

GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

The Grant County Drainage Board met on April 28, 2026, in the Grant County Council Chambers. Chairman Chuck Poling called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. Board members present were Vice-Chairman Richard Cox, Gordon Gough, Kenny Cates, Doug Kingseed, Drainage Board Secretary Mary Weesner, and Grant County surveyor Raymond Bair.

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

Chuck Poling stated, as a reminder, starting on May 12, 2026, the Drainage Board meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Doug Kingseed made a motion to approve April 14, 2026, minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Richard Cox and passed 5-0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Chuck Poling read the claims as follows:

Bragg Excavating \$526.15 Isaiah Wall; \$12,568.10 in the fund

Newhouse Excavating \$405.99 No. Branch of Waters; \$8,416.27 in the fund

Gordon Gough made a motion to approve the above claims as presented. The motion was seconded by Doug Kingseed, passing unanimously 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Crane Pond Discussion regarding attorney letter

Chuck Poling stated that the Board had already discussed this two weeks ago, about the 75' right of way. It had been written up to save the sawdust, cut the logs ups and put them on the corn sides, and Raymond Bair stated he did that to lower the price. Chuck informed him that our attorney said that that is our right of way and we can pull stumps, clear them to mow, however we want to. Chuck asked Wendell Cates how he would like to have it done; Wendell stated that he would like to have it cleared just like any other. He added that they have always cleared them so that they can be mowed and sprayed; he does not know of any 75' right of way that they have that the stumps aren't removed. Wendell said that he would go along with it if they saw them at ground level so that they could mow.

Gordon Gough stated that they will also need to apply Tordon. Chuck informed Raymond that they do not have to notify anybody according to our attorney, we can give them a courtesy call the night before as to when the contractors may arrive. Nobody can stop us from being on our right of way. Raymond Bair said that common courtesy would be to ensure the safety of the contractors when they go out there. The situation is that the people in the household are not stable and don't want to go around in their backyard and be surprised by somebody walking. Chuck reiterated to him that they can call the night before and tell them that they are coming, that is common courtesy. Raymond questioned why call Wendell in this instead of the landowner. Doug Kingseed stated that he understands because if the landowner does not answer or does not have the time to meet right away, it holds everybody else back. He recommended that Mary Weesner make a phone call or send a letter to them saying that there will be people walking through your property in the next two weeks. Jeff Kilgren spoke up stating that he is the landowner and that the only thing that they had asked was to give them one hour's notice, he added that when Mr. Riddle was there, he was in training and could not be available to meet up and ask that Mr. Riddle return later, which he did. Doug Kingseed asked Mary Weesner if she had received any emails or calls regarding quoting this job; she stated that she did receive one, and she explained to the contractor that she did not realize they did trees and she will put them under tree contractors as well. Raymond Bair told the Board that it was Xtreme Excavating and they already have 3 or 4 jobs. Kenny Cates asked what is going on with Xtreme? Mary informed Kenny that for some reason, the surveyor took them off the pre-approval log. Kenny wanted to know why they were taken off the list; Raymond said that the pre-approval log is for job that he approved, not the Drainage Board. Chuck Poling informed Raymond that the log is for all the jobs

David Stephenson Complaint

David Stephenson is before the Board stating that he is present today because the ponds are flooding on his property. He said that he has lived on Troy Avenue for 30 years and has spent a lot of time fixing everything up. The tile ran through his property; Raymond Bair passed a map of the area to the Board members (One was not supplied to be filed with these minutes). Around the year 2000 the tile collapsed right through the back of his property, adding that he never had a problem until that happened. He reviewed the map and the location where the tile ran. Mr. Stephenson added that it is getting so bad that he cannot use his septic or his facilities for 2 to 14 days. He stated that everyone tells him that he needs to hook up to Wendell Cates' tile out in the middle of this field. He said that if he hooks to that tile, what water is going to drain between here and where he hooks up at his property line. He added that the water is 4" deep and his ground is caving in in the back. Doug Kingseed stated that Mr. Stephenson had mentioned a couple times that the property breaks down and the tile breaks down in his property. Mr. Stephenson said that it is not his tile; Doug stated that it is his tile and it is on his property. Doug went on to explain that

once the tile enters his property, it becomes his tile and his responsibility. Mr. Stephenson asked about the north side of his property that fills up his septic tank and leach field. Doug asked him about his previous conversations with Wendell Cates; Mr. Stephenson said that Mr. Cates said that he could hook up to his tile, but that is not going to keep the water from filling in between where he hooks up and his septic tank. Doug asked him if an offer has been given to hook his tile up; Mr. Stephenson said it would cost \$1,680.00 to go from his septic to Mr. Cates' field tile but it will not clear the water up between where he hooks up and his property. Doug asked Wendell if he had made Mr. Stephenson an offer to hook into his tile; he responded yes, Wendell added that it would cost him about \$4,700.00 to run a new 8" tile up to his house. He told Mr. Stephenson that he would do it for \$1,000.00. Doug asked Wendell if he thinks that the new 8" tile would drain his water in a timelier manner, Wendell responded that they really don't know until they go out there and dig up the 10" tile to make sure that it is good. Doug Kingseed stated that when Mary Weesner called him about the standing water at Mr. Stephenson's, he started to watch the water levels. He added that when the ditches started to lower, the water was away and in a timely manner.

