

GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held February 25, 2025, in the Grant County Council Chambers. Chairman Chuck Poling called the meeting to order at 11:01 am. Other members present were Vice-Chairman Richard Cox, Gordon Gough, Kenny Cates (attending via WebEx), Pat Pinkerton, Drainage Board Secretary Mary Weesner and Grant County Surveyor Raymond Bair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Richard Cox made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2025, meeting; seconded by Pat Pinkerton. With four votes in house and Kenny Cates voting Webex, the motion passed unanimously.

Pat Pinkerton made a motion to approve the explanation of the cancellation of the February 11, 2025, meeting. The motion was seconded by Richard Cox and carried unanimously 5-0 with four in house votes and Kenny Cates voting via Webex

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Chuck Poling read the following claim:

Tom's Excavating \$4,765.00 Berkhart Swagger; \$11,452.83 in the fund

Gordon Gough made a motion to approve the above claim as presented; seconded by Pat Pinkerton. The motion passed unanimously with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

OLD BUSINESS:

Little Crane Pond – Approval of resolution

Mary Weesner informed the Board that she spoke with Drainage Board attorney, Kyle Persinger regarding the resolution of Little Crane Pond. She stated that Kyle is working alongside Pat Pinkerton to set up a meeting to discuss the issue.

Crane Pond – Obstruction in easement

There was a discussion regarding the fire pit in the easement on Crane Pond. Richard Cox asked the Board if the people are maintaining the ditch then why would we need to go in there and mow. Gordon Gough responded stating that even though this person may be maintaining the ditch, the person on either side may not be. Raymond Bair added that Andy Rickner did open up the easement last year or the year before. He said that he and Jim Todd went out there last year and put up flags. Pat Pinkerton asked Raymond if they sent a letter that their fire pit is in the easement; Raymond said yes. Pat then asked if the letter stated that the Drainage Board is not responsible for any damages; Raymond said he did not know the extent of the letter. Kenny Cates said that Randy Miller had surveyed those lots off and there was not anything on the deed about an easement. Raymond Bair said that there is an easement whether it is on the edition papers or not. Pat Pinkerton ask that Raymond make sure that this is part of the legal drain. Raymond stated that he will determine if it is a regulated ditch and then a letter from a lawyer should be sent.

NEW BUSINESS

There is no new business to discuss.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Spray Program – discussion

Raymond Bair handed out the ditches to be sprayed this year. He stated that the Dillon Winslow Tuttle is an open ditch east of Fairmount, they are getting ready to work on the Tuttle which will take most of their money out of their fund, he asked the Board if they still want to spray them. Raymond added that he did not know the condition of the ARPA fund to use them towards ditch spraying this year too. He asked Mary Weesner how much is left in the ARPA fund; she informed him that there is nothing left. The fund had to be designated for usage by December 31, 2024. She stated that last year we used it for the spray program and the remaining funds was used on the Simmons Drain.

Richard Cox asked Raymond if there is enough money in each of the funds to cover the spraying; Raymond said yes but some may be close to the dollar. He will make sure that there is money in the fund before adding it into the rotation. Raymond brought up Dillon Winslow Tuttle and Pat Pinkerton asked about how much into the red will it be; Raymond said that they will be taking everything out of the fund to use the money from the money and then donating money to accomplish the tile, so roughly in the red by \$1,400.00 and then asked Mary Weesner how much the tile brings in per year, almost \$6,000.00 with \$5.00 per acre and \$20.00 per homesite. Pat Pinkerton stated that if it did go into the red, it wouldn't be red for long. Raymond stated that the Baker Ditch would also like sprayed as well as Fadley & Owl, but he is not sure if the brush is small enough to constraint the spray. Pat Pinkerton agreed, adding that we need to spray as many as we can. Raymond added that at the top end of the Waters Ditch is Steven Richey and he has been maintaining their ditch for over a mile. He would like to know if the Board is okay with spraying Richey since he maintains his ditch and is a big donator to the fund. Gordon Gough said yes. Raymond Bair said that the Pollywalk has a stretch from 1000S to the north that the website shows that one side has been brushed, and the other side doesn't show being brushed adding that if it has been brushed that they have a fund and they may as well use it to spray it. Richard Cox made a motion to accept the recommendation for the 2025 spray program. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and carried 5-0 with 4 in house votes and Kenny Cates via WebEx.

Middlefork – Set hearing date

The proposed rate for Middlefork is \$10.00 per acre, \$50.00 per homesite, \$25.00 per parcel with a minimum of \$25.00 for an eight (8) year collection cap. Mary Weesner stated that the soonest date for a public hearing would be April 29, 2025. Pat Pinkerton made a motion to hold the public hearing for Middlefork on April 29, 2025, for the rates of \$10.00 per acre, \$50.00 per homesite, \$25.00 per parcel with a minimum of \$25.00 for an eight (8) year collection cap. The motion was seconded by Richard Cox and carried 5-0 with 4 in house votes and Kenny Cates via WebEx.

ADJOURN:

Pat Pinkerton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:37 am; seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried with support, 5-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting to be held will be March 11, 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 February 25, 2025, as presented:

Chuck Poling
Chairman

Richard Cox
Vice-Chairman

Gordon Gough

Kenny Cates

Pat Pinkerton