

GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held March 12, 2024, in the Grant County Council Chambers. Vice-Chairman Richard Cox called the meeting to order at 11:02 am. Other members present were Gordon Gough, Pat Pinkerton, Grant County Surveyor Jim Todd, and Drainage Board Secretary Mary Weesner. Chairman Mark Bardsley and Kenny Cates was present via WebEx.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Gordon Gough made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2024, meeting as presented; seconded by Pat Pinkerton. Motion carried 5-0 with 3 inhouse votes and both Mark Bardsley and Kenny Cates voting in favor of the motion via WebEx.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Jim Todd read the claims as follows:

Chronicle Tribune – \$40.68 Echelbarger Zirkle; \$40,636.22 in the fund
Grant County Treasurer \$30.60 From GDIF to Maintenance (Loan)

Kenny Cates made the motion via WebEx to approve the claims as presented; seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried 5-0 with 3 inhouse votes and both Mark Bardsley and Kenny Cates voting aye to the motion via WebEx.

OLD BUSINESS:

Little Crane Pond

There is nothing new to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

Davis Moorehead – Kenneth Chance – 4533 S. Meridian – drainage dispute
Jim Todd informed the Board that Mr. Chance has a drainage dispute with Titan Automotive regarding fill. Jim stated that he has previously explained this issue to the Board, showing them maps of the area. Jim Todd added that Mr. Chance did not show today. Jim said that he did talk to the owner of Titan Automotive, telling them of the dispute. He added that they went over and picked up a little bit of their stone. The map shows that the Davis Moorehead is 515 feet away.

Richard Cox stated that the Board has not received the complaint yet as Mr. Chance is not present, Gordon Gough agreed. Jim Todd added that from what he understands is that all the Board can do is have a public hearing with both sides, the Board would then vote on how they feel about the situation; they could then use that as evidence to use in court. Jim said that he does not think that they have the authority to actually do anything. Pat Pinkerton asked Jim if they needed a permit from Area Plan and if so, what were the contours; Jim said that he would find out.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Spray Program – Chadd Baker of Right of Way Management

Chadd Baker of Right of Way Management is present before the Drainage Board today regarding the Grant County ditch spraying program. He stated that he went out and looked at all the ditches that were given to him, some are on a good rotation and looking pretty good. He added that when he sprays, he is putting down a good preventative weed control to keep all the invasives out. Chadd stated that since they have done some of these year after year, he went through and deducted 1¢ per foot. It was stated that a letter needs to be sent to Mr. John Needler, who has a problem with ditch bank spraying, to let him know that we are coming through and if he wants to come to the Board to complain, he can. Kenny Cates added that we are going to spray it, it needs to be sprayed. Chadd said that he does not mind going on out as long as the people have been notified and have had a chance to reach out. Jim Todd stated that Raymond can give Mary Weesner a list of everyone that needs to be notified and she can send letters to those people. Richard Cox said that most people do not have a problem with it, Kenny agreed, adding that most people are happy to get it sprayed. Jim Todd added that this is the only landowner that we are spraying this year that has complained. Kenny Cates said that Mr. Needler caught the guy out there and gave him a bunch of static. Raymond Bair stated that there was someone that said (inaudible) about cattails, Chadd Baker said that this requires a totally different application. Raymond's response is inaudible since he is not near a microphone. Chadd said that there are products but since we are in water, it has to be aquatic approved rather than ditch bank approved. Jim Todd asked Chadd if the landowner got ahold of them, can they take care of it; Chadd said that he wanted them to know that it is a fall application. He does have an aquatic approved chemical that he can use, but that would have to be in or after August. Jim asked him to put that on his list for the fall.

Big Black Creek

Harold Turner is present before the Board regarding Big Black Creek. He said that he has a problem and had Raymond Bair come out and look. He added that he has a couple hundred acres. It goes mostly on the south side of the old gravel

pit. He pointed out on a map that he owns both sides of the ditch and that everything above the highlighted area green. He added that every time we get a big rain, the creek fills up and fill the pit and when it goes down, it just keeps bringing more silt down and out of the pit. Mr. Turner said that he has two pretty good size blockages. Jim Todd said the Big Black Creek has a good fund and asked if John Enyeart was out there when he met with Raymond; Mr. Turner said that he believes that Raymond took him out there. Raymond said that originally where it comes out of the ditch there is about two foot of fall, or close to it. He added that he was trying to get John in there to open that part up to give their tile some relief. John was able to get ahold of Andy from John's Repair Service is going to do chainsaw work to cut the brush then John Enyeart would pull the brush. Andy's estimate varies because he is not sure that he can stand on the banks because it is basically up and down. Raymond explained that John Enyeart was going to give him a price, but he told John he should do it by the hour. He thinks that John could dig it for \$2.00 to \$4.00 per foot. Harold Turner stated that about three years ago he put in a 12" outlet and that he keeps his side sprayed and does not turn the bill in. He said that since they did that Doyle ditch about two or three years ago, he told everybody that if there is a problem, keep it sprayed and keep it fixed. Raymond added that the Doyle Ferguson is on the spray program. Mr. Turner states that the pit is a problem because of the pit and there is nothing you can do about it on the pit's side. Jim said that there is quite a bit of acreage, it goes through the corner of Wells County and goes through Blackford County a mile or two and that a lot of people would benefit from this getting cleaned. He added that there is \$178,000.00 in the fund. Jim Todd said that he talked to Harry Pierson and that he would like it cleaned at about the county line and through his wet area. About 7 or 8 years ago Blackford County cleaned it to the county line and Jim would like to have gone further but the first landowner in Grant County did want them on his property. Richard Cox asked if we are waiting for an estimate from Enyeart or are we just going to do it by the hour? Jim said that he feels that the Board needs to go ahead and approve this brushing and then let John Enyeart come in later. Gordon Gough made a motion to approve John's Repair Service on Big Black Creek, not to exceed \$5,200.00, Raymond Bair questioned about John Enyeart coming in later by the hour, Richard Cox asked if we want to wait on that. Jim Todd added that between the landowner and himself, this will be supervised and not drug out. The motion has changed to state the motion is to approve John's Repair Service on Big Black Creek, not to exceed \$5,200.00 and to include John Enyeart to come in by the hour. This motion was seconded by Pat Pinkerton and carried with support, 5-0 with 3 inhouse votes and both Mark Bardsley and Kenny Cates voting in favor of the motion via WebEx.

