

# GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street  
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held November 26, 2024, in the Grant County Council Chambers. Chairman Mark Bardsley called the meeting to order at 11:01 am. Other members present were Vice-Chairman Richard Cox, Gordon Gough, Kenny Cates, Grant County Surveyor Jim Todd and Drainage Board Secretary Mary Weesner. Pat Pinkerton was not in attendance.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Richard Cox made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the November 12, 2024, meeting. His motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and carried 4-0.

## **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:**

Jim Todd read the claims as follows:

Sullivan Excavating \$4,500.00 Roods/Zilka crossing; GDIF  
John's Repair Service \$2,327.50 Sims Franklin; \$28,855.51 in the fund  
John's Repair Service \$10,000.00 Lugar Creek; \$133,563.60 in the fund  
Chronicle Tribune \$34.48 Knotes of Keaton; \$27,148.83 in the fund  
Grant County Treasurer \$39,688.40 Loan from GDIF to Maintenance

Gordon Gough asked if the town of Van Buren has gotten on board to be put on maintenance? Jim Todd stated that he has not talked to them; Mark Bardsley added that he thought since we put this watershed in the hole that we were going to move forward with a public hearing anyway. Jim told Mark that several years ago they had a discussion with the town board, explaining that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the town drains into them and they were getting flooded. He and Cindy Fowler had put together a watershed and gave it to them, but they have not gotten back with Jim with a request for a hearing. Mark Bardsley wanted it to note that we do need to hold a public hearing for the Roods Run to bring it out of the red.

Kenny Cates made a motion to approve the above claims as presented; seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried 4-0.

\*\*\*Kenny Cates to abstain\*\*\*

Bragg Excavating \$14,975.00 Pipe Creek; \$156,228.33 in the fund

Jim Todd informed the Board that Bragg's will need to go back out there and burn off the pile and haul off the ashes and there will be another invoice for that.

Gordon Gough made a motion to approve the above claim as presented; seconded by Richard Cox. Motion carried 3-0 with Kenny Cates abstaining due to having land in the Pipe Creek watershed.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Little Crane Pond – Approval of resolution

There is nothing new to discuss.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Hummel Creek – Greg Brankle; Maintenance request; \$51,677.71 in the fund

Jim Todd passed around aerial photos to the Board that shows the area in question. He added that Greg Brankle is present today. Mr. Brankle is requesting money to work on the upper end. Jim Todd stated that it does need done but he feels that it needs to be spent downstream first. The watershed is full of logs downstream and there are erosion spots. Jim said that if were to clear cut one side of the creek, it would cost about \$150,000.00 to \$170,000.00. Jim Todd said that the plan was to go down there, identify the log jams, send out letters to all the landowners that we will be walking the edge and take quotes to contractors so that we know how much it would be to get the log jams out. The next phase would be to start digging the upper ends and then address the lower ends and fixing the erosion areas. Jim Todd added that at least Mr. Brankle will have his request in. Jim asked Mary Weesner how much Hummel Creek brings in annually, also telling Mr. Brankle we could get a letter out to contractors to see what it would cost. Mary Weesner informed the Board that Hummel Creek brings in \$5.00 per acre, \$50.00 per homesite, \$50.00 per commercial property, and a \$10.00 minimum. This watershed brings in about \$31,000.00 per year.

Mr. Brankle said that he does have an estimate from John's Repair Service for the top end of Hummel Creek. This is an area of about 4,400 feet and Mr. Brankle has pictures of the area. Tom Hix has been going in there and clearing a few log jams. He stated that he understands that they are wanting to work downstream but wonders if there is money for them to do some brushing downstream. Jim Todd stated that as for the lower end, they do not want to clear cut it, they just want to take the path of least resistance and take the log jams out. Mr. Brankle said that they do not have a problem with the water getting away, it is the trees that are falling into the creek. Jim Todd informed Mr. Brankle that it will be up to Raymond Bair to walk the creek and locate the log jams with an aerial photo, he would then have to send out letters to contractors to get quotes seven days before the Drainage Board meeting. Jim added that the upper end that is more or less a farm ditch would need to be put on the spray program. Mr. Brankle asked Jim what he is supposed to do about log jams now; adding that they really need to get them cleared. Jim stated that he could have Andy Rickner come in and clear those out now and then Andy can bill this. Mark Bardsley stated that the Board will ask the Drainage Board secretary to request, for this Board, that the surveyor put out a request for quotes on this project. Jim Todd asked that it also be noted that Mr. Brankle is the first to request money, therefore, he needs to be taken care of first.

### Roods Run

Greg Brankle asked if he speak about Roods Run. He stated that it begins at his farm. He said that he would be in favor of a maintenance assessment as Roods Run definitely needs some work. Jim Todd stated that at one time, the headwall area had been brushed and dredged. Jim explained to Mr. Brankle about petitioning to hold a public hearing to put an assessment on the watershed. Jim added that in this case, the Board is going to take it upon themselves to request a hearing because they know it needs done for the town and everybody. Gordon Gough added that it needs to be put on maintenance to recoup the cost of repairing the crossing at Zilka's the property.

## Walnut Creek – Paul Hollars; Maintenance request

Mr. Paul Hollars is present before the Drainage Board. Jim Todd passed around pictures of the area. He explained that there is a bad curve back there and about eighteen years ago, Cook Excavating had went in and made a brush pile and burned it some years ago. Mr. Hollars stated that they had actually pushed it to the bank and put dirt in there and that worked pretty well. Mr. Hollars added that as the pictures show, the log jams are very big as one picture shows him standing in front of the log jam. Jim Todd stated that Blackford County has this on a ditch fund and it comes into Grant County a little way. Raymond is putting together a watershed for this and if you take it far enough, it will include about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Gas City on the ditch tax. Walnut Creek has never been petitioned to have a maintenance tax put on it. Some day it will need a ditch tax on it to keep it cleared. Gordon Gough stated that there is no maintenance money to do this job that is being requested; Jim Todd agreed. Jim added that according to the Indiana Code, they are allowed to use \$1,500.00 of the General Drain Improvement Fund, but that would not do much for this issue. Mr. Hollars added that there are actually two log jams, but the pictures show the worst one. Richard Cox asked Jim if he felt that Blackford County would allocated any funds to this problem; Jim said that it is too far downstream. Mark Bardsley stated that we should request funds from Blackford County. Mary Weesner informed the Board that in the Spring we sent Blackford County \$3,300.00 and will collect about \$1,200.00 this fall that we will send them, totaling about \$4,500.00. Mark Bardsley stated that we should ask Blackford County for \$4,500.00 so that we could use it for log jams, and we can always throw in the other \$1,500.00 and that get us a little further on log jams that way. Jim Todd said that he will talk to Blackford County to see if they will let go of any of the money that we sent back to us. Mark Bardsley stated that this topic will be on the agenda until they resolve the matter.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

There is no Other Business

**ADJOURN:**

Richard Cox made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:53 am; seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried with support, 3-0 as Kenny Cates needed to leave the meeting prior to adjournment.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting to be held will be December 10, 2024, at 11:00 am and 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 November 26, 2024, as presented:*

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**Mark Bardsley**

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**Richard Cox**

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**Gordon Gough**

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**Kenny Cates**

**\*\*\*Not Present\*\*\***

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**Pat Pinkerton**