

GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board met on March 10, 2026, in the Grant County Council Chambers. Chairman Chuck Poling called the meeting to order at 11:02 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.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Doug Kingseed made a motion to approve February 24, 2026, minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Richard Cox and passed 5-0. Kenny Cates voted via WebEx.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Chronicle Tribune \$53.02 Belleview Tile; \$875.55 in the red

Chronicle Tribune \$27.03 Crane Pond; \$68.72 in the fund

Chronicle Tribune \$23.91 Crane Pond; \$68.72 in the fund

Cates Brothers \$575.00 Sims Franklin; \$36,149.18 in the fund

Bragg Excavating \$3,800.00 Cleopas & Haines; \$25,103.56 in the fund

Grant County Treasurer \$32.23; Loan from GDIF to Maintenance

Doug Kingseed made a motion to approve the above claims as presented. The motion was seconded by Richard Cox and passed 5-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

Kenny Cates to abstain

Cook Excavating \$1,150.00 Pipe Creek; \$140,301.33 in the fund

Cook Excavating \$1,840.00 Pipe Creek; \$140,301.33 in the fund

Cook Excavating \$1,725.00 Pipe Creek; \$140,301.33 in the fund

Richard Cox made a motion to approve the above claims as presented. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and passed 4-0 with Kenny Cates abstaining via WebEx due to having land on the Pipe Creek watershed.

OLD BUSINESS

Cleopas & Haines – Update

Raymond Bair stated that the estimate that Bragg's gave to replace 200' of 8" tile was not necessary, the blockage was further downstream. He added that they had to jet in from two different directions and put in another riser at the end of the east and west part so that they can get access and it is easier to go east and west. Raymond said that he did inspect the tile and found a manhole and it is open and running water at that point. He told the Board that the claim for \$3,800.00 from Bragg Excavating is for the removal of two trees. Doug Kingseed asked if the two trees are off it now, Raymond said that they are down but there are two more trees further downstream in which they did get some obstruction from when jetting, but Raymond did not know if it will continue. He would like to go in there every year or two with a jetter and just blast it open before it plugs up and makes a problem. Gordon Gough asked him what the cost is to jet the Cleopas; Raymond told him \$600.00.

Simmons Tile – Discussion; \$54.25 in the maintenance fund

Joe Seward is present before the Board regarding tile work on the Simmons Tile. He stated that if he hadn't done it all, they would have been just wasting their time, not getting where the problem was, and it would not have accomplished much. He added that he ran the tile on up to State Road 26 and when he looked up under the road, the tile was all breaking down. Joe informed the Board that he had David White of the Highway Department out there; Joe had given David all the photographs and everything. He added that the State would put a 30" tile across the road. Joe informed the Board that there was 492' of 30" that they had to finish up from the money that they had. Gordon Gough pointed out that there is no money in the fund for this. Joe told Gordon that they had borrowed \$25,000.00 and that money had been paid back and now they want to borrow it again. He added that when they get the money, they can pay him back the \$36,900.00, he understands that it may be a couple years down the road. Gordon said that he wanted Joe to get his money, but he may have to wait; Joe responded that that is not a problem, he knew this up front. Chuck Poling explained to Joe that from now on, before you do something, he needs to come to the Board. When the Drainage Board gets a bill from Seward Excavating, a motion will be made towards paying installments.

NEW BUSINESS

Iocinah Creek – Thomas Hiemstra – Request

Mr. Thomas Hiemstra is present before the Board, he informed the Board that he is working on some residential tile at his home. He is asking if he can install 200' of 4" tile into the watershed that goes behind his house at his own expense. The Board has been given a map of the area for their review (a copy is attached to these minutes in the Drainage Board office). Raymond Bair explained the map to the Board. He asked Mr. Hiemstra where he planned to discharge the water. Mr. Hiemstra stated that there is currently a tile that his previous neighbor had put in that he would like to tie into. Richard Cox made a motion to allow Mr. Thomas Hiemstra to put a tile in to drain his yard at his expense. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and carried 5-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