Hollis Daughtery

Raymond Bair stated that he had a request or a comment from Brad Atkins who owns on the top end. In 2019 he got a trapper and took out the beavers and went in with his own backhoe and removed the dam. Mr. Atkins has a quote from Morelock of wildlife control for \$700.00 to take care of beavers for a whole year and he will go in and remove the dam himself. Mr. Atkins is wanting the Drainage Board to send a letter to the people in the easement that he has the right to go back there to take out the dam because there is one individual that is not being very nice. Jim Todd asked if we have to send it out to the landowner or the guy that watches the property; Raymond said the guy that is supposed to watch it and along with the farm field owner and also the person that owns Dollar Lake. Richard Cox asked if there is plenty of money in the fund; Raymond stated that there is \$12,000.00 in the fund and pulls in \$37,000.00 plus annually. Pat Pinkerton made a motion to approve Brad Atkins to hire Morelock Wildlife Control for \$700.00 for a year and to send letters out to the landowners that will be giving him permission to do it; seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried 5-0 with 3 inhouse votes and both Mark Bardsley voting aye on WebEx as well as Kenny Cates voting in favor of the motion via WebEx.

Taylor Creek

Kenny Cates informed the Board that they have a problem in Swayzee on Taylor Creek. He stated that four years ago they had a guy from Monticello come down and clean out a ditch that goes through the Nester property. This property is on the south side of the Swayzee road, CR 300. None of the water on the south side is running and they got one of the cameras that goes through and there is a couple of small plugs in through there. Kenny added that the guy from Monticello told him that if he does not dump copper sulphate in there then the roots will be back there within 14 months. That is not the problem, the problem is that Nester's have a little building right next to the ditch and Nester is older and does not understand what is going on. He said that Nester's son Moe is taking care of things for him. Kenny Cates said that he wants to go in and clean the trees out over that ditch, but she does not want it done because it blocks her from seeing John Deere. When Wendell Cates was down there four years ago with the guy from Monticello, he put in a tee right next to this. Kenny added that they ran 24" plastic from the railroad out past the woods but where the plastic quit, is a 20" or 22" hundred year old tile and it is broke down now. Chris Key fixed one back on him and he will be turning in a bill. Kenny said that he called Eric Bragg and told Eric to go down there and take a look at it. As soon as they get the chance to dig that up and see what the problem is there, we do know that it is broken down between the plastic and the clay tile. He said that when they get in there, they may have to go clear to the road. Kenny stated that there is money in Taylor Creek. We are going to have to dig through Nester's yard and it is kind of a touchy situation. Jim Todd asked

Kenny if he thinks that the shed is movable; Kenny told Jim that it is movable. Jim then asked him if he had told the son about the situation and if he was okay with it, Kenny said yes but we have to call him, and he'll stand watch. Jim Todd stated that he can be out there if Eric Bragg calls him. Jim Todd said that there is \$266,000.00 in the Taylor Creek maintenance fund.

Big Deer Creek

Raymond Bair stated that he has footage on Big Deer Creek. He added that Mark had mentioned something about taking out brush and he came up with a dollar amount but all it is is a guess. Mark Bardsley asked how much the guess is and Richard Cox stated \$74,000.00 and Raymond added almost 12,000'. Jim Todd stated that we definitely need to send out quotes with specs to contractors.

ADJOURN:

Pat Pinkerton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:54 am; seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried with support, 5-0 with 3 inhouse votes and both Mark Bardsley and Kenny Cates voting in favor of the motion via WebEx.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting to be held will be March 26, 2024, at 11:00 am will be held in the Grant County Council Chambers.

Minutes recorded by:
Mary R. Weesner
Drainage Board Secretary

***The Grant County Drainage Board has approved the minutes
for March 12, 2024, as presented:***

Mark Bardsley

Richard Cox

Gordon Gough

Kenny Cates

Pat Pinkerton