

# GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street  
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board met on February 24, 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, Grant County surveyor Raymond Bair, Grant County Chief Deputy Surveyor Cindy Fowler and First Deputy Surveyor Nathan Sherrill. Kenny Cates attended the meeting via WebEx.

Chuck Poling opened the meeting with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Richard Cox made a motion to approve February 10, 2026, minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and passed 5-0. Kenny Cates voted via WebEx.

## **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:**

There were no claims presented

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Crane Pond (Buffalo Branch) – Wendell Cates

Wendell Cates is before the Board regarding the Buffalo Branch of Crane Pond. Wendell stated that on 13<sup>th</sup> Street and Buffalo Avenue, there is a 12” county tile that runs under Buffalo that was put in in 1941. He added that it is in very bad shape and that his family is the only one that drains into it right now. Wendell is asking the Board’s permission to put in an 18” tile on the west side of Buffalo going north and that the Board will continue to support it if the city comes out that way. Wendell added that it would be at his cost. Richard Cox asked him if he was going to smash the old tile; Wendell responded that he will not, it is all under pavement. Richard Cox made a motion to allow Cates Family Farms to put in a new Buffalo Branch onto the Crane Pond tile at their cost. He added that as long as they put it under the Drainage Board’s guidance and specifications, the Board will continue to maintain it as a county tile. The motion was seconded by Kenny Cates via WebEx and carried 5-0.

### Elliott Tile – Wendell Cates

Wendell Cates informed the Board that he gave permission to the campgrounds to add on to the end of the Elliott Tile. Mary Weesner told Wendell that the notes he had given her, she had copied and gave each Board member a copy (there is a copy of these notes attached to these minutes in the Drainage Board office). Wendell stated that these notes were written in 2018 when the Board approved that the campground could hook on if he decides to let him. The campground has agreed to pay the full amount that the farmers have already paid. They have been told that it is only strictly storm water; he added that the Fairmount board is giving them static to get the storm water out of their sewer. Their sewer is still going to go to Fairmount and Andy Rickner is putting in the drain to let the storm water come to the Elliott Tile. Chuck Poling advised Raymond Bair to add the campgrounds to the Elliott Tile assessment roll. Richard Cox made a motion to allow the campgrounds to hook on to the Elliott Tile at the agreed upon cost for the campgrounds and to continue it on to SR 26. Wendell Cates stated that it won't go all the way to SR 26, but it will get close. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and carried 4-0 with Doug Kingseed abstaining due to having land in the Elliott Tile watershed, Kenny Cates voted via WebEx.

### Stoney Creek -

Chuck Poling advised the Board that the Stoney Creek assessment roll is not ready; Raymond Bair said that it is close and they should have it by the end of the week. A new public hearing date needs to be set. Mary Weesner gave the Board several dates to hold the public hearing; after a brief discussion, Richard Cox made a motion that they change the date for the public hearing on the Stoney Creek public hearing to April 14, 2026, at the conclusion of the regular session. Doug Kingseed seconded the motion, and it carried 5-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

Middlefork Ditch – Trapper quote / \$165.79 in the red

Rigdon Tile – Trapper quote / \$25,943.11 in the fund

Chuck Poling stated for the record that the quote for Middlefork Ditch is for \$600.00 for a one year contract for trapping on the Middlefork Ditch with a charge of \$150.00 per beaver that is removed. He added that the quotes stated that GPS locations and pictures will be provided.

Jon Schamber of Barren Creek LLC is present. The Drainage Board has been given copies of the estimates for beaver removal (they are attached to these minutes in the Drainage Board office). Chuck asked what the \$600.00 is for; Mr. Schamber stated that the \$600.00 is to make him available for the whole year and then it would be \$150.00 for each beaver he gets. He stated that he was told to get an estimate for the Rigdon Tile, and he thought that was ridiculous since he was already giving one for the Middlefork Ditch and he did not want to charge the Board extra for that little spot when the quote covered the whole thing. Mr. Schamber added that he has been trapping beaver all around Grant County and

has never been paid. Raymond Bair informed the Board that he emailed Morelock Wildlife Management and Wildlife Control from Kokomo and just getting prices in comparison for Middlefork. He added that he wanted prices for each location and for the whole ditch. Chuck Poling told Raymond that any quotes that he gets need to go through the Drainage Board per our attorney. He added that he needed to inform Mary Weesner so that we may get quotes. Raymond told Chuck that it was for a location to get a price for what they were charging, it wasn't for doing a job. Chuck reiterated that the quotes need to go through the Drainage Board; Raymond responded that he has gotten these three and that he has brought them to the Board and there is nothing wrong with getting the prices and bringing them to the Board. Chuck Poling explained that since he is the Surveyor, an elected official, he cannot say what work needs to be done and who does it. He is not to touch the quotes, that is state law; that is why he is elected and the Board is appointed. Chuck stated that he has told him three times, they must go through the Drainage Board. Raymond states that there are parts of Indiana Code that state he does have to see them. Chuck asked to go to our attorney and get him a piece of paper showing him where it states that. Raymond stated that this was just for information, it was not to give him to do, it was to give the Board prices to look at. He added that Middlefork has no money in it. Chuck stated that Mary should have sent requests to the other trappers so that it would be fair to everybody. Raymond stated that he has a list of trappers to look at and he does not have that anymore.

