

# GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street  
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held November 25, 2025, in the Grant County Council Chambers. Vice-Chairman Richard Cox called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. Other members present were Gordon Gough, Kenny Cates, Drainage Board Secretary Mary Weesner and Grant County Surveyor Raymond Bair. Chairman Chuck Poling and Pat Pinkerton were not in attendance.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Gordon Gough made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from October 28, 2025, meeting; seconded by Kenny Cates. The motion passed 2-0, Richard Cox abstained since he was not present at the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. \*There was no meeting on November 11, 2025, due to the Veteran's Day holiday.

## APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Richard Cox read the claims as follows:

Chronicle Tribune \$31.37 Clymer Coleman; There is no maintenance fund  
Amazon Capital Services \$89.08 Office Supplies; \$90.82 in the fund  
Wells County Auditor \$433.42 Joint Drain Collection for outbound drains  
Blackford County Auditor \$7,038.58 Joint Drain Collection for outbound drains  
Wabash County Auditor \$1,078.23 Joint Drain Collection for outbound drains  
Howard County Auditor \$4,214.34 Joint Drain Collection for outbound drains  
Huntington County Auditor \$390.96 Joint Drain Collection for outbound drains  
Grant County Treasurer \$13,627.28 Loan Repayment from Maintenance to GDIF  
Chronicle Tribune \$29.34 Stoebe Tile; There is no maintenance fund

Kenny Cates made a motion to approve the above claims as presented. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and carried 3-0.

\*\*\*Kenny Cates to abstain\*\*\*

Cook Excavating \$3,680.00.00 Pipe Creek; \$159,169.96 in the fund  
Cook Excavating \$3,830.00 Pipe Creek; \$159,169.96 in the fund

Gordon Gough made a motion to approve the above claims as presented; seconded by Richard Cox. Motion carried 2-0 with Kenny Cates abstaining due to having land in the Pipe Creek watershed.

\*\*\*Pre-approved by Commissioner Middlesworth – Kenny Cates to abstain  
Cook Excavating \$5,520.00 Pipe Creek; \$159,169.96 in the fund

Gordon Gough made a motion to approve the claim as presented. The motion was seconded by Richard Cox and carried 2-0 with Kenny Cates abstaining due to land in the Pipe Creek watershed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Crane Pond – Guiffre Kilgren-Update

Guiffre Kilgren is present before the Board regarding the trees on his property that are along the Crane Pond watershed. He reminded the Board that the last time he was present before the Board Wendell Cates was present as well. He stated that Mr. Cates wants to knock down some of his trees as a preventative measure to keep the roots from growing into the drainage tile. Mr. Kilgren reminded the Board that they had discussed knocking the trees down, piling them up and burning them. Mr. Kilgren informed the Board that he has contacted all the logging firms and received about a half dozen responses. The ones that came out and looked at the trees did not find it economically worth their while due to the type of trees they are. He added that the State forester came out and looked at the woods and said that there is a program that he can get some funds from to purchase the herbicide needed to kill the trees that are not desirable. Kenny Cates stated that the roots go down into the ditch. If Mr. Kilgren wants the trees, he can cut them down and do what he wants to with them. Gordon Gough agreed, adding that it is very hard to kill the main root with herbicide. Gordon feels that we just need to clear this out so there will be no more problems with the roots growing into the tile, Kenny Cates agrees.

Doug Kingseed is now before the Board. If a tree has a tap root that has direct access to water, it is a lot harder to kill. He feels that the trees need to be gone, and it all just needs cleaned up. Richard Cox requested that Mr. Kingseed get a quote. Gordon Gough made a motion to allow them to dispose of the trees in the easement, 75' each way, so that they may keep it mowed.

Mr. Kilgren stepped up stating that per the minutes from the last meeting, Mr. Cates was present and that he did not need to go the entire easement, just 50'. Mary Weesner read to the Board the portion of the minutes in which Mr. Kilgren is referring to.

