

GRANT COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD

401 South Adams Street
Marion, Indiana 46953

The Grant County Drainage Board meeting was held October 11, 2022 in the Grant County Council Chambers. Mark Bardsley, Chairman called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Other members present were Vice-Chairman Gordon Gough, Kenny Cates, Pat Pinkerton, Grant County Surveyor Jim Todd and Drainage Board Secretary, Mary Weesner. Richard Cox was not in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Pat Pinkerton made a motion to approve the September 27, 2022 minutes as presented; seconded by Kenny Cates. Motion carried 4-0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Jim Todd read the claims as follows:

Grant County Treasurer \$5,171.50 From GDIF to Maintenance
John's Repair Service \$2,835.00 Solms Ditch; \$9,543.02 in the fund
John's Repair Service \$2,100.00 Solms Ditch; \$9,543.02 in the fund
Cook Excavating \$2,935.00 Winger Ditch; \$18,397.46 in the fund
Cook Excavating \$470.00 Winger Ditch; \$18,397.46 in the fund
Cook Excavating \$705.00 Winger Ditch; \$18,397.46 in the fund
Key Farms \$299.97 Taylor Creek; \$172,548.43 in the fund

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Little Crane Pond

Mark Bardsley stated that there is no movement on the resolution for the vacation of a portion of Little Crane Pond, we are still waiting on the attorneys.

Hummel Creek

There is nothing new to report.

Solar Ordinance

Mark Bardsley stated that there is nothing to discuss at this time

NEW BUSINESS:

Mark Bardsley informed the Board that he has received a call regarding a drainage issue off of State Road 13 and we will investigate this when the formal complaint is filed as requested.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Hollis Daughtery – Public Hearing

Jim Todd informed the Board that north of State Road 26 was put on maintenance years ago with \$1.00 per acre, \$10.00 per homesite. Jim added that the landowners have petitioned to put the ditch on a ditch tax farther south, this will include more acreage; this will include 2,264.5 acres. He said that his office has received three letters of objections, which all Drainage Board members have read. The total acreage objecting was 32 acreages, which is 1.43% of the land total. Jim Todd stated that the current maintenance is \$1.00 per acre, \$10.00 per homesite, and a minimum of \$5.00 per parcel. He said that due to the increase cost of maintaining this drain, the Grant County Drainage Board would like the Hollis Daughtery assessed at a \$15.00 per acre rate with a homesite charge of \$50.00 and a minimum charge of \$15.00 for a four year collection total cap. There is muck ground that needs periodic maintenance keep it flowing. Gordon Gough questioned as to why the southern part has not been paying into the maintenance; Jim Todd informed his that it was taken to a public hearing and everybody objected to it. Mark Bardsley opened up the public hearing portion to allow landowners to speak.

Wayne Williamson appeared before the Drainage Board stating that he has approximately 9 benefited acres in the Hollis Daughtery water shed. Mr. Williamson stated that this ditch goes through the center of his property, where he and his wife reside. He added that they have been working on this ditch ever since they lived there 20+ years. He maintains the ditch by keeping debris out of it, etc. He said that he has videos walking down the ditch, showing how clear it is and what he has actually done; he said that if the Board would like to review this video, it is available. He voiced a concern, stating that his driveway comes off of county road 1150 to his property and

there is a county ditch there that he has to cross. He said that within that county ditch is his incoming service for his electrical service which is implanted in and encased in 80 schedule PVC that comes across that ditch. He is concerned about the expense of replacing that if the county shall come and replace that culvert, it will interrupt his electrical service. Jim Todd assured him that it is not in their plan to replace the culvert, maintenance would be to keep watershed clear and flowing. Raymond Bair added that if his driveway culvert gets rusted, it may need to come out; Pat Pinkerton added that it should not be an issue to replace. Raymond said that it would definitely interfere with his electrical service since it is on top of the pipe. Mr. Williamson stated that he does have a concern for his trees since he does have quite a bit of wildlife that comes through there and he would like to preserve that. Jim Todd told Mr. Williamson that they could cut just a few trees and try to work around the remaining; Mr. Williamson said that he does have some unusual trees to this part of the country such as the Kentucky Coffee tree. Jim said that if they needed to work there, they could meet the contractor and mark the trees that he would want to save. Jim added that the only trees that would really need to come out are the ones down in the channel and enough trees so that they could dip out the sediment. Mr. Williamson stated that he has talked on the phone with Raymond Bair; Raymond stated that they could work on the west side of his ditch and stay off the home side of the ditch. Jim Todd assured him that nothing would occur until they meet and mark the trees that Mr. Williamson would like saved. Mr. Williamson said that his other concern is the price and the meaning of a four year collection. Jim informed him that the ditch tax is paid out every year. There is currently a plan to work on the ditch; as long as we are working and spending the money from the maintenance fund; once the work is done, then the money would accumulate, reaching the four year cap, as long as it is not being paid out of. He added that when the fund reaches four times the yearly collection, the ditch will automatically shut off. Mr. Williamson stated that this would be a burden to his income as they are a family with a limited income and they would like to remain in Grant County if possible, or he would have to move to a place with lesser taxes.

