

GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held October 10, 2023 in the Grant County Council Chambers. Chairman Mark Bardsley called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. Other members present were Vice-Chairman Gordon Gough, Pat Pinkerton, and Kenny Cates. Grant County Surveyor Jim Todd, Richard Cox, and Drainage Board secretary Mary Weesner were not in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Chronicle Tribune \$41.40 Baker Ditch; \$27.00 in the red

Chronicle Tribune \$41.40 Sweetser Improvement & Enoch Lee;

\$96,684.11 in the fund

Enyeart Construction \$1,130.00 Lugar Creek; \$109,278.29 in the fund

Enyeart Construction \$4,804.00 Lugar Creek; \$109,278.29 in the fund

Enyeart Construction \$20,266.00 Lugar Creek; \$109,278.29 in the fund

Connerstone \$631.20 Lugar Creek; \$109,278.29 in the fund

Cook Excavating \$6,100.00 Cart Creek; \$19,851.31 in the fund

Gordon Gough to abstain

Keith Sullivan Excavating \$15,189.94 Little Deer Creek;

\$68,116.75 in the fund

Raymond Bair stated that this claim was for Little Creek, but Sullivan's had put Little Deer Creek on their invoice.

Mark Bardsley stated that since they are not voting on Little Deer Creek, but Little Creek instead, they can vote on all the claims at once since Gordon Gough is not on Little Creek.

Pat Pinkerton made a motion to approve the above claims as presented, seconded by Kenny Cates. Motion carried, with support, 3-0 with Gordon Gough abstaining.

OLD BUSINESS:

Little Crane Pond

There is nothing new to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

Potter Creek–David Morgan Jr–Maintenance request;
\$33,694.33 in the fund

Raymond Bair informed the Board that Potter Creek has been raised to \$10.00 per acre and \$10.00 per homesite with a \$25.00 minimum. He added that there is roughly 3,500 acres in it. It is pulling in about \$35,359.60 annually and currently has \$33,694.33 in the fund and will be gaining another \$15,000.00 this fall. David Morgan Jr is requesting to work on the part north of where it goes across SR 13 into section 14. They have three landowners that agreed to do it and Raymond said they had a price they were bringing. Kenny Cates added that this is north of Oakhill. David Morgan Jr is present now before the Board. Mr. Morgan passed a map of the area to the Board to view. He stated that this is something that they have talked about for over ten years. He added that they have some land east of SR 13 with an 18" clay tile that was put in in 1905. This tile runs under SR 13 and goes almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to the Potter headwall. But what they are talking about reconstructing is east of SR 13 all the way to the collection basin, which is almost to CR 700 W. Kenny Cates asked what they are wanting to put in; Mr. Morgan stated that Scott Rogers had figured an 18" smooth core. Every year there are breakdowns in that $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile section. Kenny Cates stated that Scott Rogers does not have stone in the price quoted, if they go through Fratco for their tile, Fratco will request that they bed that in stone. Due to multiple conversations it is inaudible what Kenny Cates is saying to Mr. Morgan. Mark Bardsley asked Mr. Morgan if they anticipate getting all of this done by the end of the year; Mr. Morgan responded that he cannot imagine that happening unless we have a really dry fall and winter. Kenny Cates added that they need to talk to Joe Seward and find out what the problem is up there before we spend a bunch of money, we need to make sure that we have an outlet. Raymond Bair asked Mr. Morgan if he knows the condition of the tile under SR 13, Mr. Morgan stated that had been replaced. Raymond then asked how about CR 400, Mr.

Morgan stated that had been replaced and that Scott had replaced everything north of the woods. Kenny Cates stated that Max Middlesworth had come to a Drainage Board meeting regarding this and that the State Highway Department had come in a removed a bunch of this from under the highway. Mr. Morgan believes that it was a single wall 24" that had collapsed earlier, Gordon Gough inquired as to who put the new tile in, Mr. Morgan responded that he believes it was Newhouse. Mark Bardsley asked if anyone else has made a request, Raymond Bair replied not to his knowledge. Mark then asked Mr. Morgan if he has received any other quotes; Mr. Morgan stated that he has only received the one quote from Rogers Drainage since he had the measurements from years ago. Kenny Cates stated that now, Fratco is saying they want stone around and underneath and just a little on top to guarantee it. Kenny added that when you have to get stone that throws additional money in there. Mark Bardsley asked Kenny Cates what his recommendation is, Kenny responded that we could talk to Scott Rogers and if we need to come back with stone, we will. He added that the thing to do would be to check with Middlesworth and ask him what the deal was. Raymond Bair told Mr. Morgan that if he is not looking to doing this right away, he needs to get more information and readdressed the Board about it. Adding that if it they would be okay without it being embedded in stone would be a big kicker. Raymond said that with the prices the way they are, it would repay next year, but if you add \$10,000.00 for stone, it won't. Pat Pinkerton added that there is an extra \$12,500.00 to reconnect the drains on the opposite side and that increases the total to \$89,500.00. Mr. Morgan responded that part of this can possibly be privately funded too. Pat Pinkerton asked what the assessment is for Potter Creek; Raymond Bair told him \$39,359.63, \$10.00 per acre and \$10.00 per house, adding that generally the houses are a lot more than the acres. Mark Bardsley reiterated that we know the work needs done if Mr. Morgan wouldn't mind going back and asking a few questions and then return to let the Board know if they need the stone or not and then they can decide. Raymond Bair stated that if he could possibly tighten down that down as far as the laterals and the \$12,000.00 and that may be something that can be lessened by knowing how many laterals that are coming in versus the blanket. He said if you are picking up a half dozen laterals, it will trace out the length on each side if you already know where they are at. Raymond Bair added that the Board is all

