

## **Water rights for Six-Mile Ditch may be sold and culverts closed**

Written by Deb Egenberger  
Thursday, 22 July 2010 20:34 -

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### **County tells owners work is at their cost.**

LEXINGTON—The Six-Mile Ditch Company has permission to remove culverts on county roads across Dawson County if it decides to sell its water rights and close the irrigation canal.

The cost, though, will have to be covered solely by the ditch company, county commissioners said Thursday.

Roger Wahlgren of Gothenburg told the county board during its regular bimonthly meeting that Six-Mile owners are considering selling their water rights to the Central Platte Natural Resources District.

If that happens, Wahlgren said the irrigation ditch will be filled in and returned to farm land.

At the same time, six culverts under county roads, including one under paved Banner Road, will no longer be necessary.

“We just need to know what the requirements are,” Wahlgren said. “Can we fill the culverts in or take them out and will that be our responsibility financially?”

Commissioner Dean Kugler of Gothenburg said he and roads department employee Tim Wolf looked at the culverts and believe the five under gravel roads should be removed and the one under pavement filled in.

But Kugler also said the cost should be the Six-Mile company's.

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“That opens up a whole new area of expenditures I don’t think we want,” Kugler said.

Wahlgren said if the ditch company decides to sell its rights and close the ditch, owners will work with Wolf to get rid of the culverts.

In other business, commissioners reviewed an agreement that would clarify the county’s rules concerning abandoned dogs.

County attorney Liz Waterman said there has been a question as to how long a veterinarian must house a dog before it may be adopted out or euthanised.

The rule clarification states that after an at-large dog has been taken into a vet’s office, three business days must pass before the animal is considered abandoned and adoption or euthanasia procedures can begin.

“I think that’s a reasonable amount of time,” Waterman said. “And clarifying business days takes care of the weekend question.”

Commissioners will consider a resolution at their next meeting. The ordinance will only affect dogs captured outside city or village limits and does not include cats.

Commissioners also:

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