

GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

The Grant County Drainage Board met on April 14, 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, and Grant County surveyor Raymond Bair. Kenny Cates attended the meeting via WebEx

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Richard Cox made a motion to approve March 31, 2026, minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Doug Kingseed and passed 4-0. Kenny Cates voted “aye” via WebEx and Gordon Gough abstained since he was not present at the March 31, 2026, meeting.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Chuck Poling read the claims as follows:

Middlesworth Excavating \$1,139.00 Brumfield Minnick; \$17,007.26 in the fund

Middlesworth Excavating \$2,305.00 Stoney Creek; \$12,423.38 in the fund

Middlesworth Excavating \$404.00 Lumbo Tile; \$68,069.86 in the fund

Chronicle Tribune \$53.02 Burge Tile; \$3,065.34 in the fund

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

Kenny Cates to Abstain

Redman Excavating \$44,650.00 Harper Legal Drain; \$192,507.87 in the fund

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

Chuck Poling to Abstain

Chuck's Sewer & Drain \$655.00 Robb Tile; \$73,481.12 in the fund

Richard Cox made a motion to approve the above claim as presented. The motion was seconded by Doug Kingseed and passed by a vote of 4-0. Kenny Cates voted via WebEx, and Chuck Poling abstained due to being the payee on the claim.

NEW BUSINESS

Fowler Ditch – Marc Mitchener - Petition for a public hearing; \$21,868.98 in the fund

Mary Weesner informed the Board that Marc Mitchener had come to her for a petition to raise the rate on the Fowler Ditch. She added that this is a joint drain with both Delaware County and Madison County and both have waived their rights. Mary asked Raymond Bair if the assessment roll is good to go; he responded that it just needs to be gone over and should be done in a week. Raymond stated that he does not know when we are doing it, we haven't discussed Lomax and whether we are doing it or not, Back Creek, are we doing it or not. He informed Mary that they cannot do multiple ones at the same time. Chuck Poling informed Raymond that they do need to do the Lomax; it has been discussed since he started on the Board last year. Raymond responded that Mary wanted to put the Fowler in front of the Lomax, not him. He would like to know what order we are doing them. Chuck stated that we should do the Lomax first. Mary Weesner asked Chuck what if the landowner petitions for a hearing; Chuck said that if a landowner petitions then, it needs done. Doug Kingseed asked if there was a date set yet for the Lomax and the response was no. He then asked Raymond as to how close the assessment roll is from being done; Raymond said a couple days. He said that he agrees with Chuck and we should do the older ones; when we get a new one, we can't put that in front of the old one. Doug Kingseed asked if the Board were to pick the date of June 30, 2026, if that would work. Richard Cox asked Mary if there is a problem with the Fowler now? Raymond answered him by stating a lack of funds. He stated that we sent out for quotes a couple years back and the quotes were more than what was in the fund and the tile is backed up. He added that Marc Mitchener wants to do maintenance on it and the money that is in there would probably do that. Raymond asked if the Board wanted him to do the letter to do that stretch? From 1050 south to 600 east, there is enough money to do that stretch. Raymond asked Mary if when she discussed rates with him, did she talk about spraying the ditch? She stated that she told him about the spray program and would like to be on it. He then asked her if she figured out the footage and how much that would be per year to spray it. She said she did not because she did not have that information. Raymond said that is why he needs to talk with these gentlemen about their petition so the conversation of what the ditch needs can be more in depth. He then added that if we are going to put it on the spray program, it's 23,000 some odd feet long at a quarter a foot, you are looking at \$8,000.00 per year to spray it. She said that he was mainly concerned about getting it fixed right now. She said that if the Drainage Board agrees, she will send the public hearings over to him to handle. He said that he thinks the conversation would be a more complete proposal. Raymond asked about the eight years shut off and how much would this be, Doug Kingseed stated \$192,650.64. Raymond said that he and Doug have talked before and there is no need to have that kind of money sitting in an account. He said that if a ditch is in good condition, you don't want it to be sitting there with \$100,000.00 in an account doing nothing, waiting for a major

