

GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held May 10, 2022 in the Grant County Council Chambers. Mark Bardsley, Chairman called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. Other members present were Vice-Chairman Gordon Gough, Kenny Cates, Grant County Surveyor Jim Todd and Drainage Board Secretary, Mary Weesner. Richard Cox and Pat Pinkerton were not in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Kenny Cates made a motion to approve the April 26, 2022 minutes as presented. Seconded by Gordon Gough, motion carried 3-0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Jim Todd read the claims as follows:

Chronicle Tribune \$22.78 Pipe Creek; \$152,704.53 in the fund
Cook Excavating \$3,875.00 Pipe Creek; \$152,704.53 in the fund

Kenny Cates made a motion to approve the above claims as presented; seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried, with support, 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Little Crane Pond – Approval of resolution

This is still in the hands of our attorney, per Mark Bardsley.

Hummel Creek

Mark Bardsley stated that there are no updates regarding Hummel Creek. The Board is still waiting for Joe Leone to follow up regarding the damages.

Solar Ordinance – Don Wright – Concerns

Dave Bettegnies – Concerns

Mark Bardsley stated that since this is a closed matter, Mr. Wright and Mr. Bettegnies will each be given five (5) minutes to speak. Adding that from this point on, we will not be addressing this issue unless we receive something from the APC (Area Plan Commission) regarding this. Mr. Don Wright approached the Board saying that he has received a copy of the solar ordinance, adding that he has read and studied it. Parts pertaining to agricultural farmland and farm drainage. Mr. Wright feels that those segments are quite ambiguous and fall way short of what we need to protect our farm drainage in our land. Mr. Wright read areas of the ordinance; he would like to know who determines this and what does prime mean? He added that the clauses give protection for just the main outlets of neighboring land. He would like to know who determines the criteria that the benefits of the solar farms to the community as a whole outweigh the removal of the acreage used for the soil farm for the agricultural production. Mr. Wright said that the plan needs to protect neighbor. He believes that there needs to be some kind of easement over the main tile outlet to neighboring landowners so that will allow landowners to maintain and/or repair drains and outlets. Mr. Wright would like the Drainage Board to be proactive in protecting the integrity of our tile drainage in the county if the solar farm site becomes a reality. He added that the solar farms are a poor stewardship of our resources. Mr. Wright added that the ordinance needs to be strengthened regarding protecting our farm drainage but more importantly, he would like to just stop the solar farms from entering Grant county. Mark Bardsley asked that Mr. Wright get him a copy of the points that he just read to the Board; Mark feels that he made some good points.

Mr. Dave Bettegnies is now present before the Board with his concerns regarding the imposed solar ordinance. He stated that he wants the mains to be protected and recognized. It would be impossible to mark them all out since the farmers don't even know where all the tiles are until there is a problem. To put them all on a map would be quite time consuming.

Chaining Ordinance

Mark Bardsley informed the Board that there has not been any action taken regarding the chaining ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS:

Monroe Ditch – Jerry Soultz – maintenance issue

Mr. Jerry Soultz is before the Board after passing pictures around to the Board. He stated that him and his wife had bought the property in 1987. The ditch on the far side going south has been dredged and cleaned only three times since they have owned the property. He added that to his knowledge, the north side has not been touched. He has put in two ponds on his property to help with the water problem. On the north side, it needs to be fixed. Also, the water has no place to go once it gets to the other side of State Road 18. Jim Todd told Mr. Soultz that there will be quotes received by the Drainage Board at the June 14, 2022 meeting to do the other half mile north of him to get it to the Monroe Ditch. Jim added that the problem is that they had approved Mr. Thurman to do \$16,000.00 worth of brushing down to County Road 5 and State Road 18. There is about 2 ½ miles west of Mr. Thurman that is flat, and needs dredged. There is about \$209,000.00 in the Monroe Ditch maintenance fund. Jim Todd added that he looked through the records and in that whole water shed system we have spent over \$80,000.00 since 2019, but that has been in other places on the water shed. He said that until you go south of State Road 18 to Interstate 69, you cannot get a fall that is going to last or amount to much. Jim Todd stated that he will help compose a letter of interest to landowners with Mary Weesner.

Glendale Lake – Wendell Cates

Wendell Cates informed the Board that there is a very large dam on Glendale Lake. Wendell asked about the legalities and stated that he has not yet gone out and talked to the airport to see if they would allow them to use someone like Dave's Excavating with a large excavator to reach out halfway and break the dam. Mark Bardsley stated that he thinks that Glendale Lake is not a part of the Drainage Board's easement; Jim Todd confirmed that. Wendell inquired about trapping the beavers and if there was a certain time frame that it is not permitted to trap the beavers; Jim replied that they are not on the endangered species list and you can tear their dams out and even kill them on your property without a permit, but you cannot harvest the furs. Mark Bardsley told Wendell that if he had permission from the Homeowners Association and the airport, he would be able to catch some beavers. Gordon Gough added that if you do not get all the beavers, they will build their dams right back.

Crane Pond – Teresa Parnell – permission to hook up lateral

Jim Todd stated that Andrew King is present today regarding 13th & Buffalo streets. They are wanting to put in a tile along the railroad easement for Teresa Parnell. Jim added that this is part of the Crane Pond system. Mrs. Parnell has not had drainage for quite some time. Jim said that when the factory when in across the road, he feels like an old tile was cut; this was confirmed by Andrew King and the Parnell's. Jim Todd added that putting in a tile along the railroad is really the only answer to get her any relief to her property. Jim showed the Board a map with a line indicating where the new tile is to go in, adding that they are in a low area with nowhere for the water to go. They are asking to tap into the Little Crane Pond watershed at their own expense. Mr. King showed the Board pictures on his phone showing the area in question. Mrs. Parnell showed the Board a picture that she has from the railroad company indicating the area that is permitted to run the tile. Mark Bardsley added that not only do they need the approval from the Drainage Board, but the Highway Department needs to be aware that they are working in their right-of-way.

Gordon Gough made a motion to give permission to the Parnell's to run about 2,100 of 8" tile and tap into Little Crane Pond at their expense; seconded by Kenny Cates. Motion carried 3-0.

Jim Todd is to contact David White of the Grant County Highway Department.

OTHER BUSINESS

There is no other business to discuss

ADJOURN:

Kenny Cates made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:54 a.m.; seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried with support 3-0.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting to be held will be May 31, 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
May 10, 2022 as presented:*

Mark Bardsley

Gordon Gough

ABSENT

Richard Cox

Kenny Cates

ABSENT

Pat Pinkerton