

# GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street  
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held May 11, 2021 in the Grant County Council Chambers. Mark Bardsley, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. Other members present were Kenny Cates, Pat Pinkerton, Richard Cox and Grant County Surveyor Jim Todd. Gordon Gough was not in attendance.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Kenny Cates made a motion to approve the April 27, 2021 minutes; seconded by Pat Pinkerton; motion carried 3-0. Richard Cox abstained since he was not in attendance for the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Jim Todd read the claims as follows:

Rogers Farm Drainage \$520.85 Tappen Tile; \$11,817.26 in the fund

Rogers Farm Drainage \$484.51 Matthews Ditch; \$2,577.54 in the red

\*Should bring in around \$5,200.00 with spring collection.

Grant County Treasurer \$11,875.21 From GDIF to Maintenance (Loan)

\*Hummel Creek ...\$9,297.67

\*Matthews Ditch...\$2,577.54

Tony Roush \$200.00 Little Black Creek; \$4,631.69 in the fund

Kenny Cates asked Jim Todd what Rogers Farm Drainage did, if they were working at Jackson's; Jim explained that they were there. He tried to locate the tile and was unable to, but Rogers knew where it was located.

Jim Todd asked Kenny Cates if he noticed how the water did with all the rain on the Matthews Ditch; Kenny responded that the problem would occur when there are leaves in the tile. Jim stated that he had a talk with the railroad guy about that, explaining that they cleaned out the two upper pipes, but the bottom pipe was way too small. Jim was told that they did not have the money for it this year. Jim Todd stated that he has

reported that the pipe is metal and rusted out. Jim added that he explained to the railroad guy that there is a process and if it was called an obstruction, they could move in that direction, but attorneys would be involved. He added that if this is ignored, the tracks could cave in and there could be a derailment.

Richard Cox made a motion to approve the above claims as presented; seconded by Kenny Cates. Motion carried with support, 4-0.

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

Rogers Farm Drainage \$494.64 Harper Ditch; \$66,374.32 in the fund

Richard Cox made a motion to approve the above claim as presented; seconded by Pat Pinkerton. Motion carried with support, 3-0; Kenny Cates abstained due to having land in the Harper Ditch watershed.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Little Crane Pond – Approval of resolution

There is nothing new to report.

Hummel Creek

There is nothing new to report. Mark Bardsley ask Mary Weesner to send an email to Matt Mead, engineer, for a status update.

Little Creek – Don Wright requesting to replace crossing

Don Wright is present before the Board. He informed the Board that he has an 80 acre farm in which Little Creek splits the farm into two fields; one being 42 acres on the south and the other is 34 acres on the north. Mr. Wright added that there used to be a bridge across there that was washed out after Little Creek was dredge out a few years back. He added that they can get off 800 south, there are filter strips on both sides of the creek, but there is difficulty getting the machinery through it, so from the south field to the north field they have to go down Highway 37 where there is an entrance but it is very narrow due to trees and utility poles.

Mr. Wright stated that from a safety standpoint, he would like to build a bridge across Little Creek to go from one field to the other. Mark Bardsley asked Mr. Wright what the cross section is on State Road 37, Mr. Wright stated that 800j south is the top side of the ditch and then it crosses 200 west on the downside. Mr. Wright added that once crops are in there, he cannot get in there to mow the filter strips on the north side. He would like to build a culvert bridge across Little Creek that would support his large combines, tractors and equipment.

Mr. Wright stated that in his letter to the Drainage Board he had requested two 8 ½' diameter culverts, which is what an engineer recommended due to outlet capacity. He would now like to change that to one 8 ½' culvert and two 6' diameter culverts. He added that the bottom of the ditch is only 12' wide and if he used the two 8 ½' culverts then he would have to move a lot of dirt. He needs this crossing to be 24' wide so that he can get the equipment across the ditch from one field to the other. He plans on using culverts that are 30' long.

Richard Cox asked Mr. Wright if this would be at his cost; Mr. Wright stated yes, at his own cost. Richard Cox stated his concern regarding three pipes causing an obstruction; Mark Bardsley added that it did on Hummel Creek. Kenny Cates said that he is against allowing the three pipes as Mr. Wright is proposing. Mr. Wright asked Kenny why he is against it; Kenny stated that the Board is currently trying to get a three pipe crossing removed from Hummel Creek because the three pipes create an obstruction with trees and debris that have fallen into the creek. Jim Todd stated that Butch Embree had a crossing put in and it has a steel deck, he is not sure of the weight capacity, but Lisa Crandell, engineer had designed it; Jim recommends that Mr. Wright speak with Lisa Crandell. Mr. Wright stated that while he appreciates Kenny's concern, there are no trees on his property that would create a log jam or brush. Kenny Cates said that he does not have a problem with a single span bridge across there, but not the three pipes. Mr. Wright stated that would be too costly. He said that it is for his best interest to keep the pipes clear; Richard Cox responded by saying that he knows he will keep the pipes clear, but what about the next person; Mr. Wright said that the property isn't going anywhere, it will remain in the family. Mark Bardsley stated that it would be like shooting ourselves in the foot to allow three pipes in one location and not another. Mr. Wright asked the Board if they would be willing to share the cost of a different crossing; Mark Bardsley

responded that there is a policy that states there is no help on private crossings. Richard Cox stated that if it was land locked then they could cost share; Jim Todd agreed with Richard Cox. Mr. Wright said that he only needs 24' to get his combine across. Mark Bardsley added that he respectfully requests to find out what Lisa Crandell's options are for like what she did for Mr. Embree before a decision is made by the Board. Mr. Wright was given contact information for Lisa Crandell. Mark asked Jim Todd if this is big enough that there would be DNR or Army Corps terms, Jim stated it is not.

