

GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board met on January 13, 2026, in the Grant County Council Chambers. Chairman Chuck Poling called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Board members present were Vice-Chairman Richard Cox, Gordon Gough, Doug Kingseed, Drainage Board Secretary Mary Weesner and Grant County Surveyor Raymond Bair. Kenny Cates attended the meeting via WebEx.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Richard Cox made a motion to approve December 30, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and passed 4-0 with Doug Kingseed abstaining as he was not in attendance at the December 30th meeting. Kenny Cates voted via WebEx.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Chuck Poling read the claims as follows:

Chuck Poling to abstain

Chuck's Sewer & Drain \$435.00 Robb Tile; \$73,235.98 in the fund

Richard Cox made a motion to approve the above claim as presented; the motion was seconded by Doug Kingseed and passed 4-0 with Chuck Poling abstaining due to being the payee of the above claim. Kenny Cates voted via WebEx.

OLD BUSINESS

Little Newby of Back Creek – Discussion

Chuck Poling informed the Board that Back Creek has \$105,725.19 in the maintenance fund. Raymond Bair informed the Board that he had given a packet at a previous meeting that included this item and he also handed out maps that are up for discussion. He added that Little Newby is an open ditch that runs along the back of Sissels Trailer Court.

Raymond Bair reviewed the map with the Board. He stated that when he probed this ditch, he was getting 2½' - 3' of silt in the bottom. Raymond added that he feels that it needs dredged from 68th Street or from Pennsylvania Street to the top end. He stated that to brush and dredge this it would be at least \$90,000.00. According to the records in his office, it is only a legal drain to Pennsylvania, it does not say that it is down to 68th Street. He said they won't go downstream unless he can prove it in a book that it is a regulated drain. Raymond added that we could still start at Pennsylvania, go upstream and brush it and not approach the dredging at the moment. Chuck Poling asked Raymond Bair if he felt

that we should raise the rate on Back Creek; Raymond responded that he thinks we should. Raymond added that he does not want to wait to do something on Back Creek until we increase the rates. Raymond Bair informed the Board that Back Creek will collect \$22,000.00 this year and another \$22,000.00 next year. Raymond asked if Jackson would have to register as a contractor; Chuck Poling states that he does. Richard Cox asked what the cost is to register; Raymond told him a hundred something dollars.

Stoney Creek – Discussion

Raymond Bair informed the Board that he talked to a man that told him the water is not moving like it used to. He added that he tried to reach out to the landowner for clarification of what he meant by it not moving like it used to. Raymond stated that there is 5,573 feet of open ditch that could be dredged which would be \$11,000.00 and he is unsure if we need to remove the brush. Until he speaks with the gentleman, he is not sure if it is not draining out of the field or if it was getting away at the road. Raymond said that this is one of the very few that has a forest rate on it. Chuck Poling asked Raymond if he thought we need to raise this rate; Raymond responded that it would not hurt, it only brings in \$3,500.00 a year and that there are a lot of tiles. Chuck asked Mary Weesner what the Board needs to do next regarding raising the rate; Mary informed him that first, the surveyor needs to go over the assessment roll and have it ready. The item would then be put on the agenda to select the advertised rate, hearing date and shut off. This item is tabled until the assessment roll has been completed.

Middle Fork Upper - Discussion

Raymond Bair stated that there are beaver dams at a location that David Devore had pointed out to him and it is so big you can see it from the road. He added that Steve Comer, the owner of the property, is present today as well as David Devore. Raymond said that Mr. Comer is willing to remove it, but he would have to register. He then asked if this is something that they want to bid out or would they want to give it to the landowner or do they want to wait. Richard Cox asked Mr. Comer if he is willing to register with Area Plan as the contractor; he said that he would. Mary Weesner informed them that if the person doing the work does not bill the county, they do not need to register, but if they are billing the county for the work done, they will need to register. Richard Cox asked Mr. Comer if he was trapping the beaver. Raymond Bair discussed a yearly deal with a trapper. Richard Cox made a motion to allow the property owner to remove this beaver dam on Middlefork Upper, not to exceed \$4,000.00. Adding that a nuisance trapper needs to be hired to remove the beaver. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and carried 5-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

NEW BUSINESS

Back Creek – Bud Shelton of the Town of Fairmount; maintenance request

Bud Shelton of the Town of Fairmount is present before the Board regarding the easement on Back Creek. He informed the Board that the project that they are wanting to do is to remove some trees around Back Creek. Mr. Shelton stated that between Washington Street and Jackson Street they would like to have the authority from the Drainage Board to remove trees 10” or more in diameter. He added that the reason is if they remove trees in a project, they must replace those trees, it is now 5 to 1 instead of the 10 to 1; but if the trees are removed with the Board’s authority, they do not have to replace them 5 to 1. Mr. Shelton stated that there are over 30 trees that need to be removed that are over 10” in diameter. Raymond Bair stated that if they use the west side and east side has brush on the bank would warrant spending maintenance money. The trees would need to be hauled away or mulched since they cannot burn them there, and that will increase the price. Mr. Shelton stated that he does not have the manpower to do the brushing but does to cut down a few trees. Richard Cox stated that he thinks DNR could come in and say “Why are you just clearing the top if the Drainage Board is doing it” Raymond agreed stating that it is not good to just brush the top.

Ralph Bellucci, a project manager with Commonwealth regarding this sewer project. He stated that if they were to clear the whole thing out and run it through their project, then they would have the DNR requirements with the 5 to 1 ratio. If that occurs, then they would have to get with their environmental folks to come up with a mitigation plan to restore it when they are done. Raymond Bair recommended the Drainage Board send a letter to DNR.

Richard Cox made a motion to allow the Town of Fairmount to remove the trees in our easement along the top of the bank to further their project along and to give us access to clear the rest of the bank in the future, as when their project is completed. The motion was seconded by Doug Kingseed. The motion carried 4-0 with Gordon Gough abstaining due to having land in the Back Creek watershed. Kenny Cates voted via WebEx.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jesse Tippey

Chuck Poling informed the Board that he had received an invoice from Blinn for the material and labor for Jesse Tippey. Chuck stated that he has a copy of the minutes and it shows the discussion, but the Board did not vote on this. Raymond Bair stated that he thought it had been approved or voted on. The invoice is for \$3,404.00 for tile repair and there is \$1,661.90 in the maintenance fund. Richard Cox made a motion to pay Ed Blinn for

the invoice for the work performed; seconded by Gordon Gough. The motion carried 5-0 with Kenny Cages voting via WebEx.

ADJOURN:

Doug Kingseed made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:48 a.m. The motion was seconded by Richard Cox and carried by a vote of 5-0. Kenny Cates voted via WebEx.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting will be held on January 27, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in the Grant County Council Chambers.

Minutes recorded by:
Mary R. Weesner
Drainage Board Secretary

The Grant County Drainage Board has approved the minutes as presented for January 13, 2026:

Chuck Poling
Chairman

Richard Cox
Vice-Chairman

Gordon Gough

Kenny Cates

Doug Kingseed