The motion was seconded by Kenny Cates and passed 3-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Long Branch - Arthur Roden & Eric Fiacable BNRG – Discussion

Arthur Roden of BNRG is present today before the Board regarding the proposed solar field in Gas City, Indiana. He informed the Board that this project is a 75 megawatt project. He reviewed the location on a map with the Board. The Drainage Board has been given a copy of their plan, and a copy of these plans are in the Drainage Board office. Mr. Roden

stated that they worked with Gas City's engineer to minimize any drainage issues. Gordon Gough asked him if they were going to be able to locate any tile that may be going into the Long Branch, he stated they would probe to find them and that there would be any repairs if they damage any tile. Raymond Bair stated that this property is unique and that it is self-contained. Richard Cox asked Mr. Rogen if there would be fencing along the ditches; Eric Fiacable of Kimley Horn responded that there would be, but it would be outside of the setbacks. Mr. Fiacable reviewed parts of the packet, recommending that the Board table this topic so that they have time to digest the information that they received today and return with any questions that they may have. The Drainage Board will revisit this item at the December 9, 2025 meeting.

#### Little Black Creek – Jack Green-Complaint

Raymond Bair gave the Board members a map of the area of the complaint. When asked who has cattle in the ditch, Raymond responded that it is Carl Kitts' father in-law. He added that Jack Green is not here to follow through. Richard Cox asked if the cattle were destroying the ditch; Raymond responded that the ditch is in horrible condition to begin with. Raymond added that Indiana Code states that you do not have cattle in the ditch. This is tabled until the Board receives more information. All members voted to table 3-0.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### Monroe Branch B of Lugar Creek-quotes; \$71,273.40 in the fund

The quotes to brush and dip received are as follows:

Xtreme Excavating \$11,632.50

John's Repair Service \$10,424.00

After a brief discussion, Gordon Gough made a motion to award the project to John's Repair Service for the quoted price of \$10,424.00. The motion was seconded by Kenny Cates and passed 3-0.

#### Stoebe Tile– Public Hearing

Richard Cox stated that there are 2.44 benefited acres, 84 home sites, 4 commercial sites, 20 individual parcels and 5 being charged at the minimum. There are 91 different landowners on the Stoebe Tile. This tile is not collecting maintenance currently. The advertised rates for today's hearing are \$50.00 per acre, \$200.00 per home site, \$400.00 per commercial site, \$100.00 per parcel and a minimum of \$10.00 for an eight (8) year collection; these proposed rates would bring in \$20,539.50 annually. Vice-Chairman Richard Cox invited the public to speak for or against the proposed rates and ask any questions they may have.

Steve Hoskins is present before the Board. He stated that he feels that \$200.00 per home site is excessive. Mr. Hoskins asked if they are raising the assessment for maintenance or is there talk of replacing the tile; Mary Weesner informed him that they are talking of

replacing the tile, Richard Cox agreed. Richard added that this tile is in very bad shape and in need of replacement.

Dana Koon approached the podium to discuss the Stoebe Tile (she is **not** on the Stoebe Tile). She is asking if the Stoebe Tile is currently on maintenance; when told that it was not, she asked if should have been before. Since it has not been under maintenance, she is asking if they must pay for the Drainage Board's neglect. She wants to know what repairs have had to be done to the Stoebe and wants to see an itemized list. She said that they clean out their own drain and have never seen anyone out there working. She is asking Raymond Bair who put the tile in and when, when he said he did not know, she told him it was installed in 1920 by Marley. She said that it has not been on maintenance until now, Raymond told her that she is correct, and he went on to explain that the repairs have been paid for by the General Drain Improvement Fund, Richard Cox stated that is correct. Ms. Koon again stated that she wants to see all the invoices for work that has been done; Richard explained to her that Mary Weesner went up to her office to retrieve them. She doesn't understand how \$10,000.00 has been spent and wants to know what was done, Raymond Bair informed her that it hasn't been every year, but on occasion they have spent that much. Richard Cox said that since 2012, \$ 33,330.00 has been spent on repairs for the Stoebe Tile. Toni Duke stated that when they have trouble, Chuck's Sewer & Drain or Bright's has been out there, Richard Cox then informed her that the Drainage Board pays the bill. Ms. Duke stated that Chuck is conveniently not present today. Ms. Koon stated that they had lived there for eighty (80) years and had never seen anything done to it. Richard Cox explained that we would only come out if we received a complaint from a homeowner/landowner.