breakdown. Raymond does not feel that it should continue after the project is complete. Doug informed him that a four year collection would shut off at \$96,325.00 and that is still a lot of money that is just going to sit there. He added that when you talk about Fowler Ditch, how much work does it need? Does \$100,000.00 keep it clean? Raymond said that it will get spent as it gets put in. It'll never build up to \$100,000.00 because they will do a mile of it. Chuck Poling asked if there was a problem there; Raymond said that there is a restricted tile. Chuck then asked about how much to get that open; he responded not much but there is still more footage that needs to be dealt with. Raymond said that if we only do \$10.00 per acre it will get a lot of money there eventually. If they want to do things with it in the short term, we need a higher rate so something can get done quicker, with the requested rate they can do 2 miles of ditch and that's not bad. He added that if you do not add \$8,000.00 for spraying then you don't have enough money to do anywhere for a couple of years. Doug Kingseed made a motion to hold a public hearing on June 30, 2026, for the Fowler watershed with the proposed rates of \$10.00 per acre, \$50.00 per homesite, \$25.00 per parcel with a minimum rate of \$50.00 with a four-year collection cap. The motion was seconded by Richard Cox and passed 5-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

Little Black Creek – Gary Endsley – Maintenance request; \$18,227.34 in the fund

Gary Endsley is before the Board requesting work to be done on Little Black Creek. He informed the Board that there is a problem down on 800 E; there are a bunch of doglegs in there that do not need to be in there, the bank is slid in, and there are four log jams. He added that when you get down to under Interstate 69 there is mud under there that has slid in and it needs to be cleaned out. Raymond Bair informed Mr. Endsley that Little Black Creek is almost out of money, they are spending it on the top end and the bottom end. The Board discussed sending this out for quotes. Chuck Poling said that Raymond can get the information to Mary and she can send it out for quotes. Richard Cox made a motion that they send this portion of Little Black Creek out for quotes to get it dredged and brushed. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and passed by a vote of 5-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

Long Branch – Discussion

Doug Kingseed stated that the reason that Long Branch is on the agenda is because of the development coming to Gas City and there is no maintenance on it. He stated that he has asked Raymond Bair as to what they are going to do about it. Doug would like it on the list for upcoming hearings so that when the development comes and their solar panels come and whatever else is coming, it can be taken care of. Raymond stated that it will take a little bit to compile the assessment roll. He wants to know the order that they want for the hearings; Chuck said Fowler then we will see after that, maybe somebody else will come to us wanting a hearing. Raymond said that we need to go through the list and find the ones

that need raised. Mary Weesner informed him that she had given him a list of three already. Raymond reiterated that it will Lomax first, Fowler second, and then possibly Long Branch. Gordon Gough asked Raymond about Big Black Creek; Raymond said that it just needs money spent. He added that he has gone to different landowners and said to them to bring something before us to do and they haven't done anything.

Pipe Creek – Danny Newhouse; \$136,410.49 in the fund

Danny Newhouse is before the Board requesting to clear Pipe Creek from 500 west to 200 north on the north side of the road. He wants to get rid of the trees because they are causing log jams. Doug Kingseed stated that he was talking to the surveyor when it was mentioned that Danny and Gary were in several years ago and asked for the exact same thing. He added that Danny's goal is to farm it. They had discussed the stumps; usually the trees are cut down and the stumps are left behind, if that is the case, if it is feasible, Danny would be willing to remove the stumps from his property. Danny stated that he would need to remove the stumps, otherwise it is not farmable. Doug Kingseed asked if he would need to go through the FSA and have a wetland determination? There was a response of yes, then he would need to come back before the Board. This item is tabled until after the wetland determination.

