

GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held May 27, 2025, in the Grant County Council Chambers. Chairman Chuck Poling called the meeting to order at 11:04 am. Other members present were Vice-Chairman Richard Cox, Gordon Gough, Kenny Cates, 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 as presented from the May 13, 2025, meeting; seconded by Gordon Gough. The motion passed 4-0; Pat Pinkerton abstained as he was not in attendance at the May 13, 2025, meeting.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Chuck Poling read the claims as follows:

Bragg Excavating \$3,175.20 Stoney Creek; \$15,133.49 in the fund
Sullivan Excavating \$5,475.00 Potter Ditch; \$86,226.01 in the fund
Edwin Graham \$528.36 Echelbarger Zirkle; \$42,807.08 in the fund
Chronicle Tribune \$32.38 Cart Creek; \$21,972.93 in the fund
Chronicle Tribune \$31.37 Good Rick Drain; There is no fund
Grant County Treasurer \$ 133.41 Loan from GDIF to Maintenance
Cook Excavating \$650.00 Lumbo Ditch; \$50,620.36 in the fund
John's Repair \$6,621.00 Farr & Ira Hodson; \$13,257.26 in the fund

Kenny Cates informed the Board that he was in on the Edwin Graham claim. He said that this deserves to be paid as he has repaired that tile many a times and never has charged labor or manpower. He replaced tile in several places, Mary Weesner added that Mr. Graham did not charge for his equipment or his time. Kenny Cates made a motion to approve the above claims as presented; the motion was seconded by Pat Pinkerton. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Gordon Gough to Abstain

Bragg Excavating \$3,800.00 Big Deer Creek; \$20,449.36 in the fund
Bragg Excavating \$750.00 Little Creek; \$55,728.06 in the fund

Gordon Gough asked about the work on Little Creek; Mary Weesner informed him that Bragg's removed a collapsed bridge and hauled it off site from the Wright Farm. Gordon stated that he questions this because he knew that Scott Rogers had been working on Little Creek, not Bragg Excavating. Richard Cox suggested that maybe Rogers hired Bragg's to do the work. Raymond Bair suggested that the Board hold off on paying this claim until they can ask Bragg's what this is, Gordon agreed.

Richard Cox made a motion to pay the claim for Big Deer Creek from Bragg Excavating for \$3,800.00 and hold off on the Little Creek claim as we are needing more information; seconded by Pat Pinkerton. The motion carried 4-0; Gordon Gough abstained due to having land in the Big Deer Creek and Little Creek watersheds.

Kenny Cates to Abstain

Cook Excavating \$2,200.00 Pipe Creek; \$128,507.41 in the fund
Cook Excavating \$440.00 Pipe Creek; \$128,507.41 in the fund

Richard Cox made a motion to approve the above claims as presented; seconded by Gordon Gough. The motion carried 4-0; Kenny Cates abstained due to having land in the Pipe Creek watershed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Little Crane Pond – Approval of resolution – Tabled

NEW BUSINESS

Jesse Tippey – Discussion

Raymond Bair passed out maps for the Board's review (a copy is attached to these minutes in the Drainage Board office). Raymond pointed out on the big map where the fire department is to the ditch, about ¼ mile east. He stated that the blue line on the map has been determined to be the Jesse Tippey and does not connect to

