

GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held July 29, 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, Drainage Board Secretary Mary Weesner and Grant County Surveyor Raymond Bair. Pat Pinkerton was not in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Richard Cox made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the July 8, 2025, meeting; seconded by Gordon Gough. The motion passed 4-0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Chuck Poling read the claims as follows:

Chronicle Tribune \$31.37 Roods Run Open Ditch; There is no fund

L&W Cates Excavating \$6,686.43 Crane Pond Phase 2; \$3,986.52 in the fund

Cook Excavating \$1,120.00 Lumbo Ditch; \$65,672.53 in the fund

Kenny Cates informed the Board that there will be another invoice coming in for the Lumbo Ditch. Mary Weesner informed the Board that the Crane Pond Phase 2 is not collecting this year and that the loan will take four years to pay back. Raymond Bair stated that it would not be out of line to pay for a portion of it out of Phase 1. Richard Cox reminded Mary that this was previously discussed before and that Phase 1 would pay for the difference. Mary stated that she was instructed by the surveyor to pay from Phase 2 (a copy of that email is attached to these minutes). Raymond told Mary to pay \$3,986.52 out of Phase 2 and the rest out of Phase 1. He told the Board to make a motion of it. Richard Cox made a motion to pay the Chronicle Tribune and Cook Excavating claims as presented; seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried 4-0. Richard Cox made a motion to pay the L&W Cates claim for Crane Pond Phase 2, paying what we can from Phase 2 and the remaining balance from Crane Pond Phase 1. This motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and passed unanimously 4-0.

Kenny Cates to abstain

Bragg Excavating \$1,925.00 Taylor Creek; \$296,247.49 in the fund

Richard Cox made a motion to pay the Bragg Excavating claim as presented; seconded by Gordon Gough and carried 3-0 with Kenny Cates abstaining due to having land in the Taylor Creek watershed.

Chuck Poling stated that the Board needs to vote on the debt that is owed by the Good Rick Drain. Mary Weesner explained that in order to vacate the drain, we had to advertise for a public hearing (\$31.37) and then again advertise the Findings and Order (\$45.53) in the Chronicle Tribune; these together total \$76.90. Since there is no maintenance fund on this vacated drain, the debt will always appear on the books, therefore a vote to forgive this debt will remove it from the books. Gordon Gough made a motion to allow the forgiveness of the debt incurred on the Good Rick Drain vacation. The motion was seconded by Richard and carried 4-0.

The claim was pre-approved

Hiatt Excavating \$128,705.00 Spurgeon Tile; \$132,628.95 in the fund

Mary Weesner explained to the Board that this was requested for a preapproval to avoid any late fees on the initial invoice. This invoice is being paid by landowner contributions into the Spurgeon Tile maintenance fund. Richard Cox made a motion to approve the preapproved claim to Hiatt Excavating, the motion was seconded by Chuck Poling and carried 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Little Crane Pond – Approval of resolution – Tabled until 8/12/2025

Lomax Ditch-Wendell Cates-Update

Wendell Cates is before the Board. He informed the Board that they have met with the Army Corps of Engineers on the Lomax Ditch. He added that they will be meeting with IDEM sometime after August 4, 2025. They do not have anything in writing yet, but they feel comfortable that the east ditch will be classified as wetlands so they will have to stay out of it until he has something in writing from IDEM. Chuck Poling stated that when they met with Army Corps that the man said that they did not tear anything up and that they did a good job.

Bob Tippey, the president of the HOA is present and stated that their main concern is the location of the easements; at one point, the 75' easement would be all the way to the street meaning their entire property is in the easement. He added that they have looked back at their closing documents and the utility easements were marked but the drainage easements are not. Raymond Bair said that all the water south of 44th Streets comes through all the ponds and goes to the old Lomax. The east channel is what Army Corps is portraying as the mitigated wetland. He stated that as a surveyor, the far east channel cannot be the Lomax because it does not connect to the Lomax. Kelly Batic is before the Board. She said that the other day they had a big storm, and it was really coming down hard. She went upstairs to where the back of the house faces the ditch area, and you can see where the water comes in from Meijer into the ponds and it was bubbling because it was raining hard. She wants to know where the Army Corps have jurisdiction, where the IDEM has jurisdiction, where the City has jurisdiction, where the Drainage Board has

jurisdiction? Mrs. Batic added that her sales disclosure when she bought the property and built her home had a “NO” regarding any easements or right of ways of drains. She said that she and other landowners want to know where the Lomax is. Since it has been mowed down she has ragweed. Chuck Poling said that hopefully once IDEM comes, we can have some answers.

