

Settlement reached in drainage district

HUSTISFORD — Parties involved in a dispute over establishment of an agricultural drainage district in the town of Burnett have reached a settlement, according to an announcement by Lake Sinissippi Improvement District.

Landowners within the proposed drainage district and Dodge County Drainage Board filed plans with Dodge County Circuit Court in August 2010 and requested an order to organize Drainage District 88.

Opponents of the district subsequently filed objections to the drainage plans based on impairment of surface water resources and potential harm to aquatic habitat of Spring Brook creek. The creek is listed on the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory for aquatic resources. It is also a tributary of the Rock River, which is the primary water source of Lake Sinissippi.

The lake district, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Springbrook Estate filed separate objections to the original drainage plans.

The settlement agreement provides for withdrawal of objections to the drainage dis-

trict in return for installation of grassed waterways and vegetative buffers alongside the district drain, implementation of erosion control and water quality facilities by landowners and on-site inspections by the county drainage board.

“We are pleased the parties were willing to negotiate in good faith and reach an amicable settlement regarding the proposed drainage district,” Greg Farnham, lake district commissioner, said.

“This is win-win, I believe. The farmers will be able to improve field productivity, while the need to protect water quality and aquatic resources will be addressed by enhanced drain design and land-use practices.”

Drainage districts are established under Chapter 88 of the Wisconsin statutes to help landowners improve productivity of their farmland by draining excess surface water and clearing water from saturated soil.

Lake Sinissippi Improvement District is a Wisconsin public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district established by Dodge County.