

GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board met on March 31, 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, Doug Kingseed, Drainage Board Secretary Mary Weesner, and Grant County surveyor Raymond Bair, Kenny Cates attended the meeting via WebEx and Gordon Gough was not in attendance.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Doug Kingseed made a motion to approve March 10, 2026, minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Richard Cox and passed 4-0. Kenny Cates voted via WebEx.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Tom's Excavating \$2,026.74 Burkhart Swagger; \$8,098.54 in the fund
Bragg Excavating \$3,000.00 Jesse Tippy; \$1,742.10 in the red
Chronicle Tribune \$35.35 J Winters Drain; there is no fund
Grant County Treasurer \$53.02 Loan from GDIF to Maintenance

Richard Cox made a motion to approve the above claims as presented. The motion was seconded by Doug Kingseed and passed 4-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

OLD BUSINESS

Spray Program – Chadd Baker of Right of Way Management

Chadd Baker of Right of Way Management is present before the Board regarding the 2026 spray program. He reviewed his packet regarding the ditches and the prices. He stated that in his packet there are papers explaining the chemicals that he uses and the safety of them around the bees. He added that he is very close to organics when it comes to bees. He understands the importance of bees and does not want to take a chance; they make maps of where the bees are so that they are aware when they pull in to spray, they try to go on the opposite side if they can and do not spray a couple hundred yards between them. Doug Kingseed stated that he will send to Raymond a letter from IDEM regarding their findings of the wetlands and Raymond can forward that on to Chadd.

Chadd added that they are looking at getting rambles and poison ivy, but if they are not going to let us get on that side, he is not going to fight, it's not worth the battle. Doug Kingseed made a motion to approve the quote from Right of Way Management for ditch bank spraying, using the \$59,592.30 left over from the ARPA fund. Sara Costello spoke up and stated now that Doug is on the Board he is supposed to abstain from any votes or motions? Adding, he just made a motion and that should not have happened. When asked why, she stated that he has property on the Lomax and for the codes, he's supposed to abstain. Richard Cox stated then we can't do anything about it. Doug suggested that they have a motion that would exclude the Lomax. Doug Kingseed rescinded the previous motion, making a new motion that the Board approve Right of Way Management's quotes that exclude the Lomax and to pay, we will use the \$59, 592.30 that is left over from the ARPA fund. We will leave the Lomax out and get back to it when there is a voting quorum. The motion was seconded by Richard Cox. Kenny Cates added that Raymond needs to send a letter to Needler's to let them know that they are going to spray the Sims Franklin. They can't stop you because you have a 75' easement. It needs to be sprayed because of the brush, but it really needs to be cleaned. Raymond stated that he threatened to sue if they sprayed it and that there is no blockage in there and we have no need to be in there to take anything out unless there is a blockage. He added that Barry Keys them from spraying. They did not spray it last year or the year before. The Board voted and passed the motion 4-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

Simmons Tile – Invoice; \$54.40 in the fund

Chuck Poling informed the Board that they need to vote on paying installments on the invoice from Joe Seward. Mary Weesner stated that she recommends that after the collections are posted, she will report the amount in the maintenance fund, and the Board will tell her the amount that they would like her to pay at that time. The amount of the invoice is \$36,900.00. Richard Cox made a motion to accept the bill for \$36,900.00 from Seward Excavating on the Simmons Tile and to pay Mr. Seward as money becomes available in the fund, up to half of the bill at this time. The motion was seconded by Doug Kingseed and passed 4-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

Lomax Ditch – Sarah Costello

Sarah Costello, Homeowners Association President, is present before the Board today, as well as Kelli Batic. They are present seeking clarification about the easements. She added that she is concerned that if there are workers that they are not going over the property line because some of the fences are not to the property line. Sarah is asking for clarification for October 10, 2025, where it was approved for Doug Kingseed to do work again in the ditch. She added that there was a motion but no bids or quotes. She said that there is no agenda for her to look at to see if Lomax is on it; she was told it will be posted on the Grant