J Winters Land & Loan Company Drain – Rudy Vugteveen – request to vacate

Rudy Vugteveen of Randall Miller & Associates Surveying & Engineering is present before the Board requesting the vacation of the J Winters Land & Loan Company drain. Rudy is present today representing Jason Miller, Gas City Engineer. He has received a petition from Bill Rock, Mayor of Gas City, Indiana representing the Gas City Redevelopment Commission. Doug Kingseed asked that if this is vacated, where would the American Legion and the east side of I69 drain to. Rudy stated that there is a proposed development coming into that site and they will facilitate drainage for that area as part of the development plan. Gordon Gough asked where is it going to hook onto? Raymond Bair said that it will go downstream and then it comes across CR 600 and then will hook into the Himelick regulated tile on the west side of CR 600. Doug Kingseed asked Raymond as to who would approve where the Legion and the east side of I69 would hook in at? Raymond responded that if the Board vacates the drain, we are out of it, and it would be up to Gas City. Doug asked Rudy if they would be able to see where the Legion and the east side of I69 will hook in before they vacate the drain? Rudy stated that they would have a plan for how that is going to be taken care of so that they can present to the Board. When asked what dates could be available for a hearing, Mary Weesner said that April 28th would be the earliest legal date that we could hold a hearing. Mary added that on that date, we are already having a hearing about Crane Pond, but since J Winters is so small, we could have it on the same date or have it at the May 12th meeting. Rudy Vugteveen is requesting the April 28th meeting because this project is trying to move forward quickly, so the quicker they can get on the public hearing, the better. Doug Kingseed made the motion to hold a public hearing to vacate the J Winters Land & Loan Company Drain on April 28, 2026. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and carried 5-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

Little Newby – Discussion

Raymond Bair stated that a couple of meetings ago or so, he gave the Board a packet. He said he is having a conundrum of spending the money out of Back Creek because it only brings in about \$90,000.00 before it shuts off. But Little Newby desperately needs help on the south side of 22. It has three feet of silt in it from 22 all the way close to 68th Street. He is asking if the Board would be willing for him to send out letters to get it brushed from 68th Street to Meridian Street. He added that at least they could get started on the project of relieving the south side. He thinks the brush is going to be expensive if not more expensive than the digging part. We got 4,300 feet from Meridian to 68th Street, he's guessing \$43,000.00. Richard Cox asked Raymond how much did we allow for Fairmount crew to do some work on Back Creek, Raymond responded that he had talked to Bud Shelton and he was satisfied with the letter for diverting the EPA or whoever it was on them for cutting the trees and maintenance. We do have more money that could be spent on Back Creek opening the north side of town. It has silted in some since it was dredged. Gordon Gough stated that it was last cleaned in 1999. Little Newby is the only tributary that money from Back Creek is spent on besides Back Creek's main, all others stand on their own. He is not sure it is a legal drain all the way to the river. Chuck stated that Raymond needs to get it wrote up and give it to Mary Weesner and she will send out letters for quotes. Richard Cox made a motion that they send out quotes to brush Little Newby; seconded by Doug Kingseed. The motion passed 5-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting Time

Chuck Poling asked the Board if they would mind moving our meetings to 10 a.m. instead of 11 a.m. He stated that there are several other boards that need the chambers and this would prevent meetings times from overlapping. Richard Cox made a motion to move the Drainage Board meeting starting time from 11 a.m. to 10 a.m. as of May 1, 2026. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and passed 5-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

