

# GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street  
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held June 10, 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, Pat Pinkerton, Drainage Board Secretary Mary Weesner and Grant County Surveyor Raymond Bair.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Kenny Cates made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the May 27, 2025, meeting; seconded by Pat Pinkerton. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

## **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:**

Chuck Poling read the claims as follows:

Amazon Capital Services \$71.60 Office Supplies; \$213.75 in the fund

Wright Drainage \$264.84 Dean Ditch; \$2,357.02 in the fund

Right of Way Management \$63,553.38 as follows:

Brushy Run \$891.00; \$12,007.20 in the fund

Baker Ditch \$1,261.50; \$16,030.00 in the fund

Doyle Ferguson \$4,460.82; \$44,717.77 in the fund

Big Deer Creek \$3,515.63; \$20,449.36 in the fund

Fadley & Owl \$262.50; \$171,366.77 in the fund

Grassy Fork \$6,002.72; \$159,318.32 in the fund

Harper Legal Drain \$1,030.37; \$164,625.57 in the fund

Hollis Daughtery \$1,887.12; \$52,686.21 in the fund

Little Creek \$4,139.50; \$55,728.06 in the fund

Little Deer Creek \$4,662.50; \$73,489.44 in the fund

Lugar Creek (Monroe & Thompson) \$3,423.16; \$66,519.20 in the fund

Lugar Creek (Monroe) \$2,294.71; \$66,519.20 in the fund

Lugar Creek (Monroe) \$137.50; \$66,519.20 in the fund

Lugar Creek (Unthank & Pressler) \$6,420.00; \$66,519.20 in the fund

Lugar Creek & Tribs \$2,147.05; \$66,519.20 in the fund

Leisure Drain \$857.56; \$27,213.75 in the fund

Landess Tinkle \$376.64; \$119,438.43 in the fund

Maddox \$2,624.37; \$56,572.15 in the fund  
Massey Creek \$848.60; \$1,080.64 in the fund  
Matthews Ditch \$757.86; \$34,101.63 in the fund  
Pipe Creek \$1,152.30; \$128,507.41 in the fund  
Sims Franklin \$6,740.14; \$31,487.08 in the fund  
Sweetser Improvement & Enoch Lee \$3,910.50; \$31,633.57 in the fund  
Taylor Creek \$3,521.08; \$262,729.94 in the fund  
Taylor Creek \$228.25; \$262,729.94 in the fund  
Tom's Excavating \$581.32 Berkhart Swagger; \$6,193.93 in the fund

Richard Cox made a motion to approve the above claims as presented; seconded by Gordon Gough. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

\*\*\*Gordon Gough to Abstain\*\*\*

Bragg Excavating \$750.00 Little Creek; \$55,728.06 in the fund  
Sullivan Excavating \$10,350.00 Back Creek; \$111,620.51 in the fund

Kenny Cates made a motion to approve the above claims as presented; seconded by Richard Cox. The motion carried unanimously 4-0 with Gordon Gough abstaining due to having land in the Little Creek and Back Creek watersheds.

\*\*\*Kenny Cates to Abstain\*\*\*

Rogers Farm Drainage \$534.64 Harper Legal; \$164,625.57 in the fund

Gordon Gough made a motion to approve the above claim as presented; seconded by Richard Cox. The motion carried 4-0 with Kenny Cates abstaining due to having land in the Harper Legal Drain watershed.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Little Crane Pond – Approval of resolution

Pat Pinkerton gave an update regarding the vacation of a portion of the Little Crane Pond. He stated that if the Board would like to make some progress on this, then they should concentrate on the tile portion and discuss the open ditch later. Pat added that there is not a problem with the city taking over the tile portion of Little Crane Pond. After a discussion, Gordon Gough said that he would

like to table this item again until the next meeting, he would like to know how much farms are paying into this ditch. Raymond Bair said it is \$1.00 per acre with 1,000 acres, so \$1,000.00 for farm ground. Further discussion is tabled until the June 24, 2025, meeting.