Toni Duke is now present before the Board. She stated that the church on the corner of 36th and Lincoln Boulevard has been abandoned and needs torn down. She went on to say that the parsonage beside it and the parsonage behind it has become dump sites. Ms. Duke stated that she bought them to clean it up, and the three lots behind it. She has two lots with her house and keeps it immaculate. She said now she is going to be charged for all these properties that are not being taken care of. She said that she has never had trouble with her sewage. She said that everyone has their own septic; Richard Cox informed her that the septic is hooked into the tile. She said that if you drive from 33<sup>rd</sup> to 38<sup>th</sup>, you will find 20-25 houses condemned with druggies and they are not doing anything. She doesn't know why she is being billed for over \$400.00, she has been cleaning up drains and stuff, adding that her house is the cleanest and most organized out there. Ms. Duke complained about the rundown properties Richard explained to her that even though the homes are vacant, someone is receiving a tax bill.

Andy Koon is now before the Board (he is **not** on the Stoebe Tile). Mr. Koon asked the Board if this was a sewage line or a run-off line; Raymond Bair informed him that it is for sewage, and each property has its own line that goes to the tile. Mr. Koon would like to know how it is going to run; Richard Cox informed him that at this time there has been no discussion about where a new one will be put in. Mr. Koon questioned what the money will be used for; Richard Cox explained to him that money paid into a drain is only used on that drain.

There are many conversations occurring at the same time, and they are inaudible. Kenny Cates made a motion to approve the advertised rate of \$50.00 per acre, \$200.00 per homesite, \$100.00 per parcel, \$400.00 per commercial site with a minimum of \$10.00 for an eight year collection. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and passed 3-0.

#### Clymer Coleman– Public Hearing

Richard Cox stated that there are 44 home sites and 12 individual parcels. There are 47 different landowners on the Clymer Coleman Tile. This tile is not collecting maintenance currently. The advertised rates for today’s hearing are \$50.00 per acre, \$200.00 per home site, \$400.00 per commercial site, \$100.00 per parcel and a minimum of \$10.00 for an eight (8) year collection; these proposed rates would bring in \$10,000.00 annually.

Vice-Chairman Richard Cox invited the public to speak for or against the proposed rates and ask any questions they may have. Noone approached the Board.

Kenny Cates made a motion to approve the advertised rate of \$50.00 per acre, \$200.00 per homesite, \$100.00 per parcel, \$400.00 per commercial site with a minimum of \$10.00 for an eight year collection. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and passed 3-0.

#### Quote Request

Raymond Bair gave the Board members a packet. He is requesting that the Board vote and give permission to send out letters to contractors requesting quotes. He is wanting quotes for brushing and dredging on the Leach Prong of Barren Creek, Monroe Ditch of Lugar Creek, and Taylor Branch of Monroe of Lugar Creek.

Gordon Gough made a motion to allow letters to be sent to contractors for quotes to brush and dredge the Leach Prong of Barren Creek; seconded by Kenny Cates. The motion carried 3-0

Gordon Gough made a motion to allow letters to be sent to contractors for quotes to brush and dredge the Monroe Ditch of Lugar Creek; seconded by Kenny Cates. The motion carried 3-0

Kenny Cates made a motion to allow letters to be sent to contractors for quotes to brush and dredge the Taylor Branch of Monroe of Lugar Creek; seconded by Gordon Gough. The motion carried 3-0

#### **ADJOURN:**

Kenny Cates made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:04 pm. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and carried 3-0.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting to be held will be December 9, 2025, at 11:00 am and will be held in the Grant County Council Chambers.

The Grant County Drainage Board has approved the minutes as presented for November 25, 2025:

\*\*\*Not Present\*\*\*

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Chuck Poling  
Chairman

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Richard Cox  
Vice-Chairman

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Gordon Gough

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Kenny Cates

\*\*\*Not Present\*\*\*

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Pat Pinkerton

Minutes recorded by:  
Mary R. Weesner  
Drainage Board Secretary