Randy Atkins is now before the Board. Mr. Atkins stated that he is the farmer with the greatest impact with around 240 acres which would assess at about \$6,600 per year. He feels that once they get caught back up with the drainage then the rate could be reduced. Mr. Atkins added that he is in support of the rate increase on the Hollis Daughtery. Jim Todd said that at \$15.00 per acre with 2,264 acres that are farmable will bring in \$33,964.00, the Board could adjust the \$50.00 homesite charge. He added that there are 74 homes out there; at the suggested rate it would bring in about \$3,700.00 per year.

Steve Holtzleiter stands before the Drainage Board. Mr. Holtzleiter began by stating that he is in favor of the proposed maintenance assessment. He added that he works for Paul Schriver, Blackford County Surveyor. He said that we are probably familiar because they are getting the tile into Blackford County replaced; he is on the top of that in Blackford County. Mr. Holtzleiter stated that he has a quote from a contractor, adding that they would like to get it set to where the Grant County Highway Department is replacing a culvert on 800 S, there is 3 foot of mud in that culvert. He added that culvert is in 10" backwards; the downside of that culvert is literally 10" higher than the upside. He has a quote and would like to see, from the bridge on 1100 up to Frank and Betty Rice's home, to get that dipped and get it right so that it does not come back in and also so that they can get this new county tile that is going in this winter on grade correctly. He said that he is aware that there is a lot of money coming on this, but putting in a brand new county maintenance tile in and starting out with an 18" or 24" of tile and putting it below grade on a ditch that needs dipped, when it really should be dipped ahead of time. Gordon Gough stated that this would not start collecting until spring 2023 taxes, if approved. Gordon added that there is not enough money in the fund. Jim Todd said that they are looking at next fall, after the spring and fall collections, when the work can be done. Mr. Holtzleiter said that he has contractors that could fit it in as soon as they get approval and there is money in the maintenance fund. Jim stated that the reason that this is off grade is because it kept floating up because of the peat. Mr. Holtzleiter stated that he wants to do this right, water flows downhill. He understands that this rate is a hardship to some, but after it is fixed, they can drop the money back down in order to keep the ditch clean and maintained. Blackford County has a great ditch maintenance and they keep up on it.

Mary Emma Lyons is before the Board stating that she has a problem in one section (inaudible), she is assuming that this ditch maintenance will take care of that problem. She said that she has 180 acres in the watershed. Jim Todd informed her that many times they have dredged CR 1150 and they have brushed through her property before by Fullenkamp, it has been a few years. Raymond Bair added that they have paid out of pocket a couple times over the last seven years, Mrs. Lyons agreed. Gordon Gough asked if she is in favor to the proposed assessment; she stated that she is in favor of having the ditch maintained but is really surprised by the amount of money that she would be charged to have it maintained.

Mark Townsend is now before the Board. He feels that the current assessment is not enough to keep it maintained. Mr. Townsend stated that he supports the proposed rate. His area is in the muck ground and if not maintained periodically, it just fills back in. He added that the last time it was dipped was 2015 and it needs to be dipped now. Mr. Townsend has brought a

quote to dip from CR 1150 up north to the middle of the Purdue farm. Jim Todd said that once the money is in the fund, he'll make a letter for the Board to ask for quotes from contractors.

Charles Maddox is before the Board and stated that he is in trouble out there, his land is washing into the ditch. He added that he has about four different places that are out in the field in excess of 50 feet, it is very dangerous to run a combine through there, tractor or people walking. Mr. Maddox said that he would like to get that fixed. He has talked to Raymond Bair of the Surveyors Office; he hates to wait too long to get this repaired in fear of someone falling in there and that people do hunt along that open ditch. He feels that it is very important to get into this as soon as possible. Jim Todd stated that there is a drainage easement and it does not give them the right to trespass. Gordon Gough asked Mr. Maddox how many acres he has; Mr. Maddox replied that he has between 150-200 acres. Kenny Cates inquired as to how do we spray if there is so much peat on this ditch; Raymond Bair stated that you're not going to spray until it gets dry and cut. (amendment)

David Anderson is now before the Board. Mr. Anderson stated that he has a tributary that goes to the Hollis Daughtery ditch and he understands the need for ditch maintenance but, he feels that if he is being charged that much, that the tributary should be maintained as well. He is requesting that if they are going to ask for it, use it. Jim Todd said that we could add the tributary but need to be careful when dredging since it runs through a swamp and would also need permitting as it is a wetland. Mark Bardsley asked Jim if that could be voted on today, in this hearing; Jim Replied that the Board could vote on this today.

