

GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 SOUTH ADAMS STREET
MARION, INDIANA 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held July 14, 2020 in the Grant County Council Chambers. Mark Bardsley, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. Other members present were Gordon Gough, Kenny Cates, Richard Cox, Pat Pinkerton and Grant County Surveyor Jim Todd.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Richard Cox made a motion to approve the June 30, 2020 minutes; Seconded by Pat Pinkerton; motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Jim Todd presented the claims as follows:

John's Repair Service \$875.00 Harrison Sugar Grove; \$1,074.76 in fund

Howard County \$2,641.17 Spring Collection; \$2,641.17 in fund

Wabash County \$1,244.66 Spring Collection; \$1,244.66 in fund

Wells County \$715.26 Spring Collection; \$715.26 in fund

Huntington County \$657.50 Spring Collection; \$657.50 in fund

Blackford County \$4,069.08 Spring Collection; \$4,069.08 in fund

John's Repair \$2,800.00 Matthews Ditch; \$34,102.35 in fund

***Jim explained to the Board that this was extra hours for the contractor to take care of a land owner. This addition to the job was discussed previously between Jim and Kenny Cates.

Gordon Gough made a motion to approve the above claims as presented; seconded by Richard Cox. Motion carried 5-0.

*****Kenny Cates to abstain*****

L&W Cates \$400.00 Pipe Creek; \$135,826.99 in the fund

Pat Pinkerton made a motion to approve the above claim as presented; seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried 4-0 with Kenny Cates abstaining due to having land in the Pipe Creek watershed.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Hummel Creek – Obstruction
There is nothing new to discuss

NEW BUSINESS:

Burkhart Swagger-Adam Swagger-rerouting of tile; \$4,364.09 in fund

Adam Swagger is present before the Board. Jim Todd explained to the Board that he has a petition of 385 acres of the 672 acres signed. Mr. Swagger handed out a map to show the Board the location. Jim read the petition that was completed by Adam Swagger as follows: This is a petition to reconstruct or re-route a portion of the Burkhart Swagger Drain. Water coming from south of county road 400 North will be diverted west to the Sweetser Improvement ditch through a 24" tile. The Burkhart & Swagger tile will be capped at 400 North and water on north side of the road will flow north through current 24" tile to Big Black Creek. This will effectively reduce the load on each drain by half.

Mr. Swagger stated that he has noticed that over the past several years, the drain is very slow and there is standing water. Mr. Swagger explained the re-routing process. This will take some of the pressure off the tile and it will last longer. He figures that it will take \$35.00 per acre over a two year period to raise enough for this to happen. Kenny Cates asked Mr. Swagger if he wants to hold a public hearing to raise the rate, Mr. Swagger stated that he does. He told Kenny Cates that he would like to borrow from the General

Drain Improvement Fund; paying it back as the ditch collects maintenance assessments. Jim Todd asked Mary Weesner how much money this ditch currently brings in at \$1.50 per acre with a \$5.00 minimum; Mary stated that it brings in \$1,016.32 annually. Mr. Swagger would like to see \$35.00 per acre with a \$25.00 minimum with a four year collection; this would bring in \$23,551.85 annually. Jim Todd added that they could return in a few years to reduce the rate, or this could be decided at the public hearing. It was explained to the Board that 6,700 feet will go to the Sweetser Drain and 6,900 feet will go to Black Creek. The existing tile will remain in place and be functioning. There was a lot of inaudible talking due to masks and multiple talking at once. Mark Bardsley feels that since some of the water is going to be diverted to a different drain that the Board should probably consult their attorney for proper advice if this can be done and how is it assessed. Pat Pinkerton asked if the Sweetser Drain backs up; Jim Todd stated that it seems to handle everything. Pat Pinkerton said that he wonders if you make this part of the Sweetser Drain and start charging to do the project; can you do that? Richard Cox made a motion to have a public hearing on November 10, 2020 to raise the maintenance to a proposed \$35.00 per acre and a \$25.00 minimum to the Burkhart & Swagger for a 4 year shut off. Seconded by Gordon Gough; motion carried 5-0.

Little Black Creek-Jack Green-Spraying; \$2,638.91 in fund

Mr. Green was supposed to be present today regarding spraying of Little Black Creek; but he is not in attendance.

Jim Todd explained that this ditch always seems to go into the red. The rate is only \$1.00 per acre and between Myron Brankle and Jack Green, they keep the money spent. Mr. Green was requesting an area to be sprayed, but Jim Todd explained to him that there is already a log jam needing to be removed. Jim added that when Kent McCracken's crops come off, he has an erosion spot that needs taken care of as he was next in line. Jim explained to Mr. Green that it would be a couple of years before they could get to his request unless they were to raise the rate. Jim Todd stated that

in 2019 they did \$6,000.00 on Myron Brankle's. He added that in February of 2019 is when Jack Green had work done, cleaning the woods on someone else downstream; that was \$5,057.00 and then another \$600.00 and \$350.00 for spraying. Richard Cox asked Jim if this is the ditch that had a lot of work done but never paid the money; Jim stated yes, a reconstruction. Mr. Green has some more spraying that he wants done, but Jim told him that there are other requests in for maintenance work on Little Black Creek ahead of his request. Jim recommended that this be tabled for today since Mr. Green is not in attendance.

Matthews Ditch

Kenny Cates informed the Board that Matthews Ditch was cleaned out about 8-10 years ago. All this water has to wait to get through the railroad tracks and gets on the neighbor. Jim Todd stated that the need to take out the old spoil and removed from the easement. Richard Cox made a motion to allow John's Repair Service to correct the old spoils, but not to exceed \$5,000.00. Seconded by Pat Pinkerton; motion carried, with support 4-1 with Kenny Cates abstaining as he has land in the Matthews Ditch water shed.

Ditch Spraying Program

Richard Cox asked the Board how the ditch spraying is going and has anyone checked on the work. Gordon Gough stated that the stuff is already turning brown and starting to die. Jim Todd stated that he has received compliments on the spraying. Jim added that there is some brush that is too thick; this brush will be quoted out and cut back this fall and they will return in the spring to spray those areas.

Potter Creek

Mary Weesner informed the Board that Max Middlesworth has brought in a signed petition requesting an increase in the maintenance of Potter Creek. She added that there were 496.18 of benefited acres that have signed the petition in favor out of 3,439.24 acres in the water shed; this is more than the required 10%. Mary stated that the earliest date possible would be August 25, 2020. Mark Bardsley asked what they are asking for a new rate; Mary told him \$10.00 per acre with a minimum of \$25.00 versus the \$1.50 per acre with a \$5.00 minimum. Annually, the difference would be \$5,472.48 to a new rate of \$35,065.00. This would be for a four year collection. Pat Pinkerton made a motion to have a maintenance hearing on August 25, 2020 for Potter Creek with the advertised rate of \$10.00 per acre with a minimum of \$25.00 for a four year collection. Seconded by Richard Cox; motion carried with support 5-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Kenny Cates mentioned the Indiana Farm Bureau Drainage School that would be done online. He has information that has been handed out to the Board.

Farley Ditch

Steve Richey is paying Enyeart Excavating to fix the head wall because the Farley is in the red. This is the last section that is still grown up with trees from county road 300 south to the header and needing dredged.

ADJOURN:

Kenny Cates made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:07 pm; seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried with support 5-0.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting to be held will be July 28, 2020 at 11:00 am and will be held in the Grant County Council Chambers.

Minutes recorded by Mary R. Weesner

Minutes approved:

MARK BARDSLEY

GORDON GOUGH

RICHARD COX

KENNY CATES

PAT PINKERTON