County Complex doors and the County website. She wants to know where the easement is before work is done. Raymond told her that the plat says that it is the back side of their yards on the east side of their property. Kelly said that she has a map and it shows the easement to the ease of their properties, to the back of the properties. She said that her map shows the easement, and she has asked several times if this is a 75' easement. Sarah Costello stated that they are asking about the motion from the October 10, 2025, meeting. She stated that according to the Indiana Code if the work is over \$25,000.00; Raymond stopped her stating that it will be nowhere near that and she wants to know how they will know because no amount was discussed in the meeting. Doug Kingseed told them there was no amount in the meeting because he was billing them for the work. He added that now since they have raised a fuss about it, they will start billing for the work they do. The Lomax will cost you more money now. She asked him to repeat it; he told her, as he did on the phone the other day, they were doing it out of their own pocket because they were the benefit from it, but it didn't cost them a dime. He added that now because they are throwing a fit about it, they have hired Right of Way Management to bid for it so that now everybody can help pay for it. Sarah said that it should be because she has looked at other ponds and drains and their Lomax has been treated differently than other ponds and drains when it comes to votes because they are letting someone, a farmer, that has interest just come in and do the work for free. Chuck Poling stated that he may be benefiting from it, but it is saving the taxpayers money. Doug Kingseed told Kelly Batic that he is happy that they were turned into Army Corps and IDEM, he added that the Board probably didn't even know that there was a wetland, and Meijer did not know. Mrs. Batic added that her husband said that the Cyprus trees had been there the entire time and they are part of the wetland. She added that she had spoken to the surveyor and he gave her maps showing her the development and it shows the relocation of the Lomax Ditch, she would like to know the relocated Lomax. She stated that she asked the surveyor for any records on the relocation of the Lomax, and he stated he could not find any. Mrs. Costell stated that she feels that it is the responsibility of the county to have those records, if they are not there, she feels that another survey needs to be done, this is not her responsibility. Raymond Bair told her that it would be money spent and it would change nothing, adding that it would be their responsibility to pay for it. Mrs. Costello responded; No; Raymond said Yes because you are the only people that pay for anything that happens to the Lomax, it would come out of the general maintenance fund. Mrs. Batic stated that it should be University Village and Meijer. She added that when you look at the big map, it shows the relocation and where the 75 foot easement is and it is not correct. Doug Kingseed stated that this is where they need to go back and look at the minutes from July 10, 2007, Mrs. Batic stated that they also need to go back to October 10, 2007, minutes as well. She stated that per drainage law that they (landowners) should be notified for spraying, for maintenance, and for dredging. Mary Weesner explained that Wendell Cates would let her know when he would be out there, she would then notify Bob Tippy (previous HOA president) so that he may notify landowners. Mary explained she also sent landowners a letter as well. Mrs. Batic stated

that the last time Wendell sprayed several people were not notified. Mrs. Batic said that the landowner with the bees did not get notified, nobody on that side because it is not actually the Lomax. Doug Kingseed stated that the ones that were notified are on the Lomax. Mary Weesner stated that the list she used from Mr. Gates because he wanted to make sure the landowners were notified that he was coming through. Kelly Batic wants to be notified anytime work is done on the Lomax in a formal letter. Raymond Bair stated that we do not have to give notification. Doug Kingseed asked Raymond if this is per Indiana code; he responded yes. Mrs. Batic said that there's lots of Indiana codes that say you must notify for maintenance. Chuck Poling told them that Mary Weesner will notify them, Mary added she will if she is notified. Mrs. Batic asked Doug Kingseed if they were still going to do work that was approved in October now; he responded no. Raymond Bair suggested that the agenda be posted on the doors someday sometime and preferably before Friday evening. Chuck Poling asked Mary Weesner to start putting the agenda on the doors on the Friday before the meeting. Raymond suggested that the agenda be posted on the county website, Chuck agreed.

Mrs. Batic told Doug Kingseed that since they came in and took out all the trees, they had not had any issues with their little ditch. She added that she thought they were going to put in a bridge(pipe) so that they could come in from the north and they would have all that east side to be able to maintain and they could even come that way towards their properties. Between the old Lomax and the big pond. Doug Kingseed responded that the pipe lets them in on the west side of the open ditch behind her house. He added to get into that; they would still have to come in off 44th Street or drive around Meijers' pond and come in. He said that the pipe was to be a convenience so that they could dredge on the east side of the Lomax and not put in your yard, that is all the pipe did. Raymond recommended a rock crossing at the mouth of the pond where the water's coming into the pond that way they could drive across it. Chuck Poling said that they just need to study it and have a meeting about it.