North Branch of Waters – Set rate for July 29, 2025, hearing

Mary Weesner stated that when she first came to the Board at the April 29, 2025, meeting with a petition for a public hearing for the North Branch of Waters, she forgot to mention the rate requested by the petitioner. Brent Newhouse, the petitioner, is requesting \$15.00 per acre, \$100.00 per homesite with a minimum of \$50.00 for an eight year collection which would bring in \$11,606.50 per year. She added that the current rate is \$1.50 per acre, \$1.50 per homesite with a minimum of \$5.00 for a four year collection; which brings in \$1,127.85 annually. Mary asked Raymond if the assessment roll is correct this time as she has already done her notices twice because it keeps changing. Raymond said that it is good now. Gordon Gough made a motion to approve and advertise the requested rate of \$15.00 per acre, \$100.00 per homesite with a minimum of \$50.00 for an eight year collection. The motion was seconded by Kenny Cates and passed 5-0. Mary added that she is still waiting to receive the surveyor report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Matthews Ditch – Brad Waddell – Discussion

Aaron Travis is before the Board; he stated that he is president of the Swayzee town council. He stated that the town of Swayzee owns the property on the far east end of town, adjacent to Matthews Ditch. Mr. Waddell is asking for a variance to put up a fence that would be closer than the 75'. There are no permanent structures planned, it is just the fence that they are asking permission for. He added that this would be a wooden fence so that at some point, if servicing needed to be done on the ditch sections of the fence could be taken down. Gordon Gough asked what would be there; Mr. Travis stated that it would be a towing service. Chuck Poling asked Mr. Travis if it is zoned for recovery; Mr. Travis stated that he does not know. Chuck told him that he may want to check

with Area Plan on that. When you have cars in there you will have all that oil and stuff. Chuck Poling stated that he does not feel like this is something that they want to do. Raymond Bair recommended making a hold-harmless agreement with stipulations on the fluids. Chuck said that what they are wanting to do is build a business in the right-of-way. Mr. Travis stated that they now have a property that is within the right-of-way, and they can't use it for anything. Chuck Poling recommended tabling this item to give Mr. Travis to get this zoned but yet he can't see Area Plan zone this is the right-of-way. Gordon Gough asked why they need a fence; Mr. Travis replied that it is a state requirement. Richard Cox made a motion to not allow a fence to be built in the right-of-way; the motion was seconded by Gordon Gough. Pat Pinkerton said that we have reduced right-of-ways before so if he looks into recovery and then come back to have the right-of-way reduced. The Board voted 4-0 with Kenny Cates abstaining.

#### Lugar Creek – Jerry Soultz – complaint

Jerry Soultz is before the Board. He stated that Lugar Creek has been cleaned and dipped several times; Jim Todd was still the Surveyor. They were supposed to come in a place rip rap to keep it from deteriorating and that has never happened. He added that whoever sprayed out there, he does not know who it was, but it looks like a war zone. There were pictures passed around to the Board (a copy of these pictures is attached to these minutes in the Drainage Board office). Mr. Soultz added that it is starting to wash out again and is in terrible disarray. He would like this addressed and fixed, correctly. He said that previously when it has been dredged, they never went north of State Road 18. Mr. Soultz stated that Jim Todd had told him that he would have Bragg Excavating do the work and until it is addressed and done correctly, it will just continue to get worse. The banks keep eroding and falling down into the ditch. Mr. Soultz informed the Board that Mary Weesner sent him all the documentation for what was sprayed on it. He is requesting that the Board fix this correctly instead of letting it continue to go awry. Chuck Poling stated that he had talked to Jim Todd about this and they were supposed to go put some rip rap in but then it got wet and that is why they did not make it. Raymond Bair said that the ditch is not real old of a ditch and it is not uncommon for a ditch to be reshaped after a few of years of being

dredged. He asked Mr. Soultz what year they opened it up from a tile to an open ditch; Mr. Soultz responded that he does not. Mary Weesner had given the Board a spreadsheet on the ditch, per Mr. Soultz's request, that shows what work has been done there over the past 25 years and how much has been spent on it. Mr. Soultz also stated that Back Creek, to the east of their property, has never been dredged as long as they have been there.

