

GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held March 29, 2022 in the Grant County Council Chambers. Mark Bardsley, Chairman called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. Other members present were Vice-Chairman Gordon Gough, Pat Pinkerton, Richard Cox, Grant County Surveyor Jim Todd and Drainage Board Secretary, Mary Weesner; Kenny Cates is in attendance via WebEx.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Kenny Cates made a motion to approve the March 8, 2022 minutes as presented. Seconded by Richard Cox, motion carried 5-0 with four members voting inhouse and one member voting via WebEx.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Jim Todd read the claims as follows:

Grant County Treasurer \$3,476.76; Loan from GDIF to Maintenance
John's Repair Service \$2,515.00 Aaron Newby; \$16,997.46 in the fund
Redman Excavating \$40,000.00 New Duling; \$103,807.09 in the fund
Richard Cox made a motion to approve the above claim as presented. Motion was seconded by Gordon Gough; motion carried 5-0 with four members voting inhouse and Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

*****Richard Cox to abstain*****

Drewry Simmons Vornehm \$7,258.49 Hummel; \$202,092.87 in the red
Gordon Gough made a motion to approve the above claim as presented; seconded by Pat Pinkerton. Motion carried 4-0 with one member voting via WebEx; Richard Cox abstained due to having land in the Hummel Creek watershed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Little Crane Pond – Approval of resolution

There is nothing new to discuss

Little Crane Pond – Debra Keefe

Mark Bardsley asked Mary Weesner if there are any updates regarding the Keefe matter; Mary stated that she has given the plans to David White and is waiting to hear back from him. She added that Mike Conner, city attorney, is waiting for a legal description and easement issue through private land so that he may update the paperwork to be signed by all parties.

Hummel Creek – Awarding of bid

Mark Bardsley stated that there was a motion made last meeting to award the bid. He added that we have had a couple of challenges and our attorney believed that the extension that we got for sixty days meant that he had that much time to work on an agreement, Mark stated that he informed him last week that was not the issue. Mark Bardsley added that the attorney does not have a completed agreement at this time and said that the Board needs to decide how they want to proceed. Mark said that at this time we do not have the money in our General Drain Improvement Fund to remove the obstruction going in the long way down the easement. He added that we would have to do an appropriation with County Council or go to a banking institution to get a loan. Jim Todd asked if the crossing approval was included; Mark Bardsley said that we are not endorsing any product but will not delay any work that is deemed acceptable regarding a crossing. Kenny Cates stated that he believed this needed to be done by June 1st due to fish spawning. Pat Pinkerton stated that due to the fact that we do not have the funds to cover this yet, there is no other choice than to postpone the awarding of the bid until the next Drainage Board meeting. Mark Bardsley added that he has basically told the attorney that we will not approve any plans that will constrict water but will not deny any plans for a bridge that does not constrict the flow of water. Mark Bardsley asked Rhonda Redman of Redman Excavating if the financing came through, when would they be able to start and how long would it take for this project; Rhonda responded stating that she cannot recall but she thinks about two to three weeks, adding that the part that will take the longest is setting the mats in place. Mark added that he thought if they could go the short way it would only take a few days. Mark Bardsley asked Rhonda Redman of Redman Excavating if we get a loan and instruct you to move forward, how long would it take to complete the project; Rhonda stated she cannot remember, but thinks it was 2 – 3 weeks. Mark added that going in the short way would only take a few days. Pat Pinkerton made a motion to allow Chairman Mark Bardsley to seek financing/loan funds, report to the Board and award the bid at the next Drainage Board meeting on April 12, 2022.

Seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote with three members voting in favor in-house (Mark Bardsley, Gordon Gough, and Pat Pinkerton), Kenny Cates voted in favor of motion via WebEx while Richard Cox abstained due to owning land in the Hummel Creek watershed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Brumfield & Blue - discussion for the need to replace the main line \$1,471.04 in the fund

Jim Todd stated that he has talked to some of the landowners on the Brumfield & Blue regarding the possibility of increasing the size. Jim added that there are 637 acres in the watershed and there is currently about \$1,470.00 in the maintenance fund. The rate is currently \$1.25 per acre with a \$5.00 minimum and brings in \$812.00 per year. Jim added that with additional lateraling over the years, the main tile is overloaded. Landowners are present today just to discuss the future of the tile and what they would like to do, this is not a public hearing. He stated that in 1962, Jason Haines, engineer, put in 440 feet of 14" tile at the outlet and then went onto 856 feet of 10" with a lateral of 900 feet of 8" tile.

Tim Templin, landowner on Brumfield & Blue is present before the Board today. Mr. Templin asked the Board what their options are and whether the county would finance the project and the landowners would pay them back? Jim Todd stated that in the past that was an option, but according to the State Board of Accounts, that is not permitted anymore. Jim Todd stated that the other way would be to increase the maintenance to a higher rate. Mark Bardsley stated that as a general rule, if you have the majority in favor of the rate increase in the watershed, any protests general fall by the wayside.

Cane Run – Ryan Malott – Possible flood plain issue

Ryan Malott is present today before the Board, he began by stating the issue regarding Yoder Farms (Cassius Smith), he has forwarded an email regarding this matter and he will keep the Board updated on this. Now, regarding Cane Run, Ryan stated that there was a complaint reported on 7380 S 825 E stating that the owner of the property is hauling in concrete and asphalt from Blackford County. Ryan added that there are piles that are 60 foot tall and 100 foot long. He stated that after talking to Jim Todd, a lot of the quarries are also in the flood plain. Jim said that after a lot of research, there is no drainage easement and he has no jurisdiction over this water shed. Jim Todd added that Mr. Himelick will be using the concrete soon, probably for a roadbed or something, adding that this is temporary. Pat Pinkerton added that it does not appear that they are filling in the flood plain; Jim Todd agreed. The Board is reviewing the map presented to them regarding this area and Ryan Malott gave them photos to look at. Mark Bardsley stated that since the

Drainage Board does not have an easement and this is not any type of regulated ditch, the Drainage Board would have no authority over this issue, Jim Todd added that he would not have any authority over this either as the surveyor. Pat Pinkerton said that DNR would be more of a starting point.

Power Drain – Doug Carey - Request for use of maintenance fund
\$55,184.55 in the fund

Jim Todd informed the Board that Doug Carey is present today to request the use of the maintenance fund. This drain has a rate of \$10.00 per acre with a home site charge \$150.00. Mr. Carey is requesting to use the funds to begin updating the tile. Mr. Carey is present in front of the Board with Steve Comer present today. Gordon Gough informed the Board that he will not be able to vote on this issue since he has land within the Power Drain water shed. Mr. Carey stated that he is not a landowner, but he does farm for two different landlords. He stated this drain is really a mess, he believes that it is a 22" tile that was put in 1885. Jim Todd stated that Mr. Carey would be interested in Scott Rogers to put the tile in. Mr. Carey said that he would like to have a 30" tile in place. He added that Scott Rogers can only go 1,150 feet with the money that is currently in the Power Drain maintenance fund; but would like to go twice that distance if that could be arranged. He asked about some of the land owners throwing money into this ahead of time to get more distance and then be reimbursed as the money is available; Jim Todd informed him that the Drainage Board is not allowed to reimburse land owners per SBOA (State Board of Accounts). Jim explained to Mr. Carey that the General Drain Improvement Fund does not have enough to assist him since we have a unique situation on Hummel Creek that has used these funds. Jim added that landowners could put money into their maintenance fund to get the work done. Mark Bardsley inquired as to how much will the 1,100 feet go; Mr. Carey stated that it would get about halfway across the 80 acres in Green Township. He added that to get to 600 W is roughly 2,250 feet. Mark Bardsley asked Mary Weesner the amount that the Power Drain brings in annually; she told him \$11,513.00 per year. Jim added that another option would be hold a public hearing to bump up the maintenance until the job is completed, having another hearing to lower it back to its current rate after job completion. Richard Cox made a motion to accept the quote from Roger's Farm Drainage for 1,150 feet of tile on the Power Ditch, Mark Bardsley would like it added to the motion that the Board give permission to Mr. Carey to try to raise money to do the other 1,100 feet, getting him to 600 W, this was agreed to add to the motion. This motion was seconded by Pat Pinkerton. Motion carried with support 4-0 with Gordon Gough abstaining due to having land in the Power Drain watershed. Kenny Cates voted via WebEx with the other members present in house.