The discussion for a public hearing was brought up by Chuck, he stated that Raymond is wanting rates, but we might as well wait until the Board sets a date. Raymond said that on the hard surface runoff, he does not know if Darren Bates has it where we can do a tenth of an acre and he needs to be able to dissect that and not be an acre charge. He added that if you have a parcel that is an acre and a half, you got a commercial structure that takes up an acre of it and then you got a half-acre left but a quarter of a half of that is asphalt and the other half is grass. He does not want to charge for an acre of asphalt if they only got a quarter of an acre. He questioned whether the Board wants to do the asphalt, it is becoming a pain. As far as businesses versus homesites, when it rains an inch, it rains an inch and it doesn't matter if it's a business or a home, it's still only an inch. Chuck Poling informed Raymond that the reason that the City breaks it down like that is that there is more velocity and puts more capacity all at once. Raymond said that we cannot do a hearing until he does the assessment roll and he cannot do the assessment roll until he has the rates. Mary Weesner informed him that they can just put a penny in for the cost value

for now in order to get the assessment roll completed, like she did and had the assessment roll done. Raymond responded that he needs to know if they are doing a tenth of an acre on the hard surface. Doug Kingseed asked Mary if she had measured it out when she had done it for them. She stated that on the program she used, she could measure hard surface and grass, using tenth acres as well. Mary informed Raymond that she cleared the assessment roll so that he could start from scratch, and he responded he did not understand why she went and took all the commercial sites off that she took the time to locate. She stated that it was due to mistakes, he added that she only made a few mistakes and that was why he does not want Mary to do them anymore. He said that no matter who does them, someone is going to check them. Chuck Poling told Raymond that she was just trying to help them out. If she only made a few mistakes and you guys should have just worked together. This item is tabled for now.

Crane Pond

Chuck Poling said that a letter and a map are needed so that Mary Weesner can get the letters out for quotes. Raymond Bair said that he needs to construct the letter, but he is doing other things and feels that it was more important to do things that are actually active than ones that can be done anytime in the summer. Chuck stated that they have been waiting on this for how many years? Doug Kingseed stated that this needs to be done sooner to get it done before the leaves come on.

OTHER BUSINESS

Burge Tile – Public Hearing; \$3,055.82 in the fund

Russell Swanson approached the Board stating that he has stayed involved in everything else on this one because his property is right on the corner. He is not tied into this one, his property is uphill toward the creek. He added that he is tied into the storm drains in Sweetser. He said that he floods all the time and he has a beef with Sweetser and he feels that he should not be charged anything from anybody right now. There have not been any updates on the Sweetser storm systems since 2006. Raymond Bair stated that he called Patrick Kendall in the town of Sweetser and that they have accomplished their study but have not analyzed it to where all the drains are going yet. But they do have their information. He told Mr. Swanson that his water is supposed to go into the Burge and go down to the east to Pipe Creek through the old Burge Tile. Mr. Swanson stated that his water does not go that way and that he is taking on water from Osborne Street and Dollar General. He welcomed anyone that would like to come look at his yard after this rain that is coming. He added that there are others just like him and he stated that this is not the Drainage Boards fault, it is a Sweetser problem.

Doug Kingseed informed the Board that he talked with Ron Cates (petitioner) and what they are wanting to do is get this fund built up so that they can put a new tile in. Ron has submitted an estimated cost for this (attached to these minutes in the Drainage Board office) is \$73,394.00. Doug added that Ron told him that it constantly breaks down and they do not send in a bill for it. Doug Kingseed made a motion to approve the Burge Tile increase in rates to the advertised rates of \$20.00 per acre, \$50.00 per homesite, \$50.00 per parcel, \$150.00 for commercial structures with a minimum of \$50.00 for an eight year shut-off collection. The motion was seconded by Richard Cox and passed 4-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

ADJOURN:

Richard Cox made a motion to adjourn at 12:24 p.m. The motion was seconded by Doug Kingseed and carried by a vote of 4-0. Kenny Cates voted via WebEx.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting will be held on April 14, 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 31, 2026, meeting:

Chuck Poling
Chairman

Richard Cox
Vice-Chairman

Not Present

Gordon Gough

Kenny Cates

Doug Kingseed

Minutes recorded by:
Mary R. Weesner
Drainage Board Secretary