### Lomax Drain – Wendell Cates - Crossing

Mr. Cates is before the Drainage Board regarding the Lomax Drain. He stated that at the north end, probably 300 to 400 feet south of 38<sup>th</sup> Street, on the old original Lomax. He is talking about putting a 5' plastic pipe down there to make a drive to get back into the ponds so that they do not have to come in from the south end. Without have shot the grade, he is not sure if he will have to go 20' or 40', but he would like to go with a 20' piece of pipe. Raymond Bair said that if he has to go in there with trucks of rip rap, he doesn't know if 20' will be wide enough; Mr. Cates responded that he hopes he doesn't have to take trucks in. Raymond stated that he and Nathan went out and looked at it. There is silt built up in the channel and that is where Wendell is wanting to put a pipe in to get across to work on the pond without having to drive the whole length of the watershed. Pat Pinkerton asked about when that was done, was the old Lomax vacated; Raymond stated not to his knowledge. Pat added that if it was vacated, he would need permission from the homeowner, if it wasn't, he will need permission from the Drainage Board. Wendell Cates stated that the new Lomax is not low enough to pick up the field tile; Pat Pinkerton said that he doesn't think it was meant to pick up the field tile. It was asked that Mary Weesner find out if the old Lomax was vacated. Richard Cox asked Wendell if he is wanting the Drainage Board to put the crossing in or is he doing it; he responded that he will do it with the Lomax money, Richard stated that he is against it because we do not put private crossings in. Raymond told Richard that it would be for doing maintenance. Wendell informed the Board that he is fine if he doesn't put it in, but it has been rumored that the homeowners would appreciate it if he would come in from the north. Raymond Bair informed the Board that he thinks it would be beneficial to put in it. This item is tabled.

Brian Hamaker is now before the Board with questions regarding the Lomax. He stated that he is 25' off of the new Lomax. He added that if the easement is 75' then you are going through his living room. Mr. Hamaker said that his concern is that he has not received any notice of spraying or clearing out the brush. They have beehives and fruit trees and want to make sure that we are following the label. He wants to know what chemicals are being used, the contractor's name and license number and a specific application date and or dates. He also has concerns for his kids that play out there. He said that if they are doing work out there on the Lomax, they need to notify the residents. Richard Cox asked Mary Weesner if we notify the residents; Mary stated that she has a letter that she sends out for the mowing and the spraying. Mr. Hamaker stated that the letter did not go out to the entire residents. Raymond Bair informed him that he is on the old Lomax, not the new. Mr. Hamaker said that he would like all this to be resurveyed to define that are and to find out the legalities between Meijer, the HOA and the County is. Chuck Poling recommended that Mary Weesner send the letter to the Homeowners Association and let them send the letters out to the homeowners; Mary stated that she did that last year, sending the letter to HOA President Bob Tippet. She added that he has requested that she send the letters this year with the list that was provided. Mr. Hamaker then requested the label of the spray since he is just 25' away. Wendell Cates stated that the chemical that he used last year is legal for ponds and housing additions. Wendell said that he would send Mary Weesner his license and the label for the chemical.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### Quoted Projects – Raymond Bair – Discussion

Raymond Bair stated that this list is ditches that we need to take to quotes and has been made up in response because of a comment by Kenny Cates that his list is a joke.

Raymond Bair passed out a list of projects and explained what needs to be done. A copy of the list is attached to these minutes in the Drainage Board office.

Public Hearings – Raymond Bair – Discussion

Raymond Bair passed out a list of drains that he stated needs the rates increased. A copy of the list is attached to these minutes in the Drainage Board office.

**ADJOURN:**

Pat Pinkerton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:08 pm; seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried with support, 5-0.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting to be held will be June 24, 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 June 10, 2025, as presented:*

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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**

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**Pat Pinkerton**