

GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held July 8, 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 (via WebEx), 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 June 24, 2025, meeting; seconded by Gordon Gough. The motion passed unanimously 4-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Chuck Poling read the claims as follows:

Grant County Treasurer \$25,271.99 Loan Repayment; To GDIF
John's Repair Service \$338.00 Farr & Ira Hodson; \$3,877.04 in the fund
John's Repair \$20,000.00 Hollis Daughtery; \$72,832.67 in the fund
Chronicle Tribune \$45.53 Good Rick Drain; \$31.37 in the red
Chronicle Tribune \$55.65 Cart Creek; \$25,248.01 in the fund

Gordon Gough made a motion to approve the above claims as presented. Richard Cox seconded, and the motion carried 4-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

OLD BUSINESS:

Little Crane Pond – Approval of resolution - Tabled

Chuck Poling stated that from what he understands from the Drainage Board attorney, we should leave this alone. Mary Weesner added that if the Board vacates the tile, then it will draw attention from IDEM to the open ditch, which is a state designated wetland. The Drainage Board decided to table this item until Pat Pinkerton's return at the August 5, 2025, meeting. Raymond Bair stated that

Wendell Cates' son (it was his nephew Doug Kingseed) got in contact with Army Corps of Engineers. He added that the person is supposed to be sending something to Wendell that states the county surveyor and Drainage Board are to proceed IDEM, they can maintain all of it except for the east channel. The ditch itself, not the banks, just the channel. (This is in regard to the Lomax issue, not Little Crane Pond). Raymond added that Kenny had given him a paper that had a house bill 229 on that said they do not need permits to work on regulated drains, but he cannot find it now. Raymond asked Kenny Cates if he could find it again and give him another copy.

NEW BUSINESS

Sims Franklin – Trees on Slaughter property; \$31,103.14 in the fund

Raymond Bair stated that Ken Slaughter came to them questioning the trees on the Sims Franklin Ditch at Buroker's. They left trees when they dredged before. There were roughly 20 trees, and they received estimates from different contractors. They received one from R&S Tree Service and it was \$24,000.00 to hand cut them and haul them away. It would be \$12,000.00 if they just cut them down, cut them up and leave them onsite. Kenny Cates stated that he and Gordon Gough had went out there and looked at them. He added that at most, he would agree to take the one really tall tree out. Richard Cox asked Raymond if they are causing a problem and Raymond said not yet, but the landowner is concerned about the big cottonwood, it is 100' tall. Gordon Gough asked if it is our responsibility; Richard said that it is not blocking the flow of water. Kenny Cates recalls that 10 or 12 years ago when they came through there, they wanted to clean all of that out and Buroker or somebody would not let them, they should have let us take them out when we came through there. Richard Cox asked where they are; top of the bank or the side of the bank; Raymond said most are on the top of the bank and it is not blocking the water. Richard Cox made a motion to not remove the trees from the Slaughter property at this time as they are not our problem as they do not impede the flow of water. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and carried 4-0 with Kenny Cates voting via Webex.

Jesse Tippey – Discussion

Chuck Poling stated that after consulting with the Drainage Board attorney, the Ogleby Drain can be a tributary to the Jesse Tippey Drain. Raymond Bair handed out a map and asked the Board if they would like him to include the “green line”. Richard Cox asked if Ed Blinn knew what he is opening up here; Raymond said no. Raymond said that Mr. Blinn is concerned about getting the “purple line” a regulated ditch so that those homes have a legal outlet. Raymond said that it would be advantageous to add this on so that Mr. Blinn has a legal access to the outlet. There is a “yellow” line that runs behind the houses to the right and the tile is not any good and Raymond wants to put them on a parcel charge until we can run a new 8” behind them houses and then bump them up to the homesite charge. Richard Cox asked Raymond if he felt Ed Blinn may want to raise the rates; Raymond said he has not, but he feels that the houses should be \$200.00 apiece. Richard asked if there is a current homesite rate, Raymond did not have the rate. Mary Weesner informed the Board that Mr. Blinn requested \$150.00 per homesite. Raymond then stated it is currently \$1.85 per homesite. Raymond said that Blinn will sign a petition, we may need another petition so that we will have at least 10% of the benefited acres; Chuck Poling informed him that Mr. Blinn has about 90%. Raymond added that the assessment roll is ready therefore we can set a hearing date. Richard Cox made a motion to combine all of these ditches as noted on this map that the surveyor supplied be joined together and be called the Jesse Tippey and Tributaries. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and passed 4-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx. Richard Cox made another motion stating that the Drainage Board hold a public hearing on September 9, 2025, to increase the rates on the Jesse Tippey and Tributaries to \$200.00 per homesite, \$10.00 per acre, a parcel rate of \$100.00 with a minimum of \$10.00 for an eight year collection. The houses east of the Jesse Tippey to be charged the parcel rate until the tile is replaced. This motion was seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried 4-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