the houses to the west, but it is connected to the houses to the east of the Jesse Tippey. He added that the orange line is a private drain that goes out to Ed Blinn's field or comes out of Ed Blinn's field towards the road moving to the north. The two horizontal lines are 8" cement that goes behind the houses; one comes down and dumps into the orange tile and the other dumps into the blue tile. Raymond added that the green dot on the map is the surface drain that goes into the orange tile. He stated that after determining that the Jesse Tippey is separate from the houses to the west, Ed Blinn has approached him with the thought of joining those houses and the orange tile in with the Jesse Tippey and making them one ditch. Chuck Poling asked Raymond if that is the one that they just jetted open; Raymond said yes. Chuck said that the line does hook up to the houses on the left, Raymond said that they come out of the orange line, Chuck stated that it came out of the blue line and that all those lines opened when they blew that open. Raymond said that from what Blinn told him, the blue line is separate and is Chuck sure that it was to the blue line and not the orange line; Chuck stated that he is sure. Raymond asked Chuck again if he is positive on the blue line; Chuck stated again that he is positive. Raymond stated that whenever he was there that there was nothing coming out of the blue line. Chuck said that he was only in one line, but it all opened up. Richard Cox stated that it sounds like they are already connected. Chuck recommended that Raymond do a dye test. Richard Cox asked exactly what Ed Blinn wants to do; Raymond responded that he wants to join them together and make it all one drain, he added that the tile behind the houses is old, has roots in it and might have sewer in it. Richard asked if we want to be a part of that drain. Raymond passed several codes out to the Board, adding that they say we have to have it environmentally tested to make sure there is no sewer in it. Chuck informed the Board that the Health Department cannot go there and dye test it unless there is sewage pooling on the ground, but Raymond can do it. Raymond said that the code states that it needs to be tested before the Board can accept it. Chuck explained to him that he can just get a sample out of the clean-out. Raymond said that they can go out there and test it, there is an easement; Chuck said that no, they cannot. Raymond said that part of the orange line collapsed in one lady's backyard and Blinn's tile water is coming in on that orange line, adding that we may need to hire a camera to go in there and that if they are connected at the

moment, do they need to stay connected? The was intended for a farm field tile and not intended for these houses. Chuck Poling stated that he would dye one side of houses in one color and use a different color on the other side. He added that when you put that dye in there, you have to wait possibly a few weeks for that dye to move down there, depending on the amount of water that passes through there, sometimes going every few days to check; Pat Pinkerton agreed.

Dillon Winslow Tuttle – Brian Presnall & Burr Worl - Discussion

Brian Presnall is present before the Board today. He is proposing to put in a new 24" tile, it goes from 24" and then downsizes. He added that a few years ago he petitioned and had the Dillon Winslow Tuttle cleared and dipped. Mr. Presnall stated that at that time, they had increased the maintenance as part of phase I knowing that this 18" Dillon ditch is in very very bad shape and breaking down all the time, full of mud and there is probably 8" of water that will flow through the tile. Mr. Presnell stated that he had hired Burr Worl, with H & W Ditching, to come in and analyze the water shed. Mr. Presnell has went around and talked to individual landowners to get their feeling. He added that there is approximately \$42,000.00 in the maintenance fund now, not counting the 2025 collection, putting it around \$48,000.00 in the fund. Some of the other main landowners include Reece Peacock, Greg Wood, Dave Bettegnies, and Mildred Brown (owner) and Todd Peacock (tenant). Mr. Presnell stated, with the Board's approval, have the maintenance fund released to go towards the new construction. He added that whatever balance is left, they would split according to the acreage that goes into the Dillon Winslow Tuttle. Mr. Presnell is also asking for approval to advance the 2026 maintenance collection to give them a little more to put against the project. Richard Cox asked Mr. Presnell how soon he is wanting to do this; he responded that he would like to do it in July 2025. Gordon Gough asked about the location; Mr. Presnell stated that it is on Reese Peacock's side, which is about halfway between State Road 26 and Washington Street outside of Fairmount. He added that their goal is to come in and parallel with the old drain. Gordon asked him if it is possible to do this without the advance of the 2026 collection; Mr. Presnell said that they could. Mr. Presnell said that back in April when there was a 4" or 5" rain the water was

lapping the top of the road, it gets that deep through there, the water does go down, but it takes 4 or 5 days. Richard Cox made a motion to allow them to proceed with this reconstruction, using up to \$54,337.00 of the maintenance fund to complete this, the landowners will pay the balance. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and carried 5-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Drainage Board Procedures – Discussion