OTHER BUSINESS

Wilderness Run - Don Wimmer – 1 lot sub-division

Don Wimmer of Wimmer Land Surveys is present before the Board today representing Cole and Carli Chamber. There is a home located at 8729 E 750 S and the landowners are wanting to split the house off of the property. He added that due to Area Plan guidelines, there have been too many splits out of the parent tract, so they have to go for a 1 lot sub-division. The house is on a high spot with natural drainage flowing to the north, adding that there will be no changes to the drainage. Mr. Wimmer stated that the landowners need permission from the Drainage Board to proceed on to Area Plan. Richard Cox asked why they were wanting to split this off; Mr. Wimmer said that eventually they may want to put another house on the lot. Jim Todd recommends that the Board approve this request as there are no water issues with this property. Richard Cox made a motion to approve the request by Don Wimmer for a 1 lot sub-division drainage plan; seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried 5-0 with Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

Lomax Ditch – Robert Tippey – Heritage Addition; Beaver issue \$38,221.85 in the fund

Jim Todd stated the Robert Tippey called his office and informed him that the water is rising again, and the beavers are back. Jim added that the problem is, he noticed when him and Raymond Bair walked this, a lot of the beavers are living out of the drainage easement, out in the ponds. We can only get the ones out that are in the channel with the maintenance fund. The beavers are damming up the outlets in the channel and it is backing up the ponds. Bob Tippey is now present before the Board stating that the water has come up substantially. Mr. Tippey added that they are just now taking up an HOA (Homeowners Association) and is questioning what their responsibility is. His understanding is that the property management company has paid a contractor to take the beavers and muskrats. Jim Todd responded stating that the ditch maintenance fund will remove the dam and clean up any debris along the channel, but the beaver removal is not paid by the maintenance fund. Mr. Tippey stated that they will remove the animals as much as possible. Jim added that he would like to get Rick Sullivan back out there.

Spray Program - Discussion

Mary Weesner has given each Board member a break-down from Right of Way Management for the cost to spray each ditch that is currently in the spray program, all are still in the program from last year, excluding Barren Creek. Barren Creek was not added because the funds are short from digging out the New Duling and the Un-named branch. Mark Bardsley pointed out

that on the spreadsheet, cost of spraying is covered by each ditch fund, putting none of them in the red, each fund has enough to cover their spraying. Raymond Bair stated that the price comparisons to last year are 2¢ to 3¢ more per foot this year. Raymond added that he did reiterate to Right of Way that the Drainage Board and the Surveyor Office was not real thrilled with last years kill. Mark Bardsley stated that the total amount would be \$45,715.50 and that the funds are available. Richard Cox made a motion to go with Right of Way Management spray program for 2022; seconded by Pat Pinkerton. Motion carried 5-0 with 4 members voting in house and Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

ADJOURN:

Pat Pinkerton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:07 a.m.; seconded by Richard Cox. Motion carried with support 5-0 with four members voting in house and Kenny Cates voting via WebEx.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting to be held will be April 12, 2022 at 11:00 am and will be held in the Grant County Council Chambers.

Minutes recorded by:
Mary R. Weesner
Drainage Board Secretary

*The Grant County Drainage Board approves of the minutes for
March 29, 2022 as presented:*

Mark Bardsley

Gordon Gough

Richard Cox

Kenny Cates

Pat Pinkerton