

Ditch # 80 Informational Meeting (10:30 AM): Wilkens presented a rough cost proposal to the landowners present to bring the project to the preliminary hearing and the final hearing stage. The estimate was \$29,600 to get to the preliminary hearing and an additional \$18,000 to get to the final hearing.

Wilkens explained the process. First the landowners need to prepare a petition with the assistance of an attorney. The law says that at a minimum, 26% of the landowners over which the ditch passes is needed to sign the petitions. The district suggest that they try to get as many as possible to sign the petition. The landowners then need to get a bond to cover the above expenses and when the project goes through, the landowner would get reimbursed for the petition costs and the bond costs.

After the petition and bond are presented to the board, the board will proceed with having the engineer survey the ditch and come up with cost estimates and draft design to present at the preliminary hearing. After the preliminary hearing if the project appears to be feasible, viewers are appointed to develop benefits and damages along with the area that drains into this system. This information is then presented at the final hearing. The board then makes a decision to go forward or not. If the decision is to go forward the board orders the project in. Bids are let and the project is constructed.

Engelstad asked who pays for the initial costs if the project doesn't go through. Wilkens explained that it would be the responsibility of the bond holders.