

GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held December 31, 2024, in the Grant County Council Chambers. Chairman Mark Bardsley called the meeting to order at 11:02 am. Other members present were Vice-Chairman Richard Cox, Kenny Cates, Pat Pinkerton, Grant County Surveyor Jim Todd and Drainage Board Secretary Mary Weesner. Gordon Gough was not in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Kenny Cates made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the December 10, 2024, meeting. His motion was seconded by Pat Pinkerton and carried 4-0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Jim Todd read the claims as follows:

John's Repair Service \$8,000.00 Lugar Creek; \$136,590.44 in the fund

Richard Cox made a motion to approve the above claim as presented; Seconded by Pat Pinkerton. Motion carried, with support, 4-0.

Commissioner pre-approved 12/23/2024

Grant County Treasurer \$2,433.95 Loan Repayment to GDIF

Howard County Treasurer \$5,274.38 Outbound Joint Drain

Blackford County Treasurer \$7,079.20 Outbound Joint Drain

Huntington County Treasurer \$788.75 Outbound Joint Drain

Wabash County Treasurer \$1,082.19 Outbound Joint Drain

Wells County Treasurer \$390.44 Outbound Joint Drain

Chronicle Tribune \$55.16 Knotes of Keaton; \$29,102.70 in the fund

Spitzer Herriman \$1,925.00 Legal fees for 2024; \$5,000 in the fund

Cook Excavating \$1,540.00 Big Deer Creek; \$21,692.80 in the fund

Richard Cox made a motion to ratify the preapproval of claims as listed above per Chairman/Commissioner Mark Bardsley. The motion was seconded by Pat Pinkerton and carried 4-0.

Kenny Cates to Abstain

Cook Excavating \$1,100.00 Pipe Creek; \$153,162.88 in the fund

Pat Pinkerton made a motion to approve the above claim as presented; seconded by Richard Cox and 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

Buddha Acres Barry Bunnell, Surveyor; Drainage Approval

Barry Bunnell, surveyor, is present today regarding an unnamed tributary that empties into the Monroe Ditch. Jim Todd has an aerial photo for the area, and he sees no problem with the drainage. Jim added that this is a two acre sub-division, and they are needing drainage approval, and he doesn't see any problem with it. Barry Bunnell stated that he is doing the survey for JMax Properties, which is a company that does condominiums. Barry stated that he was able to do the three splits that they needed to start building a house. They have decided that they would like to put in small ponds for each lot. One of the owners of JMax, Adam Saunders, will actually have Lot 1 which is on the north side. Mr. Bunnell added that the other owner, Chris Agular, is on the south side in Lot 2 and the owners are going to sell the other three parcels. He stated that they already have the house foundation in on Lot 2, having an elevation of 865. Mr. Bunnell stated that he wanted to get the Board's approval, even though it is not a legal drain, he would also like a civil engineer's approval. Pat Pinkerton added that as long as they size the crossing properly, he doesn't see an issue. Mark Bardsley asked Mr. Bunnell to bring the plans back after they are revised. Mr. Bunnell informed the Board that the Area Planning Commission is having a meeting regarding this on January 6, 2025.

Hummel Creek Private Crossing

Jim Todd stated that he has measured for a private crossing between CR 650 N and CR 400 E. Jim Todd read the letter from Jorge Camacho (attached to these minutes in the Drainage Board office) that states he feels that it is no less than a ten footer at this location. Jim stated that the landowner comes to a Drainage Board meeting, at least now the Board knows the recommended size. He will call John Enyeart to give him the needed requirements and then John can give the landowner a price. It is recommended by the Board to allow a 12' minimum. The landowner will need to come before the Board for the request.

Dean Ditch Maintenance request; \$2,322.83

Jim Todd stated that Abe Wright of Wright Drainage is working for a landowner that is replacing an old county tile. Mr. Wright just wants permission to tap into the Dean Ditch. Jim went on to explain that the landowner has been paying maintenance on the Dean Ditch for a long time. He showed the Drainage Board the location on an aerial map. The maintenance fund can pay for the tap in, but the landowner will have to pay for the tile replacement. Richrd Cox made a motion to allow Mr. Wright to hook onto the Dean Ditch to do drainage work. Pat Pinkerton seconded the motion, carrying 4-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Cart Creek – Petition for public hearing; Wendell Cates

Jim Todd informed the Board that Wendell Cates, who is present today, has turned a petition for a public hearing to Drainage Board secretary Mary Weesner. Jim explained that we are not ready to set a hearing date yet because we need to go over the assessment roll and verify that it is correct. Mary Weesner is asking that the Board accept the petition for a public hearing and that a hearing date can be set at a later date. Jim Todd explained that Wendell Cate has a plan to relocate the tile, making it work a lot better and getting it out of the shallow ground. Wendell asked the Drainage Board if they felt that \$70.00 per acre would be too risky; Richard Cox asked Wendell if he felt that the people would fight the proposed rate at

\$70.00 per acre? Wendell responded that he does not know but he does not want to go in too aggressive with \$70.00 and then end up with a flat “no” and don’t even get the \$50.00 per acre rate. Mark Bardsley stated that all we need to do is accept the petition and can set the rate at a later date, when a hearing date is set. Pat Pinkerton made a motion to accept the petition for a public hearing on Cart Creek as presented, seconded by Richard Cox. Motion carried 4-0.

Walnut Creek – Log jam

Jim Todd stated that he had talked to Paul Schriever of Blackford County about the blockage on Walnut Creek that is about 4 ½ miles downstream. He went on to say that Blackford County has its own Drainage Board that is set up just for Walnut Creek. Their water is going to get away and the log jam has no effect on them elevation wise, therefore they do not want to spend the money on this log jam.

ADJOURN:

Kenny Cates made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 am; seconded by Pat Pinkerton. Motion carried with support, 4-0.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting to be held will be January 14, 2025, 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 December 31, 2024, as presented:

Mark Bardsley

Richard Cox

Gordon Gough

Kenny Cates

Pat Pinkerton