Wayne Valentine came before the Board stating that he has been there since 1989 and there is no ditch on his property that would need to be dredged and he does not understand why he is being assessed \$191.00 and only owns ten acres. Jim Todd explained to Mr. Valentine that he is in the Hollis Daughtery watershed and his homesite charge is \$50.00 of the \$191.00 and then \$15.00 per acre for the rest of his acreage. Mr. Valentine told Jim that he noticed that it is flooding really bad 600 S and 1050 E at the intersection. Raymond Bair stated that intersection used to drain a little better until a tractor drove over the tile that he had put in. He added that he had put in an 8" tile up to that intersection and when they were mowing, they got right on the trench when it was wet and smashed the tile. Mark Bardsley asked Mr. Valentine whether he is for and against the proposed assessment; Mr. Valentine replied that he is against the \$15.00 per acre charge especially since he does not have any problems with drainage. Mark then explained to Mr. Valentine that his water has to go somewhere and then it becomes a problem for somebody else in the watershed, that is why we collectively do it together. Mr. Valentine then

stated that he has an area that bubbles up when we get a lot of rain, he believes that he has a broken tile.

Since no one else came forward to speak their concerns, Mark Bardsley closed the floor to the public portion of the hearing. Mark asked if the Board had any questions or comments; Kenny Cates stated that if we are going to spray, we need to alert the sprayers to the muck ground since it sounds to him like it does need sprayed. Jim Todd said that he is pretty sure that Right of Way Management has a backpack crew that could go in there. Gordon Gough stated that it is in bad shape and you need money to fix it. Pat Pinkerton said that they could entertain the homesite for \$25.00 instead of \$50.00. Kenny Cates made a motion, asking about the tributaries. Raymond Bair stated that they sounded like they did not want to be added. Jim Todd agreed, just on the main line. Kenny's motion is to approve the advertised amount of \$15.00 per acre, \$50.00 per homesite with a \$15.00 minimum with a four year collection shut off. Seconded by Gordon Gough; motion carried 4-0. Raymond Bair stated that so the gentlemen in the room can get a head start, if the Board would entertain, they would like to converse to borrowing money to start work now, paying it back next week with the assessment. Jim Todd asked what the balance of the General Drain Improvement Fund is; Mary Weesner informed the Board that the balance of the GDIF is \$153,000.00. Mark Bardsley asked if we were moving another drain into the red in the northeast as well; Raymond stated that is the Furman Tile and we also advanced to the Aaron Newby. Jim Todd stated that they have a quote from Fullenkamp to do the north part of SR 26 for \$6,500.00. Raymond Bair gave Jim quotes, asking if they overlap each other; landowner stated that it does. Raymond added that they got \$20,000.00 and then \$6,500.00 on Townsend and Maddox has \$10,000.00 worth of wash outs; equaling \$36,500.00. Mark Bardsley stated that he feels the Board should take this request under advisement until we are sure how much we are spending. Jim Todd said that we could get more quotes to get more diversity so he will prepare a letter to send out to contractors. Jim would like this to be read the last meeting in November.

Hummel Creek – Gary Ott; Hearing of assessment

Mark Bardsley informed the Board that we had a hearing of assessment that was scheduled for today, but we received an objection for the assessment, and we have a request for a continuance since the landowner and his attorney could not be with us today. Mark added that through our attorney, we have presented a couple of open dates. It is Mark Bardsley's recommendation to postpone until Thursday November 10, 2022 at 11:00 am, this would be a special session for the Drainage Board. He added that with the Board's motion and approval, we can move this until the 10th of November. Pat Pinkerton

made a motion to postpone until Thursday November 10, 2022 at 11:00 am on the hearing of assessment. Seconded by Kenny Cates. Motion carried 4-0.

ADJOURN:

Kenny Cates made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:13 p.m.; seconded by Gordon Gough. Motion carried 4-0.

The next scheduled Drainage Board meeting to be held will be October 25, 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 has approved the minutes for October 11, 2022 as presented:

Mark Bardsley

Gordon Gough

ABSENT

Richard Cox

Kenny Cates

Pat Pinkerton