Hummel Creek – Greg Brankle

Mr. Brankle is before the Board stating that almost a year ago, he was present before them regarding Hummel Creek. He added that a quote was awarded last April to Xtreme Excavating; they have yet to come do the work. After being on the agenda to speak, Xtreme called him and stated that they would be out. Mr. Brankle said that they have told him multiple times they are going to show up but he hasn't seen them yet. Chuck Poling informed Mr. Brankle that this has been addressed and when the letters are sent out for quotes, it states that the job must be completed within one year or the Board will send out for new quotes and give it to someone else. Mr. Brankle wanted to verify that once this is clear that it will be on the spray list; Raymond said that they would have to discuss it. Richard Cox told Mr. Brankle that after it gets cleared, next spring come before the Board with the request and we can get it on the spray program next year. Chuck added that we have already signed the contract with the ditch bank sprayers.

Mr. Brankle added that there is the Daughtery Branch that takes off and goes up north from Hummel, it is going to need dipped out as that area holds water year round. He will come back after the brushing is complete.

Andy Rickner spoke up stating that in his quote for section 2, there are power lines all over the place and he is not willing to take a mulcher into the trailer court because of the chips that it throws, adding that it will all be hand work in the trailer court. Andrew Schwinn of McCain Brothers informed the Board that when they go through the trailer court, they plan to use a skid steer with a brush cutter. Richard Cox made a motion to use McCain Brothers for the Little Newby projects section one and two for \$22,743.00, the motion was seconded by Doug Kingseed and carried 4-0 with Gordon Gough abstaining as he has land on the Back Creek watershed.

J Winters Drain Public hearing to vacate

Rudy Vugteveen of Randall Miller and Associates Surveying and Engineering is present before the Board. He informed the Board that he is a licensed surveyor and that he represents Gas City Redevelopment Commission. He is requesting a vacation of the J. Winters Drain from the Himelick Ditch stating that Gas City has been working with a developer for over a year now for a project for this site. Mr. Vugteveen said that they are on the last stages of this project and the last item that they need to move forward is the vacation of this drain. He added that this is a \$350 million investment that plans to bring 150 full-time jobs to the area in phase one with the full build to be over \$1 billion and include 600 full-time jobs. Mr. Vugteveen stated that the Winters Drain is a very old tile in disrepair and not currently under maintenance, the developer will be required to connect into the pond that is adjacent to it. They will then run the drainage outlet from that pond which will create a much better situation than it is now. Any issues that occur during or after, will be remedied by the developer at no expense to the county or adjoining landowner.

Richard Cox asked if they were going to take care of everything that is east of Interstate 69; Mr. Vugteveen stated that before the meeting today he looked over the plans and they indicate that that drain has been cut off and no longer exists and the only property that is using that tile is the American Legion. He added that this will be a huge benefit to the American Legion since it is going to fix the tile issue. Doug Kingseed stated that his concern is that if the Legion or the people on the east side of I69 have problems, he thinks they'll come back to the Drainage Board. He is having a hard time with releasing the drain because these people are on top of the tile and if they have drainage problems they will then be dealing with a big corporation whereas today, they have a local government to go to. He feels that the Drainage Board must protect the Legion until we see the drawings of where exactly the tile is and how they are going to be taken care of. Richard Cox added that they said it did not go under I69, Doug then asked as to why they are still on the assessment roll. Raymond Bair stated that it is an old assessment roll. Doug stated that he feels that it is the Drainage Board's responsibility to protect the Legion until we see the drawings of where exactly the tile goes and how they are going to be taken care of. He

added that he is not against vacating it if they are protected with an actual drawing that is on the minutes.

Rudy Vugteveen stated that an entity like this that is going to develop is not going to spend \$80,000.00, \$100,000.00 to develop a civil plan before they have the authority that they can make this project move. He said that prohibits him from getting the Board a set of drawings. Mr. Vugteveen said that he can get a document from Gas City that states they will ensure that the drainage is taken care of from the perspective of Gas City. Raymond Bair questioned if Gas City has the authority to go on the east side of I69. Mr. Vugteveen said that they would make the drainage right through the city. Jim Spurgeon, seven year president of the Gas City Redevelopment Commission is now before the Board. He informed the Board that they will provide that in writing, they need to go ahead so they can finalize it and make the announcement and get the construction underway and get this thing going.

Kenny Cates stated that the Board should table this item until they get something in writing. David Glickfield, the attorney for Gas City, is now before the Board. He stated that he had been in the Board's position many years ago. He added that he understands the Board's concerns. He said that the mayor wanted to close on this very soon. He asked that the Board make a contingent motion to approve this based on receiving this from Gas City? Mr. Glickfield said that way they can continue and finalize their negotiations and then they will provide the document and then everything can go through once that document's given. Chuck Poling asked if this is going to be a data center, Mr. Glickfield stated that it is not, it is a factory. Gordon Gough asked about what if Mr. Rock is no longer the mayor. Is this going to be contingent with whoever follows him. Mr. Glickfield informed Gordon that the Redevelopment Commission is a governmental body and it is his intent with the agreement would be to run with the land. Doug Kingseed added that he is really struggling to vacate this without the drawings. He wants to know where the Legion's water is going to drain. Mr. Vugteveen informed Doug that in order to know exactly where that water is going to go would require a full civil set because there are going to be buildings and pavement. This will add to the tremendous burden on the developer because now we've got to go through 50% of civil design.