Mr. Schamber asked the Board if they were looking to take care of beaver trapping all over the county. Richard Cox stated that we do not do it unless someone comes in and says it is a problem. Gordon Gough asked Mr. Schamber if he has a special nuisance trapping license? He responded that you do not have to have one in Indiana. Raymond Bair asked the Board; Mitch Cook works on Pipe Creek all the time and runs across beaver dams, how do we get him involved? Does Mitch get him involved when he finds a beaver dam or does it have to come to the Drainage Board; there is a very good chance that his trapping endeavors will be under \$4,000.00. He asked if this would make it above and beyond the price of the dam? Richard Cox stated that it would be two separate jobs. Chuck Poling asked Mr. Schamber about the second estimate (the one for Rigdon); Mr. Schamber said to just toss that, it falls under Middlefork. He added that regarding counting the beavers, he said that he has GPS and when he takes a photo it will show the location. Doug Kingseed made a motion to approve Estimate 002 from Barren Creek LLC for the Middlefork Ditch that he is on a \$600.00 retainer and \$150.00 for every beaver removed from Middlefork Ditch for a one-year contract. This contract will begin today, February 24, 2026, to February 24, 2027. The motion was seconded by Richard Cox and passed unanimously 5-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

Mr. Schamber added one clarification; any other ditch that Cook runs into or the farmer contacts him. Chuck told him that Raymond can call you.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There is no new business to discuss

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### Himelick Drain – Discussion – Solar

Doug Kingseed informed the Board that Jeff Gall called him stating that he called Raymond last week. Mr. Gall is on the top of the Himelick Drain, which is where the solar panels are going and he has a concern about surface water that drains over the top and through the Himelick Drain, with the addition of the solar panels adding surface water because it is going from crop land to solar panels. Doug added that Mr. Gall was concerned because he was not notified that that much change was going to happen. Doug would like to know what the procedure is when a watershed changes from one absorption rate to another. Also, since it will be going from agricultural to solar panels would we approach changing the assessment rate from agricultural to commercial? Chuck Poling added that grass absorbs more water than anything. Richard Cox added that this is the first time that the Board has had to deal with this this far. Doug asked that Raymond do some research on the matter, Raymond stated that the only one that would have that information would be the Howard County Surveyor because they do that. Raymond added that that the Long Branch and that whole area needs to go to a public hearing and put on maintenance, there are a lot of businesses and hard surface areas out there that should be able to generate plenty of money to take care of that ditch as it is not that big of a ditch.

### Past Work Orders – Status Discussion

Chuck Poling stated his concerns that there is a lot of work that has been assigned and it is not done. Raymond Bair questioned this; Chuck explained that we have this money, we know it hasn't been taken out, but what if somebody comes and they need money on that ditch. He feels that we need a timeline for how long it takes these contractors to do these jobs. Raymond replied that it is the type of work and whether it is a kind of fill in the hole spot for the contractors. They do not have to be done but they should be done, in the wintertime, December and January, general excavation comes to a halt. Gordon Gough asked Raymond if there was money in all the ditches on the list to do the repairs, Raymond stated yes. Chuck Poling feels that there needs to be some kind of deadline whether it be a year or year and a half, there just needs to be a deadline.

Mike Hanes, a local farmer, has a comment. He stated that if you approve of these jobs and they don't get done, we haven't paid for them, and somebody comes along looking for money. He added that this is just an accounting thing. When you approve a job and you know what the cost is going to be, just put it down there. Chuck stated that there needs to be accountability of getting the job done. Mr. Hanes said that there just needs to be a record on the balance sheet so that we've got these things going out. Raymond Bair stated that he has an idea of what's going on as far as how many different jobs and what job funds they come out of. Richard Cox added that when we send out for quotes it needs to be stated that the job needs to be done within 365 days. Doug stated that he thinks it would be nice to receive a list every month of the jobs that have been appointed.

## Belleview Tile – Public hearing

Chuck Poling asked if there were any landowners that would like to speak regarding the Belleview Tile.

Jean Nichols addressed the Board stating that she does appreciate the drain. She added that they are retired and a disabled veteran and asked that the Board try to keep it as decent price for it as they can. Chuck went on to explain to her that they are having to do this because we had recently asked Jonesboro to put in a set of a couple manholes so that we can maintain the tile, but they never did get back to us. Raymond Bair stated that he had numerous or a couple phone calls and they are in favor of it. Mary Weesner stated that she only received one written objection.

Chuck read off the current rates which are:

\$5.00 per acre, \$25.00 per homesite, \$5.00 per parcel with a \$5.00 minimum for a 4-year shut off collection. Annually it brings in about \$1,275.90.

The proposed rates are:

\$10.00 per acre, \$150.00 per homesite, \$450.00 per commercial site; \$100.00 per parcel with a \$10.00 minimum for an 8-year shut off collection. Annually this would bring in \$7,571.90.

Richard Cox made a motion for the newly published rates for the Belleview Tile of \$10.00 per acre, \$150.00 per homesite, \$450.00 per commercial site; \$100.00 per parcel with a \$10.00 minimum for an 8-year shut off collection. The motion was seconded by Doug Kingseed and passed 5-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

### **ADJOURN:**

Doug Kingseed made a motion to adjourn at 12:05 p.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 March 10, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in the Grant County Council Chambers.

The Grant County Drainage Board has approved the minutes as presented for February 24, 2026:

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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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Doug Kingseed

Minutes recorded by:  
Mary R. Weesner  
Drainage Board Secretary