Chuck Poling stated this item has been put on the agenda because there is a lot of back and forth between Mary Weesner and Raymond Bair. Chuck stated that the Drainage Board is one entity and the Surveyor is another. The surveyor's job is to tell the Drainage Board what needs to be done, the Board then will vote on it. Richard Cox agreed that this needs to be addressed. Chuck Poling informed the Board that Darren Bates has called him expressing his concerns. Darren stepped up to the podium and stated that the law states that the surveyor do the analysis and makes notes and then bring his recommendations to the Board. Once the Board votes on it, the surveyor then executes what the Board voted on. He added that the surveyor does not vote, and it is the Board that decides what to do. Chuck stated that when Darren called him it was regarding concerns over the issue between Mary and Raymond. He added that he does not understand how it worked for 12 years and now it don't; Richard Cox agreed. Chuck said that it is not because he moved Mary one floor up. Chuck addressed Raymond Bair telling him that he understand that Raymond is an elected official and that he feels that he does not have to answer to anybody. He said that Raymond expressed his concerns to Commissioner Middlesworth that Chuck should have left Mary down there to work it out; adding that there was no way after the way that he treated her would have left her down there. Chuck added that he had several people from Area Plan come to him about Raymond going up there getting on her. Chuck said, for example, that the other day she ask him for the Surveyor reports, and he sent them to Chuck and never sent them to Mary. He stated that in our emails we always cc each other and wants to know why you would do that; you knew she needed them so he should have sent them to Mary as well as him, not just him. Chuck said that he has so many

emails and it is just being petty. He stated that if it all worked for twelve years why can't it work today. Chuck added that the \$10,000.00 limit for the surveyor is too high and needs to be way less when you are just doing repairs. He feels that it should be \$4,000.00 or \$5,000.00. Richard Cox asked Darren Bates the amount other counties give their surveyors to spend without Drainage Board approval; Darren said that some are as little as \$1,500.00; he said he does not know of any other counties that are above \$5,000.00. He added that when there are several invoices from one vender, they can all be listed on one claim and still be detailed out. There is no sense in making several claims for one vender when you can do it on one. One claim, one check. There is no sense in creating more work. Raymond Bair disagreed stating that he needs to know what location the work was done on; Darren stated that the invoices that show where the work was done will be connected to the claim, those invoices will show where the work was located. Chuck Poling pointed out that the pre-approval log that will help identify where work was done has not been completed by the surveyor. Raymond questioned Chuck as to who this log is for; Chuck responded that this is for the Board, and it was approved at the May 13th Drainage Board meeting. Raymond said that he did not put dates on them because he did not want to spend half his day looking for when he talked to people to put on a piece of paper just so that "you guys" can have a list. Chuck stated that the Board made an ordinance at the last meeting, it doesn't matter what he wants to do, this Board says you got to do it. Raymond responded that he does not understand why Chuck would think that he is trying to screw anything over; Chuck said he is talking about the log. The Board approved it and that means that he has to do it. Chuck reminded him that the surveyor and the Drainage Board are two separate entities, and the Board says this need done, Raymond said that he understood that. Chuck asked Raymond why he is arguing with him then; Raymond's response was this it is a waste of time. Chuck asked Raymond if he is telling the whole Board that even though they passed this, it is a waste of time? His response was yes. Raymond added that he will spend his time doing this and while he is doing this, other things will not get done. He held up a paper and stated that if he wanted to see each one of these that cost over \$5,000.00 then these meetings are going to turn into three or four hour meetings. Raymond then stated that he does not have to do everything the Board says; Chuck said the Board has rules and he

has to turn it in the way they tell him. Chuck informed Raymond that he is the surveyor; he is elected and is an advisory to the Board. His job is an advisory to tell the Board what they should do, and they vote on it. Raymond told Chuck they he is not his God and can't make him do (inaudible) things; Chuck stated that the whole Board voted on this the last meeting and doesn't understand why he is arguing with him about it, Raymond's response was because it is a waste of his time, a waste of the civilian's time; Chuck cut him off stating that it is noted. Kenny Cates stated that regarding Raymond's list, it is a waste of time like he just wants to...Raymond cut in and added "put it on paper" Kenny said yes. Raymond told Kenny to come to his office, and he will show him every one of them. Kenny added that never in 10 or 12 years has he seen a list like this. Raymond's response was that Jim sat and waited for somebody to come pull on his chain; he knows of a ditch by Upland that has trees in it, he didn't wait for someone to come tell him because he knows if it rains, it will flood that basin. Does that mean he has to wait for somebody to come ask him? Kenny Cates said that it is not our place to go out and look for problems.