Spray Program - Discussion

Mary Weesner informed the Board that we have \$59,592.30 left to spend on the ARPA fund that will need to be used by the end of the year or we will lose it. She recommends using that fund towards the spray program this year like we did in the past; Raymond Bair stated that it's just which ones get it, which ones don't. He added that we have been spraying numerous ditches for the last five years. Richard Cox asked if we have a spray

program set up for this year; Raymond responded that he was requesting Gordon Gough's input on this. He said that they were going to spray every other year but for the 14¢ to 18¢ to 19¢ of cost per foot, just spray them every year and keep it knocked down. He is asking if the Board wants to continue with the list used previously but adding footage to the Hollis Daughtery, Thompson Branch of Monroe that could be added to the Monroe ditch part, New Honey Creek, and the Baker Ditch. He asked if the Board would like him to send it to Right of Way Management for a quote; Chuck Poling stated that Raymond needs to write it up and Mary Weesner will send it to them. Doug Kingseed made a motion to earmark this \$59,590.30 of ARPA money towards the 2026 spray program and authorize Raymond to send a letter out to get an estimate from Right of Way Management. The motion was seconded by Richard Cox and carried 5-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx. Kenny Cates stated that there is no reason to send everybody a notice that we are going to spray; Chuck informed Kenny that we have that under control.

Crane Pond

Chuck Poling informed Raymond Bair that they are still waiting so they can get bids so that they can start the tile work on Crane Pond; New York Avenue to east of Virginia Avenue for tree removal. Raymond responded that there's an easement between Virginia and New York Avenue for Crane Pond. Wendell Cates had come to the Board and got 50 foot easement on each side and then the Board revisited it with Doug and made it out to 75 feet. The Board moved to have that done. Raymond Bair added that we have one contractor that is a tree cutter, we have other contractors that do ditches. If you take the ditch contractors in there to cut trees, it is going to be expensive. Mary Weesner informed him that there are several tree cutters, Raymond stated that his list of contractors has only one. Raymond said that his concern is the 4 foot in diameter cottonwood tree that is 35 feet from the ditch that we are not taking out but we are going to take trees out that are 50 to 75 feet out and leave a big 35 foot tree. He said that a regular contractor will not touch that tree. Raymond said that the Board told Doug to get a quote not him. Raymond would prefer if Richard and Doug went out to the location and looked at the cottonwood tree that is so close before we go cutting 25 feet further. Mary Weesner stated that she is waiting on the body of the letter that needs sent out that states the specifications so that she may send them out to tree contractors. Raymond said that he does not know what the Board wants. He was then told they want it for 75 feet on each side all the way from New York to Virginia. Mary Weesner asked the Board if it is okay to put on the agenda for March 31, 2026, for the Board to review the quotes. Raymond said he has to find the center line and then he will have to measure and determine where the 75' is before we can send out letters.

Lomax Drain

Sarah Costello is before the Board. She informed the Board that she is the new HOA president. She wants to address Kenny Cates' comment on the notifications because she disagrees with him. She feels that residents need notified of spraying. There are dogs, kids play outside, everything and people are very concerned about what the chemicals are, and she know that Mary Weesner had the labels that we were requesting for our residents. Chuck Poling clarified that we didn't want to send a letter out to everyone, but we do send it to the ones that we know are concerned. Mary Weesner informed Mrs. Costello that in the past, she would let Bob Tippey (former HOA president) know when the contractor was going to be out there. She wants to know the legal rights of the residents that live on the pond.

Molly Early is before the Board. She stated that it is her understanding that when it comes to spraying because she has dealt a lot with this. If those residents who are directly on the spray area have their window open, in that letter you will send to an HOA president. She added that you can put a window for spraying and a phone number to get more specifics. Mrs. Early said that is how it has been handled over the past few years.

ADJOURN:

Richard Cox made a motion to adjourn at 12:13 p.m. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and carried by a vote of 5-0. Kenny Cates voted via WebEx.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting will be held on March 31, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. in the Grant County Council Chambers.

The Grant County Drainage Board has approved the minutes as presented for the March 10, 2026, meeting:

Chuck Poling
Chairman

Richard Cox
Vice-Chairman

Gordon Gough

Kenny Cates

Doug Kingseed

Minutes recorded by:
Mary R. Weesner
Drainage Board Secretary