Monroe Ditch – Quote

Raymond Bair stated that on August 29, 2023, several landowners came to a meeting requesting maintenance on Monroe Ditch from State Road 18 south to the end of Monroe Ditch and the end of Taylor Branch of Monroe. There are 2 homesites by the road 100 South. He has 2 estimates with Rickner (John's Repair) one was from before his amount was lowered. He and Rickner went out and talked to the homeowners. He stated that it would be easier to go in from Julie's side since the other landowner has buildings and other objects in the ditch right of way. The estimates from John's Repair Service are as follows:

From Julie White's side \$4,959.00

From Hayne's side \$5,634.00

*These estimates are attached to the minutes in the Drainage Board office.

Richard Cox asked Raymond if he is wanting both estimates, he responded yes. Mary Weesner informed the Board that there is \$95,000.00 in the maintenance fund. Richard Cox made a motion to allow John's Repair Service to do the work as quoted on the Monroe Ditch. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough 4-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

New Honey Creek – Quotes

Chuck Poling informed the Board that we have received two quotes for work on New Honey Creek. They are as follows:

Penrod Excavating \$7,239.30

John's Repair Service \$8,377.00

*These quotes are attached to the minutes in the Drainage Board office.

There is \$17,444.00 in the New Honey Creek maintenance fund. Gordon Gough made a motion to award the job to Penrod Excavating for \$7,239.30 for New Honey Creek; seconded by Richard Cox. The motion carried 4-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

Hollis Daughtery – Discussion

Raymond Bair informed the Board that the Hollis Daughtery is a ditch over by Upland. He stated that he was approached by Randy

Atkins to raise the maintenance on it and add a section of ditch to it south of State Road 26. He added that he took a quote for dredging. He gave a map to the Board members showing washouts and tile outlets. He added that he had preapproved John's Repair Service to do \$4,000.00 worth of riprap and washout work but the big one that is right against State Road 26 on east side that is 60-70' long. He has talked to a landowner, and he is will to pay for the pipe where the tile outlets even though the tile comes from other properties. Raymond asked to be bumped up another \$2,000.00 and hopefully that will take care of the riprap. Richard Cox made a motion to allow John's Repair Service to fix the marked problems on the Hollis Daughtery up to \$6,500.00. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and passed 4-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

Also, regarding the Hollis Daughtery, Raymond Bair said that a section on his map is 3,688' and cost \$31,508.00 to brush and dredge, south of State Road 26 there is a stretch that is 4,300' long that needs brushed and dredged. He added that if he were to let that out in quotes if there is enough money in the account to cover it, he does know that with next year's draw it will cover it. He is asking if the Board is willing to spend next year's money or would they rather he did a shorter stretch and make sure that they have that money at that time. Richard Cox asked him if he let it out for quotes now, it probably wouldn't get done until next year, right? Raymond said it could possibly be this fall. Richard recommended doing this in two different stages, but Raymond said that part of this goes down to 1150 and the other part is past 1150.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chuck Poling stated that he is new at this, he has talked to the Drainage Board attorney; he was advised that the Drainage Board is supposed to send out for all the quotes, not the surveyor.

Again, Chuck reminded Raymond that he is supposed to fill out the preapproval log daily, Raymond responded that he does not have things daily. Chuck stated that he is just trying to keep informed

Burge Tile

Chuck Poling asked Raymond if there is any updates on the Burge Tile. Raymond stated that he has talked to Patrick and hopefully they can get together next week.

ADJOURN:

Richard Cox made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 am. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and carried out 4-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting to be held will be July 29, 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