Raymond stated that the tile has no maintenance fund on it, he agreed with Mr. Vugteveen that if something were to break down, we would have no money to do anything with. The Himelick, that this drains into, has no maintenance on it either. This has happened in the past and the landowners had to fix the holes if they wanted the holes fixed. Mr. Glickfield stated that Gas City has plenty of money in their TIF to take care of it and they can put that in writing for the Board. Gordon Gough brought up the concern that several years ago the Board vacated the Stephens Drain over to Gas City and it is not being maintained, Raymond told Gordon that we can say the same thing for the Long Branch in our jurisdiction that isn't having anything done to it and it needs something done to it. He added that we would tax the development to pay on the Long Branch. Mr. Vugteveen told Gordon Gough that he is not trying to be pushy but he feels that this is a win-win, Raymond pointed out to

Gordon that there are only 2 people on the watershed so there is nobody else to protect except for the developer or the Legion.

Richard Cox made a motion to vacate the J Winters Land and Loan Company Drain contingent that we get a hold harmless letter from Gas City concerning Drainage Board responsibility for this ditch and they will take care of the landowners on the Legion property. There was no second on the motion and the motion failed. Doug Kingseed made a motion to table the vacation of the J Winters tile ditch until the Drainage Board receives a drawing of where the Legion's water is going. The motion was seconded by Kenny Cates and passed 4-1 with Richard Cox opposing.

Crane Pond Phase 1 & Phase 2 Public hearing to consolidate

Richard Cox asked Mary Weesner about the letter of complaint regarding the consolidation of Crane Pond Phase 1 & Phase 2; she explained that they just did not understand what the purpose was for this.

Wendell Cates is before the Board. He informed the Board that the main reason they would like this merger is, adding that if they look at the drainage map, the homes own all of phase 1 and the farmers own all of phase 2. If phase 1 breaks down and there is no money, phase just sits in a pond. He stated that the farmers won't have drainage if the homeowners do not take care of their end of it.

Jeff Kilgren is before the Board; he informed the Board that he is the president of the West Point Neighborhood Association. He stated that it is split up between county and city and if you look at a map it makes no sense. As a taxpayer, he feels that the county is getting the short end of the stick. He feels that the merger makes sense. He encourages the county to speak to the city to make this area all city.

Susan Huthenson is now before the Board. She stated that she has lived in the area for 31 years and agrees with everything Mr. Kilgren said.

Kenny Cates made a motion to merge Crane Pond Phase 1 and Crane Pond Phase 2, to be known as Crane Pond. The motion was seconded by Doug Kingseed and passed unanimously 5-0.

Crane Pond Public hearing

Chuck Poling informed the public that Crane Pond Phase 1 has 40 parcels with the rates of \$5.00 per acre, \$5.00 per homesite, \$5.00 per parcel with a minimum of \$5.00 and there is \$8,709.81 in the maintenance fund.

Phase 2 has 145 parcels with the rates of \$3.00 per acre, \$3.00 per homesite, \$3.00 per parcel with a minimum of \$5.00 and there is \$68.50 in the maintenance fund.

The proposed rate is \$25.00 per acre, \$100.00 per homesite, \$25.00 per parcel, \$250.00 per commercial structure with a minimum of \$50.00; this would bring in \$29,107.25 per year.

Doug Kingseed stated that he would prefer a four year collection shut off rather than an eight year, Wendell Cates agreed.

Doug Kingseed made the motion to set the rate at \$25.00 per acre, \$100.00 per homesite, \$25.00 per parcel, \$250.00 per commercial structure with a minimum of \$50.00 for a four year collection shut off. Richard Cox seconded the motion and the motion carries 5-0.

In an added comment, Wendell Cates stated that he has a concern about all the wood chips from the chippers on the banks and then when we get rain the chips wash down into the ditch, Richard Cox agreed. Andrew Schwinn from McCain Brothers stated that they will try to do as much mulching as they can and try to keep as much of it out of the ditch as possible. Kenny Cates asked Andrew if he had given Mary Weesner his insurance information yet? Mary informed Kenny that he is fully registered to work in Grant County.

ADJOURN:

Richard Cox made a motion to adjourn at 12:38 p.m. The motion was seconded by Doug Kingseed and carried by a vote of 5-0.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting will be held on May 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Grant County Council Chambers.

The Grant County Drainage Board has approved the minutes as presented for the April 28, 2026, meeting:

Chuck Poling
Chairman

Richard Cox
Vice-Chairman

Gordon Gough

Kenny Cates

Doug Kingseed

Minutes prepared by:
Mary R. Weesner
Drainage Board Secretary