OLD BUSINESS

Jerry Soultz is before the Board stating that they were supposed to fix his ditch a long time ago, the contract was for Bragg Excavating to do the job. He came to Jerry today and told him that he was going to start brushing a bunch of stuff. He added that everything has been killed along that ditch when whoever came through four or five years ago and sprayed it. It has been dredged several times on their side. He said that they can't plant grass or anything to grow in the ditch bank. They keep dredging and adding more rip rap and in his opinion rip rap is a lot more expensive than trying to get a seed bed to go back in it. Chuck Poling asked if they came out and put in the rip rap; Raymond stated that the landowner did not want the rip rap in there. Eric was out there and Eric pulled it out. Raymond stated that Eric is not going to do the job now. He added that Eric said he was chewed on enough where he said he's not going to work out there. Mr. Soultz said that Bragg was supposed to come in after the crops were off and that did not happen; he called Eric to see what was happening and was told to talk to Dustin, his operator. Dustin had already started digging dirt out and putting rip rap in. Peggy Soultz joined Jerry at the podium stating that the ground looks "sterilized". She asked Raymond if they would be notified when they came onto her property and is there a plan so that they can be told what is being done. He said that they were out there last fall and went over everything that was going to be done. Doug Kingseed asked her is she would like for someone to come out there and explain it to her; she responded that she would like to know what is going on.

Jerry stated that he understands rip rap in a couple of places, but he cannot see digging the corner out 10 or 15 feet. Doug stated that Raymond and a Board member need to go out there and walk it or drive it with them. Raymond said that the trees in the woods on the bank need to be cut and not to be let grow. Doug told the Soultz's to call Raymond and set up a time.

Crane Pond

Chuck Poling stated that on Jeff Kilgren's, in the 75' right of way, we need just one bid for 75'. Raymond asked him why; Chuck told him because that is what the Board voted on. Raymond said that he doesn't think that we need 75', Doug said that he does because that tile has been a problem for quite a while. Raymond asked if they realized that the letter also has 75' in it, Chuck said yes, but you are also getting the price for 50'. Raymond argued that when it comes in for more money than the account has. Chuck informed Raymond that you can't change it in the middle of the game. The Board all agreed about 75'. Raymond told Chuck that it was a waste of time, Chuck reminded him that the Board voted on this. Richard Cox stated that he told Raymond to get the 50' bed too. Chuck asked Gordon Gough if he agreed; Gordon stated that was the motion. Raymond continued to disagree with Chuck when Gordon stated that he was the one that made the motion and part of the reason is that the Board tried to work with that gentleman (Mr. Kilgren). Raymond told Gordon that the gentleman did not change what he told the Board and that Jeff Kilgren did not change his mind. Gordon added that he was going to sell his trees and Richard Cox agreed by adding that nobody wanted them. Chuck Poling told Raymond to rewrite the letter so that they can finally get it out. Raymond told Chuck that he just thinks that it's ridiculous; it will take too much time and be too much money for you to do and we will be back visiting this subject.

OTHER BUSINESS

Stoney Creek – Public Hearing; \$12,423.38 in the fund

Chuck Poling informed the Board the current rate on Stoney Creek is as follows:
\$1.25 per acre, \$10.00 per homesite, \$1.25 per parcel, \$5.00 minimum
This rate brings in \$4,178.74 per year

The proposed rate is as follows:
\$10.00 per acre, \$150.00 per homesite, \$10.00 per parcel, \$50.00 minimum
This rate brings in \$36,436.50 per year

Raymond Bair gave the Board a map for review.

Doug Morrow is before the Board stating that he is not opposed to this project. He added that the project needs done and the water holds back on him. Doug Kingseed asked Mr. Morrow if he knew anything about the tile that runs through him; Mr. Morrow responded that this tile is a mess.

Eric Utterback is before the Board. He informed the Board that where the tile comes through him is concrete. It is a 24" concrete tile that goes to the back of the property. He asked Raymond what they wanted to do; he responded that to start with the brush from 700 to Pipe Creek to make sure that they have an outlet. He is in support of the proposed rate.

Doug Kingseed made a motion to approve the advertised rates of \$10.00 per acre, \$150.00 per homesite, \$10.00 per parcel, \$50.00 minimum for an eight year collection. The motion was seconded by Gordon Gough and carried 5-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

ADJOURN:

Richard Cox made a motion to adjourn at 12:04 p.m. The motion was seconded by Doug Kingseed and carried by a vote of 5-0. Kenny Cates voted via WebEx.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting will be held on April 28, 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 April 14, 2026, meeting:

Chuck Poling
Chairman

Richard Cox
Vice-Chairman

Gordon Gough

Kenny Cates

Doug Kingseed

Minutes recorded by:
Mary R. Weesner
Drainage Board Secretary