

# GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

## 401 SOUTH ADAMS STREET

## MARION, INDIANA 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held March 12, 2019 in the Grant County Council Chambers. Mark Bardsley, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Other members present were Gordon Gough, Kenny Cates, Pat Pinkerton, Richard Cox and Grant County Surveyor Jim Todd.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Kenny Cates made a motion to approve the February 26, 2019 minutes as presented. Seconded by Richard Cox; motion carried with support 5-0.

### **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:**

Jim Todd presented the claims as follows:

Clark Farm Drainage \$2,100.00 Simmons Ditch; \$5,580.92 in fund  
Clark Farm Drainage \$4,125.00 Crawford Ditch; \$14,869.92 in fund

Gordon Gough made a motion to pay the claims as presented; Seconded by Pat Pinkerton. Motion carried with support 5-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Little Crane Pond – Approval of resolution  
There is nothing new to report.

Hummel Creek

There is nothing new to report, we are currently in litigation at this time and it is in the hands of our attorney.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### Hardy Ditch – Scott Lasater

Jim Todd informed the Board that Scott Lasater is present today to discuss maintenance on the Hardy Ditch. Mr. Lasater stood before the Board stating that the Hardy Ditch has never been under maintenance and he is present to request a public hearing be held to collect maintenance on this ditch. He states that he would probably like to start out at \$5.00 per acre, adding that he has spoken to the Chastains and they are in agreement. Mr. Lasater added that he does have a petition with signatures, but Mr. Chastain has not been available to sign, but they are in favor of this. Kenny Cates asked if \$5.00 would raise enough money for the work that is needing done; Mr. Lasater said that he has talked to different people and \$5.00 is what most seem to agree on, also he said that he is paying, out of his own pocket, Bob Clark of Clark Farm Drainage to clean part of the open ditch since he is hooking out into that ditch. Jim Todd asked if he had the signed petition with him so that the Board can set a hearing date, Mr. Lasater said that he wanted to wait until Andy Chastain has a chance to sign it as well. Jim stated that in the meantime, his office will get the information to Mary Weesner and she will get the assessment roll together. A hearing date can be set at the next Drainage Board meeting. Jim added that this will not collect until next year's tax collection. Mary Weesner asked Mr. Lasater what rate he would like to go for with the home sites and the minimum; after a discussion, the rate to advertise for the public hearing will be \$5.00 per acre, \$50.00 per home site with a \$10.00 minimum for an eight year collection.

Richard Cox made a motion to accept the petition on the Hardy Ditch for a public hearing; seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried with support 5-0.

### Simmons Tile – Scott Lasater

Mr. Scott Lasater is present before the Board with Bob Clark of Clark Farm Drainage. Jim Todd began by stating that Mr. Lasater is here today to ask for a hearing to raise the rate on the Simmons Tile to

\$25.00 per acre. With this rate, in two years, they would have half of the money needed to complete a project. Richard Cox asked what the current maintenance is being collected; Mr. Lasater informed him that he thinks it is \$1.50 per acre with a \$5.00 minimum. Kenny Cates asked Mr. Lasater how much is it for his project; he told Kenny that assuming the engineering is \$5,000.00 and not reimbursement from the state it would be \$96,762.00, adding that the tile itself is under \$70,000.00. Jim Todd added that he feels they can take quotes from tile contractors and bypass the engineering. Mr. Lasater informed the Board that the water shed is 988.26 acres and the current clay tile will drain 455 acres, which is under half of the volume that they need. He added that if they have another plastic dual-wall 24" tile beside it, that actually drains 493 acres, so then the total capacity becomes 948 acres, which is almost where they need to be. He stated that this does not need to go all the way through the farms, just the large acreage at the ends. He looked at total reconstruction with a 30" tile and the cost just sky rocketed and it still would not handle the capacity as with the proposed solution. This would take a lot of pressure off of the existing tile, which should eliminate the blow holes. Mr. Lasater added that there was one land owner that stated he would not participate if this did not go all the way to him but Mr. Lasater hopes that he will do the math and agree to what they want to do. Gordon Gough asked him if he had a petition to be turned in for this public hearing request; Mr. Lasater said that he is waiting on Adam Sieber to get the signatures from the upper end to him so that he may turn this into the Board. Jim Todd said that once the petition is turned in, they can set a hearing date.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Jim Todd explained to the Board that there is a drainage issue at 1050 and S State Road 9. Jim stated that he and Mary Weesner have talked with the land owner (Stephanie Faust) the other day and she was supposed to come in today, but we haven't seen or heard from her. Little Deer Creek is across the road and it is in the best shape it's ever been. The previous owner had tiled it, there is a tile that goes into their yard and they have a surface pipe at the

highway. She originally called the Surveyor's office because Don Wright had a machine sitting by there. Mr. Wright had Scott Rogers dig up the tile on his property because he thought it was not working, but it is working. Mr. Wright had offered to the land owner to cut the trees down on the two lines, he would pay half of the expense; she was not interested in that, stating that this will only help Mr. Wright, not her. There are also trees along the county road that are in the side ditch; the Highway Department had told her that they would dig that side ditch out if she removed the trees. Jim Todd had explained that the county could not physically do anything for her to improve that property; she then told Mary Weesner that the Jim told her that the Drainage Board did not want to help her and she feels that no one cares. Jim explained to her that it is not that the Drainage Board does not want to help her; it is the fact that there is nothing that the Drainage Board can do to help her. Gordon Gough said that basically her house was built in a hole. This is not a county regulated drain.

#### Harper Ditch

Kenny Cates informed the Board that he has spoken with David Devore and that Mr. Devore is removing four beaver dams and that he has contacted a beaver trapper/nuisance trapper. Jim Todd explained that the Drainage Board can take the beaver dams out with the maintenance money, but it is the land owner's responsibility to remove the beavers; it's not the county's beaver, it is the land owner's beaver.

#### **ADJOURN:**

Kenny Cates made a motion to adjourn at 11:31 a.m.; Seconded by Gordon Gough; motion carried with support 5-0.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting to be held will be March 26, 2019 at 11:00 am

Minutes recorded by Mary R. Weesner

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

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MARK BARDSLEY

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GORDON GOUGH

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RICHARD COX

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KENNY CATES

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PAT PINKERTON