\*\*\*Jim Todd wants it to be noted that after the meeting, he spoke with Matt Mead of Christopher Burke Engineering. Matt Mead informed Jim that he was mistaken and that they would need to agree with the terms of DNR and Army Corps.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Pipe Creek – Garry Newhouse; clearing of easement to 40'=\$124,958.21 in the fund (collecting)

Jim Todd informed the Board that he has been talking to Garry Newhouse and he owns from State Road 18, up to 200 N and then a long stretch all the way to 500 W. Jim stated that he would like to quote this out. They had just spent \$3,000.00 to get log jams out of that area. Mr. Newhouse feels that by getting this done and then keep up with the spraying, that this would save money in the long run. Jim Todd added that this would be done on the east and north sides. He said that there is one section that has been clear cut and they keep it sprayed on what used to be the Miller farm. Mark Bardsley asked Jim if this is something that we currently have being sprayed; Jim responded that it is not. Mitch Cook will be going onto the JD Hodge property and getting the stuff out and knocking down any dead trees of the channel as Mr. Hodge did not want this to be clear cut. Jim will have Mitch dig a few sediment holes so that he can see how far down it is until you reach the stone and how much sediment is in this section. Kenny Cates asked Jim Todd who Mr. Newhouse wanted to do this; Jim stated that he doesn't care who does it. Jim added that as much money as this is going to cost, they need to send it out for quotes, and it will need to be someone with a cutter because there is just too much to cut by hand. Mark Bardsley told Jim to go ahead and get quotes.

## Cart Creek-Wendell Cates; \$28,596.96 in the fund

Wendell Cates is present before the Board regarding Cart Creek. Mr. Cates stated that Cart Creek runs from north of 250 north to CIE (Ethanol plant). At one time it ran under the railroad tracks by CIE and then went south about 1,000 feet. Kenny Cates said that on the GIS website it states that this is the Brown Tile, not Cart Creek. Wendell stated that right now it is a 24" tile for about 6,000 or 7,000 feet and then it goes to a 20" then it is a 15" tile when it hits State Road 18. He would like to put in a 36" tile for about 6,000 feet and then for about 3,000 feet a 24" and then an 18" tile. Wendell added that there are about 10-12 landowners and does not feel that it will go as smooth as the Elliot Tile. He feels that there will probably need to be a maintenance plan. Wendell inquired about the percentage needed to start a maintenance hearing; Mary Weesner informed him he would need 10% of the benefited acreage to begin the process of a maintenance hearing.

Jim Todd informed Wendell that after researching the code, he discovered that they could apply 75% of the maintenance fund towards a reconstruction. Wendell stated that about twenty years ago Randy Miller surveyed this tile, but he did not survey it as if it had a gas line in it. He added that Fratco will build him a Y that he could take under the gas and it would take three 24" pipes since it takes that to cover the 36", and then it would go back into a 36" tile. Wendell stated that this is a \$650,000.00 project. Mark Bardsley asked Wendell If the ethanol plant was involved, would that help the landowners to be more receptive to the idea; Wendell stated that the ethanol plant wants to go around \$600.00 per acre.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

### ARP Funds

Mark Bardsley stated that ARP funds are being discussed by the County Council that we can use some of this \$7.4 million for some of the drainage. This could help us with the Fadley & Owl, Robb Tile, Stoebe and Martin Tile.

## Policy Ordinance

Under other business Mark Bardsley informed the Board that there will be a policy ordinance; normally we do not do ordinances. He added that every committee or stand-alone group has to file a resolution to continue electronic meetings and signatures. There is a template that the commissioners have that can be used to format ordinance for each department. Mark Bardsley added that this will be brought before the Board to be adopted at our next Drainage Board meeting. Basically, there still have to be three members present in the room to do business and the other two members, even the secretary if she is out, can still attend electronically.

## **ADJOURN:**

Kenny Cates made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 a.m.; seconded by Pat Pinkerton. Motion carried with support 4-0.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting to be held will be May 25, 2021 at 11:00 am and will be held in the Grant County Council Chambers.

Minutes recorded by Mary R. Weesner

*Minutes approved:*

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Mark Bardsley

\*\*\*ABSENT\*\*\*

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Gordon Gough

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Richard Cox

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Kenny Cates

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Pat Pinkerton