NEW BUSINESS

Crane Pond–Wendell Cates–Maintenance Request; \$3,986.52 in the fund

Wendell Cates stated that he does not think there is a need for a Phase 1 and Phase 2 and wonders why it cannot just be one ditch. He is asking that Raymond Bair call Jim Todd and ask him if there is anything we can do about merging the two. Wendell stated they spent about \$3,696.00 jetting the tile between New York and Virginia and then again another \$6,000.00 jetting that tile. Throughout that easement, there are trees probably 40-45’ to the south of the tile and on the north side it is probably 20’ to the trees. The easement is 75’ on both sides of the tile, but he has asked Guiffre Kilgren if they could cut back at least 50’ on each side to get the roots back. Mr. Cates added that between him and another neighbor, they have lost at least 60 to 80 acres this spring, which amounts to over \$50,000.00 that they have lost due to the tile being plugged. Guiffre Kilgren is now present before the Board. He stated that he flagged off the 50’ north and south of that center line and inventoried the trees (the inventory is attached to these minutes in the Drainage Board office). He added that he and Mr. Cates had discussed the trees and their removal in January. He stated that he is aware that this will cost money and he suggested that maybe remove a few feet a year, which depends on the funds budget. He does not want to cause damage to the farm fields and does not want to lose the trees either. Mr. Kilgren would like advice from the Board as to what to plant there that there would not be large invasive roots. Evergreen trees, meadow grass or a pond perhaps? Kenny Cates explained that when the trees are cut down, the stumps would be sprayed to kill them. Richard Cox made a motion to table this item to allow Mr. Kilgren time to see if anyone would like the trees; seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

North Branch of Waters – Public Hearing

Brent Newhouse is present before the Board as the petitioner of the North Branch of Waters. Mr. Newhouse stated that he is trying to get the North Branch of Waters fund built up so that they can do some repair and/or maintenance. Mary Weesner stated that there were no objections filed regarding the proposed rate. Mr. Newhouse is requesting rates of \$15.00 per acre, \$100.00 per homesite with a minimum charge of 50.00 per parcel for an eight year collection shut off. Richard Cox made a motion to approve the advertised rate of \$15.00 per acre, \$100.00 per homesite with a minimum charge of 50.00 per parcel

for an eight year collection for the North Branch of Waters; seconded by Kenny Cates.
Motion carried 4-0.

Farr & Ira Hodson

Mary Weesner informed the Board that a Joint Board has been formed and the meeting for Farr & Ira Hodson will be August 12, 2025, at 1pm in the Council Chambers of the Grant County Complex. At this meeting a public hearing date and rate will be determined by the Joint Board. Raymond Bair stated that (the first name mentioned was inaudible) Pearson is for \$10.00 per acre. The rate is not determined by our Board, but the Joint Board. He then asked if it is open for the public. Richard Cox stated that this is an organizational meeting. After the public hearing date and rate is set, Mary Weesner will send letters to the landowners and publicize in the Chronicle Tribune and the Blackford County papers.

Dillon Winslow & Tuttle

Raymond Bair informed the Board that the Board agreed to give Presnall and Burr Worl money towards a tile they are putting in and we advance them the payment of what is going to be on their taxes. He added that the Highway Department has replaced a pipe on the road south, the ditch is silted in, they need to put cement in the pipe to fill a crack but there is water in it, they can't get rid of it. They are wondering if they can borrow enough out of the fund, a two year payment, to dredge enough of the ditch to get the pipe relieved. He said or we wait until summer and dries up and they can pump it out of the way and not have to worry about it. Gordon Gough stated that we are already advancing money out. The Board decided to table this request and this time to see what the weather does.

ADJOURN:

Kenny Cates made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 pm.
The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and carried 4-0.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting to be held will be
August 12, 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 July 8, 2025, as presented:

Chuck Poling
Chairman

Richard Cox
Vice-Chairman

Gordon Gough

Kenny Cates

*****Not Present*****

Pat Pinkerton