT: Staff Report on Medary TWP / Big Sioux River Dyke for the June 16, 2020 meeting.

PREPARED BY: Robert W. Hill, County Drainage Director

The Big Sioux River is a meandering river that flows through the approximate center of Brookings County and flows southward toward the Missouri River.

In Medary Township there is a location where a breach has occurred, the actual date is not known.



The Brookings County Commission acting as the Brookings County Drainage Commission has been discussing this area since 2011. The biggest hurdle to date has been federal land easements on properties that could be affected if the breach is repaired to a previous state.

With a new emphasis on infrastructure in the county and a steady degradation of the roads in this area Banner Associates was contacted to see if they could assist the county with contacting the federal agencies involved so that we can determine what to do to remedy the issue.

The minutes from a June 3, 2020 meeting held at the City/County Building and via teleconference are as follows:

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT STAFF REPORT

Brookings County City/County Building, Room 215 10:00 AM June 3, 2020

Present were Kent Johnson with Banner Associates, Brian Gustad with Brookings County Highway Department, Ryan Krogman Brookings County Commission, Mike Bartley Brookings County Commission, Robert Hill Brookings County Development Director, Richard Haugen Brookings County Development Deputy Director. Those in attendance by phone were: Becky Baker with Banner Associates, Deb Springman with East Dakota Water District and Rob Hexum with Medary Township.

Bob Hill called the meeting to order and introduced all who were in attendance. Kent Johnson discussed his recent correspondence with Natural Resources Conservation District regarding existing easements breached dike north of 216th St. They are open to discussion on repair options for the dike and would like options from the county and the township. The group discussed that Medary Township voted on March 5, 2019 at their annual Township meeting to return the River to levels it was on January 1, 2009.

Discussion was held on how the county bridges, highway and farm ground has been impacted by the majority of the river flow going to the west of the main river channel. It was determined to do a "Feasibility Memo Study" a preliminary step that would provide a lot of information with regards to flows, maintaining easements and design options. Banner's was going to prepare a cost for the Feasibility Study and get back to Bob, so he can get it scheduled on the County Commission agenda for possible action.

Richard Haugen
Brooking County Development
Deputy Director.

The quote from Banners Associates is attached and as you can see it is for $40,000.00. My whole Drainage Commission budget is $1,300.00 and I only have $169.00 in my 101-4-223-4220 Professional Services and Fees line.

I recommend that we accept the Banners Quote and then we can use that information to formulate a long term strategy for this area.