

GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held August 12, 2025, in the Grant County Council Chambers. Chairman Chuck Poling called the meeting to order at 11:00 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 July 29, 2025, meeting; seconded by Gordon Gough. The motion passed 4-0; Pat Pinkerton abstained due to not attending the July 29th meeting.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Chuck Poling read the claims as follows:

John's Repair Service \$5,000.00 Hollis Daughtery; \$52,832.67 in the fund

Sweetser Utilities \$1,100.00 Taylor Creek; \$296,247.49 in the fund

Chronicle Tribune \$56.66 North Branch of Waters; \$8,200.20 in the fund

Pat Pinkerton made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Motion was seconded by Richard Cox and carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Little Crane Pond – Approval of resolution – Tabled

NEW BUSINESS:

Potter Creek–David Morgan–Reconstruction Request; \$103,071.79 in the fund

David Morgan is before the Board; he stated that he was before the Board two years ago. He is talking about reconstruction from State Road 13 approximately 4,500 feet. He added that he has updated bids. Raymond Bair stated that he had come before and it was tabled because of a lack of money. Mr. Morgan passed a copy of the quotes to the Board. He stated that they continually have breakdowns, three so far this year, which is typical every year. Mr. Morgan is also here to propose working on the headwall as well (this quote is attached to these minutes in the Drainage Board office). Richard Cox asked Raymond Bair if the Board needs another quote; Raymond said that is the Board's determination. Pat Pinkerton stated that we do not have to publicly advertise since it is under \$150,000.00, but

we do need to invite at least three bids. Raymond Bair stated that he would need to specify the grade and cut, and he is not qualified to do that, therefore, it would require us to get a contract deputy to come up with plans for the ditch. Gordon Gough stated that we have done this before when the landowner brings in a quote. Chuk Poling stated that according to the Indiana Drainage Code (IC 36-9-27-79.1) that Raymond handed out to the Board, we need to invite at least 3 persons to quote this project, so it must be right. The Board asked that Mary Weesner contact the Drainage Board attorney to check on this. Raymond Bair asked the Board about the quote for the headwall. Gordon Gough made a motion to allow Scott Rogers to work on the headwall. The motion was seconded by Pat Pinkerton and carried 5-0.

Bellevue Tile – Bob Goins- Maintenance request; \$5,993.90 in the fund

Bob Goins is not in attendance. Raymond Bair informed the Board there is water standing at Wichita and 9th Street in Jonesboro. Bragg Excavating went in and found an obstruction, three properties in. Raymond has been in contact with the three property owners and Bragg will be out to dig it up and see what the blockage is at that location. Raymond added that while he was out there, he found a pole barn on top of the tile down by Sand Pike and Winston Road. Raymond added that he has been in contact with the Area Plan Department about this. Any new plan or extension of a building they need to run it by the Surveyor Office so that he can look at them before they do anymore; he added that he has been telling that office that since he got here. The Board has tabled this.

Brushy Run – Frank Hix- Quotes- \$14,930.24 in the fund

Frank Hix is before the Board with quotes from John's Repair Service for brushing and dipping for \$7,721.00, this includes Tordon. Gordon Gough made a motion to approve the quote for presented by Mr. Hix, seconded by Pat Pinkerton and carried 5-0.

Baker Ditch – Frank Hix- Quotes- \$23,384.89 in the fund

Frank Hix is before the Board with quotes from John's Repair Service to remove and dispose of brush for \$8,207.00. Gordon Gough made a motion to approve the quote for presented by Mr. Hix, seconded by Richard Cox and carried 5-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Roods Run – Public hearing

Tracy Leonard is before the Board. She asked why she is being assessed and Raymond Bair stated that is because her water runs to the ditch. She asked out of the 402 parcels how many are exempt? It was explained to her that everyone pays a ditch tax, nobody on a watershed is exempt. She inquired about people who are exempt from property taxes; she was told that they still pay a ditch assessment. Pat Pinkerton explained that there is a

separate line item for ditch assessments on your property taxes. She asked if there was a certificate of needs and necessity; when Raymond responded no she asked if they are planning on getting one, he responded that he was not aware that it was a necessity to have one. Mrs. Leonard stated that she receive a bill for \$100,000.00 at her house; Mary Weesner informed her that her ditch assessment will be \$25.00 per year, and she responded that was only a projection. Mary explained to her that the assessment roll is what she will turn into the Auditor for the ditch assessments, and it cannot change without another public hearing. Raymond Bair explained the process of regulated drains and their assessments. Richard Cox explained that they are trying to build funds so that when it needs cleaned out it can be done, adding that if there is no money in the fund, we don't do any work. Raymond explained the assessment process to her.

Jim Yarger is now before the Board; he stated that he has about 100 acres. He is asking for clarification on whether they have an estimate of what it is going to cost to clean the watershed. Raymond Bair said no, and Gordon Gough stated that we do not do estimates for work until the money is available in the maintenance fund. Mr. Yarger asked the Board where they came up with the \$98,000.00 figure, Richard Cox explained that we do not look at the shut off, we look at the dollars per acre and per homesite. Chuck Poling said that the commercial rates are too low, Mary Weesner explained that we are only charging a homesite charge of \$25.00 per commercial site; Chuck stated that is too low. Raymond Bair stated that it is up to the Board to set that rate. Chuck added that it would be fair everybody if we charged a commercial and a hard surface rate, Kenny Cates agreed.

David Anderson is before the Board and stated that he approves the assessment. He handed out a statement (it is attached to these minutes in the Drainage Board office) that states that approves of the proposed rate. Richard Cox explained that if they spend money that the assessment will never shut off. Roy Kreigh is now before the Drainage Board. He was asking if there are any grants or government money for Van Buren and who checks on that; Richard Cox told him probably Van Buren. Mark Westfall stated that he wants to get it done, get it draining. Greg Brankle in now standing before the Board. He asked the Board that since they are talking about adding a commercial rate, will that stop the watershed from collecting tax money? Richard Cox said that if they approve the rate today, then they would have to readvertise and have another hearing. Mary Weesner stated that she feels that they should start the process again, adding a commercial rate, and it would still start collecting in 2026. Raymond Bair said that he thinks the Board should go ahead and start collecting as it is. Richard Cox agreed with Raymond. Chuck Poling told Raymond that we need to start figuring in commercial rates, if we did that maybe the homeowners could pay less. Raymond told Chuck that if we can get \$10.00 per acre and \$25.00 per homesite and commercial and homesite just means that it is more that you can get done, it does not mean that the homeowners would get charged less. Richard Cox agreed with Raymond. Chuck stated that with a commercial rate we could get more done quickly. Richard recommended that we go with what we have now and revisit this at a later date. An unnamed gentleman approached the Board stating that he had come before the Drainage Board several years ago and was told then that there was no money in the Roods Run maintenance fund. Back then, it needed cleaned out and still does. He understands you have to have the funds to do the work.

Richard Cox made a motion to approve the advertised rate of \$10.00 per acre, \$25.00 homesite and a minimum charge of \$15.00 for a four collection. The motion was seconded by Pat Pinkerton and carried 5-0.

ADJOURN:

Pat Pinkerton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:07 pm.
The motion was seconded by Richard Cox and carried 5-0.
The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting to be held will be August 26, 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 August 12, 2025, as presented:

Chuck Poling
Chairman

Richard Cox
Vice-Chairman

Gordon Gough

Kenny Cates

Pat Pinkerton