Little Crane Pond

Chuck Poling asked if the fire pit has been removed, Raymond said that he went by there this morning, and it has been moved.

Raymond Bair stated that all he is trying to do is to get water to go downhill in Grant County and this (inaudible) with Mary has nothing to do with his production of ditches and he does not have favorite contractors. He added that he sends out ten letters to contractors and he is lucky to get three responses. He is picking the contractors that respond to us.

Kenny Cates stated that he understands that if they are working on a project and he sees that they need to do something else, then they need to call, and the Board will back him up. When you get \$10,000.00 with these contractors, he is not for that. Chuck Poling stated that Raymond should tell Mary Weesner because she is the Drainage Board secretary. Chuck again stated that he does not understand how it could work and now all the sudden it can't work. He asked how Raymond could say that this does not affect it when it does. He said that he moved her office up to Area Plan and all the

people from Area Plan came to him telling him how Raymond treated Mary. Chuck told Raymond that he needs to be more businesslike, Raymond responded that he is not the one that shut the door and he is not the one that quit talking. Darren Bates told Raymond Bair that if Mary was made aware of something from the surveyor, she could get with the president and he could call a special meeting. Chuck told Raymond that he needs to contact Mary on anything that the Board needs to know. Richard Cox added that Mary needs to contact Raymond on anything that he needs to know as well, Chuck agreed. Raymond Bair stated that if an individual has a problem, then they have to wait two weeks to come to a meeting to discuss it and the contractor would have to be available to do it and he doesn't understand. Kenny Cates stated that Jim Todd only had \$2,000.00 and once in awhile go over; he would approve it because he knew the Board would. Kenny Cates made a motion to limit the surveyor to \$4,000.00 for work needing done without Drainage Board preapproval; motion was seconded by Richard Cox. The motion carried 4-1 with Richard Cox opposing.

Matthews Ditch

Kenny Cates informed the Board that there is a little problem over in Swayzee on the Matthews Ditch. On the east end of town on Swayzee Road, right on the creek, there is about 100 feet between the creek and the old building that is there. There is a guy that is coming in, wrecker service, and Kenny has told him that we need 75' there on the creek. He is hauling wrecked cars off the road; Chuck added that he believes that the man needs to go to Area Plan to get that zoned for that. Kenny added that the State says that he must put a fence in there so when they impound a car, so what happens when we have to come in through there to clean out the creek or whatever. Chuck asked Raymond if they came to him about this; Raymond said yes. Chuck asked him what did you tell them; he responded that he hasn't told him anything yet as he didn't talk to him, Cindy Fowler did. Cindy stated that she told him to come to the Drainage Board. Kenny added that he has already built part of the wooden fence but before he spent any money, he could go to Converse over by the fairgrounds, which is in Grant County, it even has a 2 bay garage there. Richard Cox stated that all we can make him do is put the fence up at 75'; Raymond said something about 66' and that the whole lot is inside of the 75'

easement. He can't have it there Richard Cox added. Pat Pinkerton agreed stating that he can't have anything permanent in the easement. Raymond said that he could sign a hold harmless agreement and they could dig on the other side of the ditch. Richard Cox stated we will see what he says when he attends a meeting.

ADJOURN:

Pat Pinkerton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:11 pm; seconded by Richard Cox. Motion carried with support, 5-0.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting to be held will be June 10, 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 May 27, 2025, as presented:

Chuck Poling
Chairman

Richard Cox
Vice-Chairman

Gordon Gough

Kenny Cates

Pat Pinkerton