on board to do this, but we need more detail. Gordon Gough stated that they would need to come up with the money. Kenny Cates asked about the General Drain Improvement Fund, Mark Bardsley stated that he believes there is about \$180,000.00 in there, but we also have about \$200,000.00 for special projects but we will have to focus that money real tight. Mr. Morgan stated that regarding the \$12,500.00 that would be on him, as far as picking up the laterals, Raymond said that the Board usually pays for lateral hook ups. Mr. Morgan went back to saying that he is asking the County to put the main in and the rest would fall on them. Raymond added that if they took the \$12,500.00 off, it would take it within the parameter barely, but it is a stipulation of the stone. Pat Pinkerton stated that the problem is that it is deep and if you have the load sitting on top of it that is not deep, then you have tractors and equipment going across it. A man in the audience is stating that they don't need stone until you get 8 or 9 feet deep, but he cannot speak for what Fratco requires. Mark Bardsley told Mr. Morgan if he wouldn't mind getting the answers needed and returning on October 31st, then the Board can make a decision.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Burl Worl is before the Board representing a petition to create a maintenance for open ditches. He added that in southwest Grant County has been neglected for decades. Mr. Worl has passed maps of the area to the Drainage Board members to view, stating that it is 7,500 acres and they have joined up with Howard county and Madison county. The main branch of this open ditch traveling through here is Middlefork, the one to the north is Waters Ditch and the one to the south is the Pollywalk Ditch. He would like \$10.00 per acre on farm ground, \$50.00 per home site. He has encountered zero resistance so far. Mark Bardsley asked if these are current ditches in our maintenance, Raymond Bair told him no. Mr. Worl stated that he does not know how much a project of this size would entail, but he knows that dipping a ditch is \$2.00 per foot but does not know what brushing a ditch cost. He added that his thoughts are that he is looking at \$75,000.00 per year on a 7,500 acre watershed with the home sites, over three or four years, this would collect hundreds of thousands of dollars. Mr. Worl stated that just dipping the ditch at \$2.00 per foot, he figures there is about thirteen miles of ditch, would be about \$130,000.00. Raymond

Bair informed Mr. Worl that this would have to be a joint board. Mr. Worl added that doing the main branch with the two tributaries would be wonderful, but if we encounter a bunch of resistance from people on one tributary or the other, , maybe they could just focus on Middlefork and come back later and focus on the tributaries later. Pat Pinkerton asked if these were county drains, Raymond Bair said that they are, but they are not active. Gordon Gough asked if we have the majority regarding Howard County, Raymond said that Howard County could go downstream, but he doubts they will. Mr. Worl stated that once this has all been cleaned, they would probably lower the rate to about \$3.00 per acre and would like to put this on the spray program. Raymond asked Mr. Worl if the petitioners were on the branches or Middlefork; Mr. Worl said that they were all over and that Steve Richey is the big player in all of this and is all in favor of getting this done and paying his share. Years ago, Mr. Richey's father had cleaned out a portion of the water shed and no one wanted to pitch in, therefore, Mr. Richey stated to Mr. Worl that he feels he should only pay 70% - 80% of the rate since his father had cleaned it out years ago. Mr. Worl informed him that would be something that would need to be addressed at the public hearing. Pat Pinkerton asked if they do Middlefork and tributaries, would that include the Rigdon Ditch; Raymond Bair stated that it would, Pat said that then the home site would be the \$50.00 for the Middlefork rather than the \$100.00 being charged per home site on the Rigdon, Raymond said no because their primary is the Rigdon Tile. Mr. Worl told the Board who all he has signatures for and verbal agreements that are for this. Pat Pinkerton stated that since this involves two other counties, we cannot just set a public hearing, Mark Bardsley agreed, adding that they would have the opportunity to form a joint board or waive. Mark added that we will take the petitions under advisement until we get with Howard and Madison Counties

ADJOURN:

Kenny Cates made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried, with support, 4-0.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting to be held will be October 31, 2023 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 October 10, 2023 as presented:

Mark Bardsley

Gordon Gough

*****ABSENT*****

Richard Cox

Kenny Cates

Pat Pinkerton